



CASE STUDY: **WORLD-CLASS TRAINING CENTRE FOR AMBULANCE STAFF**

Scottish Ambulance Academy

Building on its strengths in health education and research, Glasgow Caledonian University entered into an innovative partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service that will create a new era of skills training and professional development for ambulance staff.

As the frontline of the NHS in Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service provides an emergency ambulance service to a population of over 5 million people serving all of Scotland's mainland and island communities. Its Patient Transport Service undertakes over 1.6 million journeys every year, ensuring that patients are able to attend hospital appointments. The Scottish Ambulance Service is a Special Health Board which is set national performance targets by the Scottish Government.

Situated in Glasgow Caledonian University's School of Health and Life Sciences, the Scottish Ambulance Academy provides modern lecture theatres, classrooms and syndicate rooms. Fully fitted clinical simulation areas recreate a 16-bed hospital ward and an accident and emergency department. This allows SAS students to learn alongside other health professionals, including nurses and midwives, in a real life clinical environment for the first time.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, opened the Scottish Ambulance Academy, which is the only education establishment in the UK to be formally endorsed by the College of Paramedics and is also certified by the Health Professions Council. It offers first class opportunities for learning in an environment that is purpose-built for modern adult education, with the flexibility to meet the current and future needs of Scottish Ambulance Service staff.

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon says: "Paramedics and ambulance staff have a key role to play at the heart of our health service, so it's right that their training is integrated with other healthcare professionals. The Academy will help the ambulance service ensure that they can deliver the highest possible standard of education and training to equip the workforce of tomorrow with the vital skills and experience they need."

SAS education staff and students have access to Glasgow Caledonian University's award-winning Saltire Centre library and IT facilities, creating new opportunities to develop and extend research that is specific to the continued development of paramedicine.

Pauline Howie, Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service, says: "The new Scottish Ambulance Academy is a major milestone in the delivery of our learning and skills strategy. It now provides world-class education that meets the needs of our patients and ensures that our staff can fully realise their potential in a unique, modern teaching centre."

APPLIED KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

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Shirley Rogers, Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development at the Scottish Ambulance Service, adds: "The opportunity to train in clinical simulation areas alongside other healthcare professionals will have a significant benefit in terms of professional development. The close proximity of police and fire training facilities means that our students can work alongside emergency service colleagues in simulated traffic accidents."

The SAS trains over 200 staff every year in a wide range of clinical and operational skills required to deliver the highest standards of patient care in Scotland. Previously, staff were trained at the Barony Castle in Peebles.

Professor Pamela Gillies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University, says: "The learning and professional development experience offered by the Academy will have huge benefits for patients and paramedic staff across Scotland. Together we will establish an approach and programme which will be sought after by many nations who are also seeking to transform their provision in this important area."

Bringing together the range of life sciences, health, nursing and social care disciplines, Glasgow Caledonian University's School of Health and Life Sciences is one of the largest providers of health care education in Scotland and provides an exciting and dynamic environment in which to further an academic or professional career. GCU's research in the field of health is world leading and was ranked in the UK top 10 in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

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The University's Institute for Applied Health Research brings together research excellence across the University to consolidate our success in attracting major grants, further develop collaborations with partners within Scotland and internationally, and work with end-users in the public and private sectors.

By combining the complementary subject and clinical expertise across the Schools in GCU as a whole, the Institute brings together researchers to address some of the most challenging health research priorities in Scotland, the UK and internationally. Research groups include: Individual, Family and Community Health Interventions; Active Living; Musculoskeletal and Neurological Rehabilitation; Diabetes; Later Life; and Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Professions Research.

