



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

PARAMEDIC / AMBULANCE
TECHNICIAN



“ I deliver effective and efficient care to people in need to improve the health and well-being of the community. ”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

PARAMEDIC / AMBULANCE TECHNICIAN

The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service personnel include Ambulance Care Attendants, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Paramedics and Control and Communications staff, Management, Training, Administration and Support staff. The service is divided into a number of main areas:

Patient Care Services

The Patient Care Services tier of the organisation plays a dynamic role in the care, management and transportation of patients to and from healthcare facilities, who do not require the skills and interventions of a Paramedic or EMT. Ambulance Care Attendants provide a quality, caring service for those patients who may require transport based on mobility need, for example if wheelchair or stretcher bound, and/or for patients who may require oxygen therapy.

Accident and Emergency Services

EMTs and Paramedics are focused on providing a pre-hospital emergency care service which is designed to give medical attention at the scene of accidents and emergencies and also en route to hospital. Meticulous care and attention is required and the working environment can be both mentally and physically demanding. The job presents a significant challenge to caring and committed individuals and the rewards are quite unique.

Control and Communications

NIAS Control and Communication centres are generally the first point of contact for the public seeking immediate assistance and immediate medical care. As such they represent a key component in the pre-hospital healthcare system.

Ambulance Headquarters

The following functions and services are managed at Ambulance Headquarters in Belfast: - Finance and Accounts; Human Resources and Training; Operational Ambulance Services; Fleet Management and Maintenance; Information Technology; Administration and Secretarial Support; Purchasing and Stores.

Skills Required:

Ambulance personnel at all levels must be honest, show initiative, have excellent people skills and a caring personality, and be prepared to work with all types of people. They must be responsible and take their work seriously. They have to be well organised and enjoy working as part of a team, while being able to make their own decisions when necessary. They must be able to stay calm under pressure and possess good communication skills.

Training Programmes:

The Regional Ambulance Training Centre, located in Belfast, is the sole provider in Northern Ireland of the full range of IHCD (London Qualifications Ltd) accredited national ambulance awards.

Patient Care Services Training

Two IHCD modules delivered over a 4-week period, a 3-week Ambulance Care Award and a 1-week Driver Training Course. The training provides essential information and teaches practical skills to equip the Ambulance Care Attendant to perform their role as effectively and efficiently as possible. The knowledge and skills gained will enable the student to become a competent and caring Ambulance Care Attendant.

EMT Training

Four IHCD modules delivered over an 11-week period, on a residential basis. This includes a 2-week Advanced Driver Training Course and a 9-week theory and practical programme designed to equip EMTs with the necessary skills to provide effective care and management of patients at the scene of an accident and en route to hospital. The training covers subjects such as anatomy and physiology, resuscitation, ambulance equipment, defibrillation, special conditions such as major incidents, chemical incidents, violent patients and special procedures such as sudden death. A 12-month period of assessment follows the formal EMT training course during which time trainees must pass 4 quarterly assessments. On successful completion of this period, trainees are deemed qualified and are presented with an IHCD Award.

Paramedic Training

NIAS Paramedics are mostly recruited from the EMT tier of the organisation. Students undertake three IHCD modules delivered over an 11-week period, on a residential basis. Modules G and H focus on Advanced CPR, Intubation, Infusion, ECG Interpretation, Defibrillation, Drug Therapy, Collapse and Trauma. Modules I1 and I2 focus on Paediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynaecology. Students then undertake a 4-week placement in hospital departments during which time they are assessed in areas such as Intubation, Cannulation, Infusion, Airway Management, Artificial Ventilation, Blood Sampling, ECGs, Defibrillation and Use of Drugs.

Control and Communications Training

Because of the hi-tech nature of the operating environment in the Ambulance Control and Communications centres, extensive on-the-job training is provided in the use of specific telecommunications hardware and software used by NIAS.

Entry Qualifications:

N.B. The Ambulance Service continually reviews all its entry criteria for all posts and up to date information can be obtained by contacting the Human Resources Department, Trust Headquarters.

Ambulance Care Attendant

Previous experience is not essential but applicants should hold a full unrestricted driving licence which must include categories C1 and D1. Applicants with up to 3 penalty points on their licence will be considered.

EMT

Applicants for EMT training must have 5 GCSE subjects at Grade C or above, including English and Maths or equivalent qualifications, OR 3 GCSEs at Grade C or above including English and Maths or equivalent qualifications AND hold an IHCD Ambulance Care Award AND be prepared to sit the IHCD/EMT pre-entry test. Candidates must also hold a full unrestricted driving licence, which must include categories C1 and D1. Applicants with up to 3 penalty points on their licence will be considered.

Paramedic

Applications for Paramedic Training will only be considered from qualified EMTs with a minimum of 12 months post-qualification experience on Accident and Emergency duties. Candidates are required to pass IHCD theory and practical examinations, followed by an interview.

Control and Communications

Applicants for Control and Communications Staff must have 3 GCSEs at Grade C or above including English Language and possess basic computer skills. Full training will be provided to all successful candidates.

Career Pathway

Though working as an Ambulance Care Attendant is a rewarding career in itself, NIAS follows a nationally recognised education and development framework for career progression. The Patient Care Service tier provides an excellent entry level for those wishing to progress their career to EMT and Paramedic. However, NIAS also recruits EMTs and Paramedics externally through recruitment campaigns.

How to Apply:

All vacancies will be advertised widely in the local press and also on the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service website.

Web Links:

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service - www.niamb.co.uk
Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk

Contact address for further copies

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