

Student Entry Agreement 2023 Entry

BSc Paramedic Science

B781

As a Paramedic Science student, you will study for a university degree that allows you to work as a student paramedic during the course. It is therefore essential that you can fulfil the requirements of the Health and Care Professions Council's (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency: Paramedics (2014) and Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2016). We ask you to carefully read the following outline of practice that derives from the HCPC requirements so that you can learn effectively and become a competent practitioner. If you anticipate a difficulty for you with any element of this document, please contact the Paramedic Science Admissions Officer who will discuss with you how best to resolve it.

Please read the following statements and sign at the end to confirm that you understand them.

1. Students must always act in accordance with the best interest of service users.
2. Students are expected to listen to service users and respect their views, treat them politely and considerately, respect service user's privacy and dignity, and respect their right to refuse to take part in teaching. You must obtain informed consent before providing treatment (except in an emergency).
3. Students should not allow personal views about a person's age, disability, lifestyle, culture, beliefs, ethnic or national origin, race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, social or perceived economic status prejudice their interaction with service users, lecturers, or colleagues.
4. Students are expected to be honest and not abuse the trust of a service user or other vulnerable person, and not to undertake an improper relationship with another person, for example, with a school pupil whom they may be mentoring.
5. A student must always act within the limits of **their** knowledge, skills and experience. Students should make it clear to service users that **they are** a student and not a qualified Paramedic. Unless you are on the paramedic register, you cannot by law represent yourself as a paramedic.
6. Students are bound by the principle of confidentiality of service user records and service user data. You must therefore take all reasonable precautions to ensure that any personal data relating to service users that you have learned by virtue of your position as a paramedic student will be kept confidential. You should not discuss service users with other students or professionals outside the clinical setting, except anonymously. When recording data or discussing cases outside the clinical setting you must endeavour to ensure that service users cannot be identified by others. You must respect all service user records.
7. Students are expected to maintain appropriate standards of dress, appearance, and personal hygiene so as not to cause offence to service users, lecturers, or colleagues. The appearance of a student should not be such as to potentially affect a service user's confidence in the student paramedic's judgment or standing. The following points are taken from the 'Department of Health Handbook - Uniforms and work wear: Guidance on uniform and work wear policies for NHS employers':
 - a) Effective hygiene and preventing infection are absolutes in all healthcare settings. Although there is no conclusive evidence that uniforms and work wear play a direct role in spreading infection, the clothes

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that staff wear should facilitate good practice and minimise any risk to service users. Uniforms and work wear should not impede effective hand hygiene and should not unintentionally come into contact with service users during direct service user care activity. Similarly, nothing should be worn that could compromise service user or staff safety during care, for example false nails, rings, earrings other than studs, and necklaces. Local policies may allow a plain ring, such as a wedding ring.

b) Service users and the wider public should have complete confidence in the cleanliness and hygiene of their healthcare environment. The way staff dress is an important influence on people's overall perceptions of the standards of care they experience. Uniforms should be clean at all times, and professional in appearance. In addition, although there is no evidence that wearing uniforms outside work adds to infection risks, public attitudes indicate it is good practice for staff either to change at work, or to cover their uniforms as they travel to and from work.

c) As far as possible, subject to the overriding requirements of service user safety and public confidence, staff should feel comfortable in their uniforms. This includes being able to dress in accordance with their cultural practices. For example, although exposure of the forearm is a necessary part of hand and wrist hygiene during direct patient care activity, the uniform code should allow for covering of the forearm at other times.

d) Where, for religious reasons, members of staff wish to cover their forearms or wear a bracelet when not engaged in patient care, ensure that sleeves or bracelets can be pushed up the arm and secured in place for hand washing and direct patient care activity.

e) Use of hand disinfection gels containing synthetic alcohol does not fall within the Muslim prohibition against natural alcohol (from fermented fruit or grain).

8. Students are expected to adhere to all infection control guidance stipulated by the ambulance trusts, placement providers and university in the interests of public safety. Any exemptions to infection control measures should be an occupational health recommendation.

9. Students are required to physically examine service users of both sexes (which includes touching) in order to establish a clinical diagnosis, irrespective of the gender, culture, beliefs, disability, or disease of the service user. In order to qualify as a Paramedic in the UK, it is required that the practitioner is willing to examine any service user as fully and as intimately as is clinically necessary.

10. Students are strongly encouraged to act as a 'patient' for the teaching and learning of non-invasive paramedic skills. However, you are under no obligation to agree to be a 'patient', and your refusal is in no way a barrier to your continued eligibility to participate in skills-based learning activities.

11. Student's dress must comply with infection control guidance appropriate to the clinical setting they are working in. Students should note that from Feb 2009, in order to ensure infection control many Hospital Trusts will insist that all students and other healthcare workers are bare from the elbow down which also precludes wearing items such hand or wrist jewellery, wrist watches or false nails. The spread of antibiotic resistant infections is a serious issue for the NHS and the welfare of patients.

12. Students must ensure that their behaviour does not damage the paramedic profession, or the integrity or reputation of the University. Also note that while on the course, all students will have a duty to

raise any concerns about any behaviour of fellow students, lecturers, paramedic personnel or service users, that contradicts the HCPC standards.

13. Students are expected to attend classes as required by the regulations of the course and in order to develop the knowledge and skills articulated in the HCPC's Standards of Proficiency. This programme has been validated on 100% attendance for onsite and online teaching, and for all ambulance and non-ambulance placements. Clinical experience in particular is a core part of learning to be a paramedic and cannot be omitted. Where possible, classes are timetabled between 08.30 am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday and attendance is expected at all classes. Students on clinical placement may be required to work outside these hours including evenings **and** weekends. We are sympathetic to a student's request to take a specific day off for an annual religious festival but would ask students to ensure adequate notice is provided, ideally before the placement block commences.

14. Students are expected to be honest about changes to their health which may impact their study or practice so that they can receive appropriate support in managing their condition and to ensure their safety, and that of their colleagues and the wider public. A referral to occupational health to assess fitness to study and practice along with many reasonable adjustments or pertinent recommendations may be required.

15. Students must be honest when submitting coursework for assessment, adhering to the university guidance relating to plagiarism. This includes the information on the UCAS form.

16. An applicant must disclose if they have been charged or convicted with a criminal offence at any time prior to or during the admissions process. **The university** must also be informed of any allegations still under investigation which may be pending charges. Applicants are required to have a Criminal Record check before entering the course but must disclose if they are being investigated for or charged/convicted with a criminal offence once registered, especially if there is a possibility that this will affect fitness to be a clinical student or a paramedic. On that basis, students must be signed up to the DBS Update Service to allow regular checking of their police record. A student must also inform the **University** if charged with or convicted of a criminal offence during **their** time as a student at St George's.

17. Once enrolled the course, a student must inform **the university** if there is any significant change to **their** health that might affect fitness to be an Undergraduate student or to practice as a Paramedic.

18. All applicants will receive a confidential health questionnaire and further information about the process of health screening if they firmly accept their offer. Please note that all offer holders will be asked for immunisation records of the following:

- Hepatitis B
- MMR
- Meningitis
- TB
- Chicken Pox

If you are missing any of the above, then Occupational Health will arrange for the immunisation to be carried out. However, you may wish to contact your general practitioner (GP) to begin a course of Hepatitis B immunisation once you receive an offer, as it consists of three injections over a six-month period, although, please note, the GP may charge for this.

19. If you have previously embarked on a degree, whether in the UK or overseas, you must inform us if you have you interrupted, been excluded, discontinued or failed to complete for any reason.

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20. Students are asked to confirm that they have been truthful in their application, and that they did not omit any important information relevant to the application. If we discover that an applicant has been untruthful in **their** application, St George's may withdraw the offer or terminate the course of study.

21. If you have ever had registration with any professional body suspended or revoked or undergone a disciplinary or fitness to practice investigation in the UK or any other country, we expect to know the circumstances and the formal outcome. A panel will review if this affects your suitability for the programme. You will be required to provide full copies of related documentation. Any information you disclose will only be used for the purpose of considering your application to the applied programme and will only be shared with those who need to use this information for this purpose.

22. St George's, University of London is committed to making the best use of all available technology and innovation to improve our business. This includes enhancing how we communicate and interact with the different groups of people we engage with, for example, staff, students, prospective students, and research and business partners. Social media platforms open up opportunities for the University, our staff and students to interact with the groups of people we engage with in new, exciting and meaningful ways. However, there are many potential issues to consider. To avoid mistakes and misjudgements that could result in personal, reputational, legal, moral or ethical issues, and misuse/abuse of a well-functioning social media relationship we will provide guidelines after enrolment **which must be followed**.

23. I understand that my admissions data, including details declared on UCAS, MMI scores and other relevant admissions test data be used for educational research purposes in conjunction with any future school performance data. This is on the understanding my information is anonymised and personal data will not be shared, or identity disclosed

Please sign and complete in BLOCK CAPITALS to confirm that you have carefully read this information about the requirements of the course and that you understand our expectations.

Full Name	
UCAS ID (if applicable)	
SGUL ID	
Signature	
Date (DD/MM/YY)	