

Ambulance Care Assistant

Ambulance care assistants work as part of a team providing care and safe transport for patients in non-emergency situations on the Patient Transport Service (PTS). They collect and drop off patients attending outpatient clinics and day care units.

The Work

You could be:

- collecting patients from their homes, assisting them whenever necessary
- driving the patients to pre-arranged hospital and clinic appointments
- transferring patients from one hospital to another
- making sure that patients are comfortable and secure at all times
- cleaning the ambulance, making sure all patient equipment is working and restocking supplies
- carrying out a daily inspection of the ambulance, checking tyres, petrol, oil and water
- administering first aid when required, up to level of training received
- completing a patient report form if oxygen or first aid was administered during an emergency call.

Pay

Ambulance staff who work for the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change scales. The current pay scales are from April 2021. Ambulance care assistants start on £16,460 a year, and after a 20-week training period move to Band 3, £21,709 to £23,603 a year.

Conditions

- Your base would be the ambulance station or hospital but you would spend most of your time in an ambulance.
- You would work 5 out of 7 days including weekends.
- The work can be physically demanding, so you should have a good level of fitness.
- You have to go out in all weathers and may cover a large geographical area.
- You would wear a uniform, or sometimes other protective clothing such as a high visibility jacket.

Getting In

- There are no formal entry requirements, however National 4 English and Maths are preferred.
- All applicants must pass the Scottish Ambulance Service entrance test, including a retention and recall test, fitness test and driving assessment.
- You must have a full current UK driving licence including category D1 class. You must have no more than 3 penalty points.
- Experience in a driving job is useful.
- Some colleges offer courses that prepare you for a career in the uniformed and emergency services. You do not need any formal entry requirements for these courses.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are

suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details on the type you would need.

Job vacancies appear on the myjobscotland website. Most ambulance work is with the NHS, but there are also jobs with the armed services. There are some private ambulance companies around the UK including one or two in Scotland.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to get on with and communicate with people from all backgrounds and of all ages
- patient and understanding
- reliable and responsible
- able to work well in a team as well as able to work unsupervised
- adaptable and quick-thinking
- able to make decisions and solve problems
- able to work well under pressure
- well organised and able to follow a schedule.

Training

- Training takes place at the Scottish Ambulance Academy in Glasgow (based within the School of Health at Glasgow Caledonian University).
- You would complete a 2-week training course, one week of which is ambulance aid, and the other is driving skills.
- You will learn manual handling, first aid, basic patient skills and safe driving techniques.
- You would receive additional training if you are working with priority patients such as cancer, cardiology, mental health or renal patients.

Getting On

- An ambulance care assistant can undertake further training to become an ambulance technician.
- With experience and further training, you could then apply for a student paramedic position.
- You might gain promotion to supervisor level as PTS team leader.

More Information

The location of the Scottish Ambulance Academy allows ambulance staff to have the opportunity to train alongside police and fire service colleagues, for example, in simulated road traffic collisions.

Contacts

Disclosure Scotland

Tel: 03000 2000 40

Email: response@disclosurescotland.gov.scot

Website: www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland

Twitter: @DisclosureScot

NHS Scotland Careers

Website: www.careers.nhs.scot

Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk

Twitter: @NHSScotCareers

Scottish Ambulance Service

Tel: 0131 314 0000

Website: www.scottishambulance.com

Twitter: @Scotambservice

Facebook: www.facebook.com/scotambservice

Skills for Health

Tel: 0207 388 8800

Email: contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk

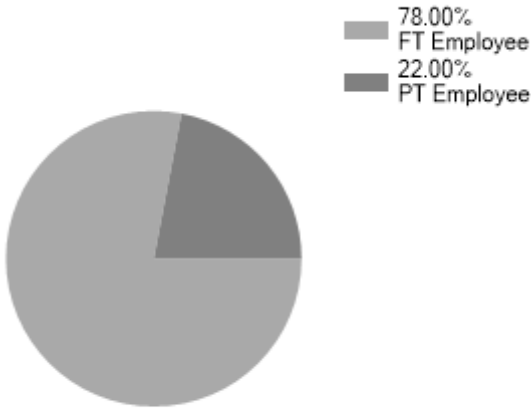
Website: www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Twitter: @Skillsforhealth

Facebook: www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

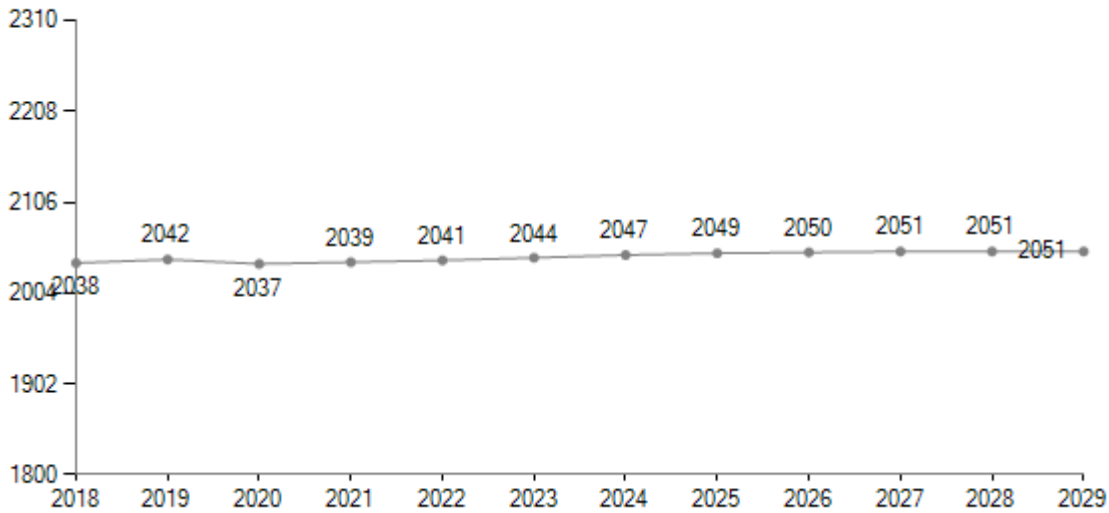


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)