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Firefighter

More information can be found at

[Firefighter \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/firefighter)



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales



Qualifications Required

For direct entry to firefighting, the usual entry requirement is a good general education and a pass in entrance tests. Some people enter with GCSEs, particularly in maths, English and science.

People also enter the fire service with A levels, a foundation degree, an HND or a degree, although there is not a graduate fast entry scheme.

Other qualifications include:

- BTEC level 1 - public services
- BTEC level 2 - public services
- BTEC level 3 - public services
- NCFE diploma for entry to the uniformed services

For entry to a foundation degree or an HND, the usual requirement is:

- 1/2 A levels
- GCSEs at grade C/4 or above in 4 subjects



Skills and Qualities



To become a Firefighter, you'll need to be able to:

- work at heights and in dark, confined spaces
- use your hands well for practical tasks
- keep calm and concentrate on a task under pressure
- communicate effectively with other firefighters and with the public
- carry out presentations in front of groups of people
- work in a team; teamwork is crucial in situations where individual safety depends on co-operation with others
- deal sensitively with people who might be distressed or confused
- use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions
- pass fitness and medical tests, which include strength and lung capacity tests
- find your way around your local neighbourhood easily and quickly
- display a knowledge of first aid procedures

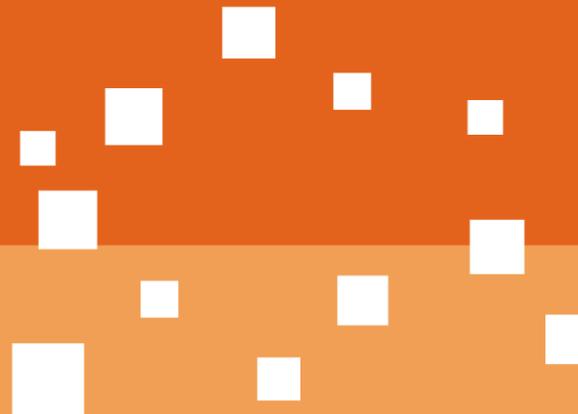
Fire services set eyesight requirements, and you need to check these very carefully. Normal colour vision and good hearing are essential.

Some medical conditions will make it very difficult for you to become a Firefighter.

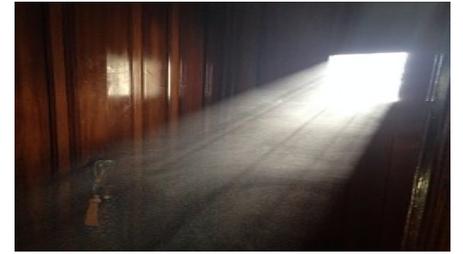
Each fire service has its own requirements and you should check these carefully.

Fire services also set a written exam, and test applicants' job-related skills, as

part of the recruitment process. You are likely to need a full driving licence



Entry Routes



Becoming a Firefighter is not easy.

Many people spend months or even years applying and preparing themselves to apply. So you must be prepared to work hard and be patient.

To be successful you need to be one step ahead of the next candidate, and be better prepared than they are. The Fire and Rescue Service only take on the best, so those who have put the work in will be rewarded by the offer of places on recruitment courses.

Firefighting is an occupation open to both men and women. The minimum age of entry is 18 years, so you will need to be over 17 and a half before you can start to apply.

To begin with, you must first pass the application form stage. If you are successful, you'll go on to take tests of number skills, ability to understand and use written information, situational awareness and problem-solving skills. Then you must attend an interview and take part in role-play exercises.

There are also job-related physical tests including using breathing apparatus and/or a face mask in a confined dark space, assembling and carrying equipment and working at the top of a ladder. You must also pass tests of medical and physical fitness (including aerobic fitness, lung function, eyesight and hearing).



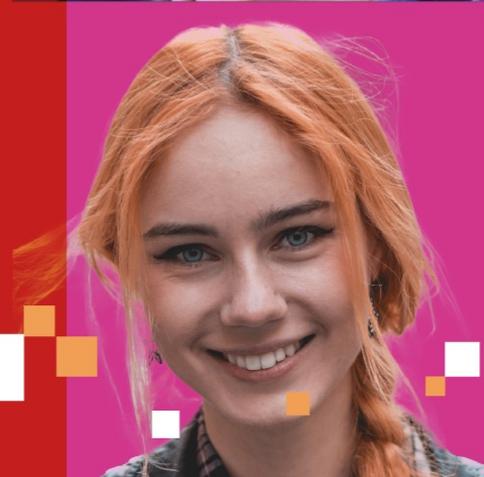
Salary

The pay rates given below are approximate.

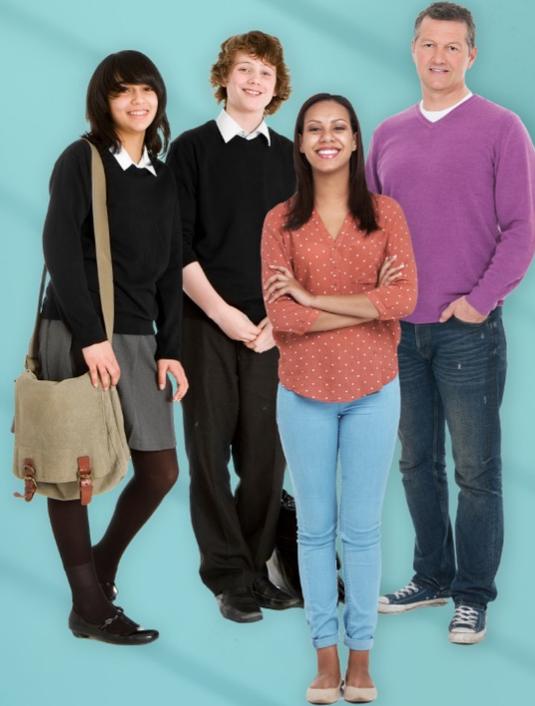
- Starting: £22,000 - £29,000

- With experience: £31,000 - £34,000

- Senior Firefighters earn £34,000 - £42,000



**For more information please use the
QR code**



For more information or help with your career planning

Please Contact your school-based careers adviser

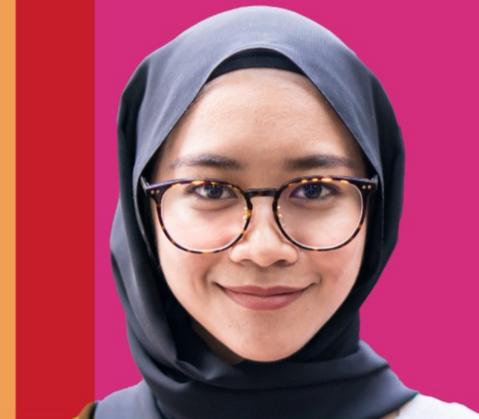
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For more information or help with your career planning

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