



ECA Preceptorship FAQs

Q: Who is my preceptor?

A: ECA preceptorship is provided by a variety of roles, to ensure you have well-rounded support throughout your first 6 months. Support is provided by ECA buddies, LP L&Ds (Team Educators), Team Operational Officers (OO), Education Practitioners (ECA educators in the classroom), EOC colleagues and AVP colleagues.

Q: How are ECA buddies chosen?

A: ECA buddies have been identified by their Team OO as supportive, experienced, and competent members of the team. They must not be a preceptee ECA themselves. OOs nominate ECA buddies and communicate this with them. Apprentice paramedics might be nominated, but will only be an ECA buddy on a case-by-case basis.

Q: I have been planned ECA buddy shifts, but they are not all with the same person, why?

A: ROC will make all efforts to plan all ECA buddy shifts with the same buddy, but sometimes this will not be possible due to differing rota patterns, annual leave and sickness.

Q: Why do I have annual leave as soon as I finish my ECA course?

A: The ECA and driving courses can be intense, so providing decompression and rest time prior to starting on the road feels fair. In addition, this annual leave helps planning for ROC and operations.

Q: What if my preceptorship shifts are not at my preferred place of work?

A: Most preceptee ECAs will be on a relief rota initially, meaning there may be a few stations you will be asked to work out of. However, this helps to provide well-rounded exposure to different stations and receiving hospitals.





Q: Does the ECA preceptorship framework apply to me if I have been an CFR or ECA before?

A: Yes. Although your experience will be invaluable, we want to ensure all ECAs new to SWAST are supported in their transition to role.

Q: Why can't I work on the Mental Health Response Vehicle or GP Support Car if I'm a preceptee ECA?

A: These vehicles are available for Category 1 emergencies, so this is in place to protect preceptee ECAs from attending these calls without support from another SWAST colleague.

Q: When can I start doing overtime?

A: You can start doing overtime once you have completed your first week in operations (station induction, EOC placement and 2 x ECA buddy shifts).

Q : What if I am put onto a rota line during my preceptorship period?

A: All elements of your preceptorship can still be achieved if you begin on a rota line, it might mean that your planned shifts need to be flexible to accommodate the elements required to complete preceptorship.

Q : What documentation do I need to complete for ECA preceptorship?

A: All documentation can be found on SWAST CPD, which can be accessed on any device: [Preceptorship \(ECA\) Home page - SWAST CPD](#).

