

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Health Sciences DipHE Health Sciences
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC). Access to Higher Education Diploma – a minimum of 45 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above. Applicants are expected to hold five GCSEs grade 4/C or above to include Mathematics, English and Science (or equivalent). Satisfactory Enhanced DBS check.
Delivering Institution	Ipswich
UCAS Code	B950

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Successful completion of all elements of the BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science programme will provide eligibility for registration as a Paramedic with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). This curriculum has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders who have actively participated in the development of the course design. The stakeholder participants in this process included representatives of service users, qualified paramedics

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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and employers. A partnership approach between academics, paramedics and paramedic educators from the East of England Ambulance Trust (EEAST), employers, and service users is a valued and important feature of this course.

EEAST will be providing the core placements for this programme within the region. However, the student will have the opportunity to experience specialist placement areas in a range of settings including acute emergency care in hospital, primary care settings and the private and voluntary sector.

The fundamental principle of the BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science programme is that it is practice focused and directed towards the achievement of professional competence. Paramedic practice is an evolving profession with a clear professional ethos developed in an HEI setting in conjunction with direct experience in a wide range of practice settings. Throughout the course, students are valued as individuals and will be encouraged to enhance their lifelong learning strategies and develop their specific interests. The ability to provide high quality patient-centred professional care within a continually evolving healthcare environment is essential. Students will be encouraged to reflect upon their experiences of practice and that of others drawing upon evidence and research to underpin their knowledge, skills and attitudes. This will support the student to develop and progress towards their full potential.

This course aims to nurture a patient centred approach while fostering interprofessional working and embracing a holistic approach to patient care. Such an approach will break down professional barriers in the best interests of the patients and their families / carers thus allowing healthcare professionals to take the lead on the care of their patients to inform and innovate practice. The psychosocial aspects of care for the patients and their relatives are integrated as well as the physical aspects of care.

In line with the National Health Constitution (2019) the core values of the NHS are integral to this course in order to facilitate the development of a culture where patients come first in everything that the NHS does. The fundamental values of working together for patients, promoting respect and dignity for every individual, demonstrating a commitment to quality of care based on compassion and the notion that everyone counts will underpin the teaching and learning on this course in order to strive for the core function of any healthcare system in improving the health and wellbeing of patients, communities and staff.

Education needs to incorporate a culturally sensitive approach that reflects the diversity of individuals, organisations and society. Learning and teaching is grounded within the current context of practice and will blend a student-centred approach that is appropriate to professional ethics. Current expectations of healthcare also require consideration of effective, responsive, collaborative, cost-effective and accountable education.

It is considered vital that the qualified paramedic should possess a sophisticated capacity to place care within recognisable, ethical, legal and political frameworks. Close consideration must be given to the development of an anti-discriminatory, patient-centred ethos for the practitioner. The contemporary role of the paramedic involves complex decision-making. The BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science programme has been designed to allow the student to gain competence, depth of specialist paramedic knowledge, flexible clinical decision-making and leadership skills to confidently and effectively care for service users. The course team acknowledge the need for public protection and to work in partnership to ensure students are fit for purpose and practice at the point of registration.

This course will enable students to develop courage and resilience to recognise, respond and adjust to the ever-changing healthcare practice environment while maintaining their professional knowledge, skills, competence and confidence. Education and practice will work in partnership with students to ensure that future paramedics enable service users are provided with safe and effective care interventions.

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Overall, this programme aims to develop a contemporary, holistic practitioner who is safe and competent in practice. By equipping the student with the tools for continual development and life-long learning, they will not only meet the demands of today's health service, but also have the skills to adapt practice to meet the ever-changing needs of the NHS.

Course Aims

1. Provide students with the knowledge and skills required to achieve the level of competence necessary to be eligible to apply for registration as a paramedic with the Health and Care Professions Council.
2. Equip the students with the knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to work effectively, flexibly and responsively as a reflective paramedic practitioner.
3. Ensure the students are equipped with the required skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to enable them to assess and manage patients within a range of complex out of hospital environments.
4. Develop the student's ability to critique, analyse and evaluate contemporary evidence and research to ensure they provide the highest quality of care in all practice settings.
5. Enhance the student's communication, interpersonal and collaboration skills to enable them to practice effectively within a multi- professional service in the delivery of out of hospital care.
6. Provide opportunities for the students to develop key skills to prepare them for a career within the context of being lifelong learners, thus ensuring the delivery of effective care and maintaining currency of knowledge and skills expected by the professional regulatory and statutory bodies and general public.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

On completion of Level 6 the students will be able to:

1. Understand what the HCPC require of them as registered practitioners.
2. Demonstrate, effectively use, and promote, the ethical, legal professional framework within paramedic practice.
3. Undertake effective, structured assessment and observation in all situations.
4. Select appropriate interventions and patient management strategies in all situations.
5. Have the knowledge and ability to share information within appropriate boundaries.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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6. Demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge base of the profession and use these to inform and respond to changes in practice.
7. Act in a way to uphold safety and minimise risk for colleagues, service users and self by establishing and maintaining a safe environment for practice.
8. Contribute to the quality assurance process within paramedic practice.
9. Demonstrate competence in the use of medical devices integral to the care of patients.
10. Understand and apply a range of complex skills related to paramedic practice.
11. Understand the fundamental physical and clinical science and the sociological, health and behavioural science concepts that underpin paramedic practice.
12. Demonstrate understanding of the impact of cultural factors, equality and diversity in practice contexts and be able to practice in an anti-discriminatory way, promoting social justice, equality and inclusion.
13. Demonstrate professional autonomy and accountability.
14. Demonstrate effective team management and self-management skills including priority setting (where and when appropriate).
15. Demonstrate an ability to monitor personal development as a learner and to practice lifelong learning.
16. Demonstrate an ability to review and reflect on practice, think critically and draw on appropriate knowledge to assure quality in practice.
17. Problem solve by taking a critical and analytical approach to data and evidence.
18. Plan, develop and initiate service improvement projects using their knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the practice setting.
19. Demonstrate effective and appropriate forms of communication to ensure that all the information necessary to make informed decisions with service users and all members of the health and social care is available

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Subject Benchmark Statements / Professional Standards / HCPC Competency Frameworks:

- HCPC Standards for Education and Training (2023)
- HCPC Standards for Professional Practice (2023)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Paramedics (2019)

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Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
Level 4 modules		
Preparation for Paramedic Practice (1) Becoming a Professional	20	M
Preparation for Paramedic Practice (2) The Reflective Practitioner	20	M
Human Anatomy and Physiology	20	M
Paramedic Practice: Meeting Psycho-Social Needs	20	M
Patient Management: Care of the Individual (1) Assessment	20	M
Patient Management: Care of the Individual (2) Treatment	20	M
Level 5 modules		
Pharmacology for Paramedic Practice	20	M
Research Methods for Paramedics	20	M
Application of Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology (1)	20	M
Application of Anatomy, Physiology & Pathophysiology (2)	20	M
Patient Management: Priorities of Care (1)	20	M
Patient Management: Priorities of Care (2)	20	M
Level 6 modules		
Collaborative Learning and Coaching	20	M
Transition into Registered Paramedic Practice	20	M
Dissertation	40	M
Patient Management: The Complex Environment (1)	20	M
Patient Management: The Complex Environment (2)	20	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Health Sciences on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Health Sciences, on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. The course will be made up of Theory hours 2475 (57%) and Practice hours 1800 (43%). There are 187 tutor structured learning hours at Level 4; 131.5 tutor structured learning hours at level 5 and 131.5 tutor structured learning hours at level 6.

Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, simulated skills sessions and self-directed hours include blended learning using the online learning platform Brightspace. In addition, tutorials and guided group discussions will form part of the self-directed hours. Students will also be required to participate in clinical placements involving 37.5 hours per week of allocated clinical time. Ambulance placements will be arranged by EEAST with support from the University. Specialist placements will be arranged by the University. Ambulance placement practice hours will average 450 per year with ambulance placement hours totalling 1350 throughout the three years. Specialist placement practice hours will average to 187.5 in year 2 and will be additional to the 450 ambulance placement hours.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will comprise of summative and formative coursework including essays, reports, presentations, group work, ongoing assessments of clinical practice, and a dissertation; and approximately 25% written and practical examinations.

Special Features

The BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science course is approved by the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) and meets the HCPC standards of proficiency. On completion of the course graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Full-time EU/International	£18,380 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for learning materials such as travel to placement, printing, books and stationery.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).