

PHEM Training in the South West



PHEM training has been available in the South West since 2012 and offers some of the busiest PHEM training services in the country.

We are offering two PHEM training posts in August 2025:

- A Scheme A job (50% PHEM, 50% EM) based between Great Western Air Ambulance and the Emergency Departments at the two Bristol hospital.
- A scheme C job (100% PHEM) Based with Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - open to Anaesthetics and ICM only.

and one in February 2026:

- A scheme C job (100% PHEM) Based with Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance – open to any base specialty.

Hospital Placements

The Scheme A job is based at the two teaching hospitals in Bristol, spending 12 months (6 months WTE) in each Emergency department.



Bristol Royal Infirmary is a busy city centre Emergency department with tertiary provision for cardiac arrest management, cardiology, cardiothoracic and cancer services.



Southmead hospital is a regional major trauma centre, based on the northern side of the city. It has tertiary provision for vascular, neurosurgery, renal, burns and plastics and is a Hyperacute stroke centre.

PHEM Component

Great Western Air Ambulance



Great Western Air Ambulance Charity is based at a purpose-built airbase in Almondsbury, North Bristol and is one of the busiest Pre-Hospital Critical Care services in the UK. The Critical Care Team is available from 07:00 to 01:00 and covers an area ranging from Tewkesbury to North Somerset and from the Forest of Dean to Swindon. We cover a population of over 2.1 million people, mainly within the urban centres of Bristol, Cheltenham, and Gloucester. GWAAC was tasked to 1927 incidents in 2023, delivering 161 pre-hospital emergency anaesthetics and 33 blood transfusions.

The Critical Care Team consists of Specialist Paramedics in Critical Care, an Advanced Paramedic Practitioner, Consultants and PHEM trainees. The Consultants within the team are drawn from a range of specialties including Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care, Anaesthesia, Cardiology and Neonatology. Approximately 28% of our cases are cardiac arrests, 24% acute medical emergencies and 48% trauma. 10% of cases are paediatrics. We attend a mix of rural and inner city / urban taskings, providing diverse experience and exposure. Clinical Governance days are held monthly, and we have a strong team ethos based on teaching, training and learning – with several members of the team participating as examiners for the DipIMC / FIMC.

For further information or any questions please contact the Medical Director:

Andy.Lockyer@gwaac.com or Deputy Medical Director : Andrew.Heavyside@gwaac.com

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance launched in 2000, based at Henstridge Airfield. We are clinically governed by the NHS and are a South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust air asset deployed across the south west, predominantly within Dorset & Somerset. Last year we were tasked to over 2000 primary HEMS incidents, with numbers increasing year on year, split approximately 50/50 trauma versus medical jobs. We are also involved in the inter facility transfer of critically ill and injured adults and children. Our critical care team is available between 07:00 and 02:00.

Incidents are generally attended to by air unless weather conditions do not permit. There are also two enhanced care outreach cars running 10:00 to 22:00 in addition to our air asset.



We have a clinically strong, governance led, team and are well positioned to offer you the best support for your PHEM training. Staff are very experienced, and many are heavily involved in national PHEM training – faculty on the National Induction Course, examiners for the NSA1 and 2 (DIMC & FIMC), board members of the Faculty of Pre- Hospital Care and IBTPHEM.

We currently offer two scheme C (one-year, full time) posts, one open to anaesthetic & intensive care medicine trainees only (starting August 2025) and the second open to any base specialty (starting February 2026).

For further information or any questions contact: laura.bland@swast.nhs.uk

Further Information on PHEM training in the South West please contact – Dr Jules Blackham (TPD for PHEM) – julesblackham@doctors.net.uk