

## 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 the 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 2025. Ambulance care assistants start on £17,704 a year, and after a 20-week training period move to Band 3, £29,061 to £31,364 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 shifts on 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 an occupational fitness test and occupational health screening.
- 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](#) and [NHS Jobs](#) websites. 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 lasts around 4 months, and begins with a 4-week clinical programme. This involves 3 weeks of classroom training and a one-week driving programme.
- Classroom training includes manual handling, first aid, patient care and advanced safe driving techniques.
- You would receive additional training if you are working with priority patients such as cancer, cardiology, mental health or renal patients.
- When you complete the programme, you gain the Certificate for Ambulance Patient Care: Non-urgent Care Services at SCQF Level 6.

## 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

### NHS Scotland Careers

Website: [www.careers.nhs.scot](#)

Website (2): [jobs.scot.nhs.uk](#)

### Scottish Ambulance Service

Website: [www.scottishambulance.com](http://www.scottishambulance.com)  
X: @Scotambservice  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/scotambservice](http://www.facebook.com/scotambservice)

## Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

### Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.