

From APC student to London Ambulance Paramedic

This is Zac's success story



Zac says;

- Don't ever let someone tell you that what you are doing is a waste of time. You are doing great and kicking big goals right now!
- You must invest into your education.
- Every single one of you will be able to do the exact same thing that a university graduate can.

In Zac's own words.

I want to share my perspective on two arguments that I constantly hear about training as a paramedic outside of a university. University is great don't get me wrong, but from what I have learned and seen in the last 2 years shows me that there are better ways of doing things.

Yes, [you will have to get a bachelor's degree](#) [if you want to become a registered Ambulance Paramedic], there is no argument about that.

I started APC in 2013 (September I believe), and finished my [Cert IV in Health Care](#) in March. I was out volunteering one day after my practical, with a private provider.

Since March 2014, I have continued to work/volunteer while working my way up from Certificate IV [in Health Care].

Important Info *****

You CANNOT expect to just be handed a job because you did 4 weeks' worth of practical and did CPR on some dummies.



“You must invest in your education”.

So here is how I did it and this is where it got me.

- From March 2014, I kept working with private providers. I did heaps of free work and made myself available to help as an extra set of hands. You will learn SO MUCH by just being there on the scene.

Volunteering can suck, but if you commit 6 months to at least a few weekends, it will pay off in the end.

- I paid for separate classes and Certs on my own (advanced care life support, basic life support, etc) which made me more knowledgeable and more competent to handle a resus or mega code.

Plus - these courses taught me about different drugs used in a resus and different techniques to handle cardiac issues (SVT, symptomatic bradycardia, etc).

This was the best thing for my career because it is a great thing to have on the CV and you just learn so much.



- I dedicated myself to reading ONE article a day about paramedics, from different med sites online. I have some great resources if anyone needs them.

- I got a mentor.

- I started sharing what little knowledge I had with fellow students who were new to this.

So you get the idea right?

Ok sweet.... now on to the main part.

“DO NOT LET ANYONE TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE LESS THAN OR NOT A PARAMEDIC AT ALL - BECAUSE YOU CHOSE THIS PATHWAY.”, said Zac.

Now all those Certs and [Diploma's](#) and things I did..... here is how it plays out.

Now - 2016 rolls around and I get an interview for a paramedic job, I may not have a bachelors degree and 4 weeks clinical with QAS.....

BUT I do have...

- Advanced Diploma/[Diploma in Paramedical Science](#) (which is the equivalent to an ACP1 or ACP2 Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) paramedic)
- 1.5 years experience working in pre hospital emergency service (event paramedics and medics) not only that but I can show my future employer letters from my two boss's, past patient history forms (which I have had some pretty good trauma jobs)
- Certifications that are internationally recognised by ILCOR. Which are ACLS, BLS, PEARS, and a few others. These show my commitment to the study of paramedics and show that I have been trained to handle complicated resus jobs.

Now compare that to the guy/gal with a [Bachelor's degree](#)..... fresh out of uni with only 4 weeks experience with QAS.

How do you think it matches up?



The point I'm trying to make is that what you are doing right now ([studying with APC](#)) is a great step in the direction of becoming a paramedic. Sure, it is a bit longer, but you come out more experienced and a better for it.

Don't ever let someone tell you that what you are doing is a waste of time. You are doing great and kicking big goals right now!!!!

And to top it off now that you have been working in the sector for the past 6 months or so, you are eligible for [some universities that offer a conversion degree](#) and will [knock off credits toward your Bachelors](#).

APC can also provide the name of a few universities if anyone is curious.

- [Central Queensland University \(CQU\)](#)
- [Edith Cowan University \(ECU\)](#)
- [Charles Sturt University \(CSU\)](#)
- [University of Tasmania \(UTAS\)](#)

I know people that currently work in the UK and in New South Wales that have done this program and have had great success - but they busted their ass to get there.

Sorry for the long story - but I want to encourage you to keep going keep pushing.

I hope I did not come off rude, proud or arrogant in my story? - but I once felt like my study was not good enough because it was not at a university.

I finally did some research and figured out that my education was the same as their education. Just with a bit less content.

Every single one of you will be able to do the exact same thing that a university graduate can.

Never let someone tell you any different!



2019 Update

Zac currently lives in London and works for the [London Ambulance Service](#) as a registered Paramedic.

“Just wanted to drop a word of encouragement to everyone. Keep going and study hard.

I obtained my AdvDip and Dip from APC about 3 years ago. I currently live and work in London, for the London Ambulance Service.

I have been here for 18 months and love it.”

Some of Zac’s photos of London he recently shared with fellow APC students.

10 Downing St, Westminster, the locale of British prime ministers since 1735.



Every day is different in London. This is Zac working on a patient in the London underground railway, and once again outside No.10 Downing Street.



“Don't ever let someone tell you that what you are doing is a waste of time. You are doing great and kicking big goals right now”, Zac Almond.

