

Introduction

PLANNING TO BE A PARAMEDIC

A. Speaking

Task 1

A. Think about the career you want to pursue. You say you want to be a paramedic. Are you sure what exactly paramedics do, what their job looks like, what they are responsible for? Before you take the final decision to do paramedic science courses at university, try to answer the following questions:

1. When do paramedics appear on the scene?
2. What is expected of them?
3. What can they actually do in practical terms and in terms of the law in force?
4. What personality features should a paramedic have?

B. In pairs compare your answers.

C. Discuss the answers with other classmates. Make a list of commonly accepted points.

Vocabulary

pursue a career/course
zajmować się, uprawiać, podjąć
in terms of w kontekście
accident wypadek
apply a splint szynować, założyć
szynę
construction accident wypadek
na budowie
drowning utonięcie
fracture złamanie
give rise (to) = cause
powodować
administer oxygen/drugs
podawać tlen, leki
arrive at the scene przybyć na
miejsce wypadku/zdarzenia
assess the patient's condition
ocenić stan pacjenta
health care professional
pracownik ochrony/służby
zdrowia

Task 3

Use the text as a springboard for introducing yourself. You may imagine this being part of a meeting intended to encourage young people to join the profession. Start like this:

Let me introduce myself. My name is ... I'm a paramedic by profession and also, I believe, by vocation. As you know a paramedic is ...'

Formal Qualifications and On-The-Job Training

Task 4

Study the vocabulary given below. Then use it to complete Text 1 and then Text 2. You may have to use some phrases more than once or adjust their form. Three words are not given. You must guess them.

admission • admission requirements • admit • ambulance service • applicant • apply (to/for) • approve • attend a course (in) • authorize • award a diploma • candidate • carry out training • casualty and emergency • check • clinical experience • comprise • curriculum • department • disaster • enable • entrant • entry requirements • full/part-time • interview • last • lead (to) • mass events • medicine of disasters • paramedic science • pertinent • qualification • qualified • register (with) • registration • rescue • search • student paramedic • study full-time/part-time • subject • supervision • train • trainee • training • uniform • unit • vacancy • vary (from X to Y) • work safety

Text 1

In Poland, anyone wishing to work as a paramedic will need to ⁽¹⁾ a first-level bachelor degree course at one of higher education institutions providing courses in rescue medicine ⁽²⁾ to a diploma in paramedic science. The courses are offered on a ⁽³⁾ and ⁽⁴⁾ basis by a number of both state-owned and private higher education institutions.

Entry ⁽⁵⁾ may vary from institution to institution ⁽⁶⁾ of qualifications, forms and procedures but all ⁽⁷⁾ must have the so-called maturity certificate which gives them the right to ⁽⁸⁾ for university level studies. Institution-specific ⁽⁹⁾ rules determine the conversion of maturity certificate grades to recruitment points. A qualification ⁽¹⁰⁾ or examination may also be used to select the best candidates for ⁽¹¹⁾

Courses ⁽¹²⁾ three years (six semesters) and ⁽¹³⁾ to a BSc diploma in rescue medicine ⁽¹⁴⁾ by the higher education institution. The ⁽¹⁵⁾ of studies should ⁽¹⁶⁾ at least 3 800 hours of tuition including theory and practice. Apart from general courses in ⁽¹⁷⁾ such as sociology, psychology, epidemiology and medicine, students pursue specialization courses in ⁽¹⁸⁾ first aid, emergency medicine, ⁽¹⁹⁾ actions (water and mountain rescue action included), medicine of ⁽²⁰⁾, etc. Since practical ⁽²¹⁾ is of primary importance, the curriculum provides for at least 10 weeks of practical placements – ⁽²²⁾ – in the hospital casualty and emergency ⁽²³⁾, ambulance ⁽²⁴⁾ and fire brigade station.

The ⁽²⁵⁾ is qualified and prepared to work in public and non-public healthcare units, including hospital ⁽²⁶⁾ and wards, medical rescue units and specialized ⁽²⁷⁾, in industrial ⁽²⁸⁾ units, in units responsible for handling disasters and ⁽²⁹⁾ as well as ensuring medical services for ⁽³⁰⁾

Text 2

In Britain, a person interested in working as a paramedic has a choice of either getting a ⁽¹⁾ position with an ambulance sector trust or ⁽²⁾ a full-time course in ⁽³⁾ at a university.

Admission requirements ⁽⁴⁾ so it is advisable to ⁽⁵⁾ with a university what their ⁽⁶⁾ policy is, what A levels or

other equivalent ⁽⁷⁾ are required. A potential ⁽⁸⁾ is also recommended to visit the NHS website to ⁽⁹⁾ for student paramedic ⁽¹⁰⁾ and other ⁽¹¹⁾ information.

Since paramedics are expected to be able to ⁽¹²⁾ an ambulance, whether ⁽¹³⁾ or non-emergency, they will need to hold a full ⁽¹⁴⁾, with appropriate qualifications which will ⁽¹⁵⁾ them to drive ⁽¹⁶⁾ vehicles of different type and gross weight.

The courses for paramedics must be ⁽¹⁷⁾ by the Health Professions Council (HPC) which paramedics must also ⁽¹⁸⁾ with to work in the NHS. The courses can ⁽¹⁹⁾ from two to five years depending on whether they are given ⁽²⁰⁾ or time and ⁽²¹⁾ to a diploma, foundation degree and/or BSc honours degree in paramedic science. ⁽²²⁾ requirements are not ⁽²³⁾ and depend on the institution concerned as well as on the ambulance service trusts operating in a given area. Students who are already working as student paramedics can arrange their ⁽²⁴⁾ for part-time courses through the ⁽²⁵⁾ which employs them.

Interestingly, some ambulance service trusts are even ⁽²⁶⁾ by the HPC to provide training for the Institute of Healthcare Development paramedic award which leads to ⁽²⁷⁾ with the HPC.

⁽²⁸⁾ courses provide both theoretical knowledge and practical clinical ⁽²⁹⁾, The clinical training is carried out under the ⁽³⁰⁾ of senior doctors in various hospital ⁽³¹⁾

Graduates can work in accident and medical ⁽³²⁾ related ambulance services, on their own or with an emergency care assistant. They are able to quickly reach the ⁽³³⁾ of emergency, ⁽³⁴⁾ the condition of the patient(s), ⁽³⁵⁾ life-saving decisions, provide essential ⁽³⁶⁾ Having gained extra training and/or qualifications they can also

work in a number of other settings, such as a GP surgery, minor injuries unit or hospital accident and emergency department.

C. Speaking

Task 5

Working in pairs or threes summarise the contents of each text to each other.

Task 6

- A. Prepare a list of questions you might ask a paramedic or a student of paramedic science coming from a foreign country to find out what their work and education look like.
- B. Working in pairs or threes discuss what you think your studies will and/or should look like.

D. More Vocabulary Work

Task 7

The abbreviations below refer to specialised areas connected with paramedic roles, place of work or equipment. Explain their meaning and give Polish equivalents for the full forms.

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	POLISH EQUIVALENT
A&E	Accident and Emergency	Szpitalny Oddział Ratunkowy
A&O		
A&W		
AED		
BID		
BLS		
BPA		

Vocabulary

admit przyjmować (do szpitala/na studia, itp.)
 admission requirements warunki przyjęcia (na studia)
 applicant/candidate/entrant kandydat
 award a diploma przyznąć dyplom
 Casualty & Emergency SOR/ Szpitalny Oddział Ratunkowy
 comprise zawierać
 curriculum program nauczania
 department oddział szpitalny
 mass events masowe zgromadzenia/zdarzenia
 medicine of disasters medycyna katastrof
 paramedic science ratownictwo medyczne
 pertinent stosowny, trafny, słuszny

qualification kompetencja, zdolność
 be qualified mieć odpowiednie kwalifikacje (potrzebne do wykonywania zawodu)

Vocabulary

rescue (wy)ratować
 rescue akcja ratunkowa, ratunek
 rescuer ratownik
 supervision nadzór, kontrola
 train szkolić
 trainee praktykant
 training praktyka, szkolenie
 uniform jednolity, (również: mundur)
 unit oddział, jednostka
 vacancy wakat
 ward oddział (lub duża sala) w szpitalu
 vary from X to Y różnić się (między X a Y)
 work safety bezpieczeństwo w pracy

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	POLISH EQUIVALENT
BU		
CPR		
EMT		
ECP		
ED		
EMD		
EMS		
ETA		
ETU		
FPOS		
FR		
GCS		
ILS		
RTA		

Task 8

Explain the following terms in English.

ambulance service • accident emergency • medical emergency • first aid • asthma attack • fracture • haemorrhage

E. Follow-up

- At the so-called 'Open Day' of your Medical University you've been given the task to encourage potential candidates to take up studies in the field of rescue medicine. Tell them about studies, theoretical and practical, job prospects, emotional requirements, etc. You can imagine that you are still a student or a young graduate or a fully fledged, experienced paramedic. You can perform the task on your own or with a few colleagues.
- At a students' meeting, conference or during a practical placement you meet a student of paramedic science or rescue medicine from another country. Simulate a conversation about

the contents of studies, obligatory and elective courses, training, ways of joining the profession.

- Write a description of (a) an ideal candidate for studies in rescue medicine and a paramedic and/or (b) the graduate in rescue medicine studies given at your University.