

# Career Guide for Bodyguards

**Job Title:** Bodyguard, PSD Operator, Executive Protection Operative

**Office:** Wherever your client is.



Photo credit: CRI Training School, Las Vegas NV

**Description:** Professional protection from bodily injury, kidnapping, assassination, assault, harassment, stalking, or embarrassment.

**Certifications/Education:** Attend a well vetted Bodyguard Training School. If prior military with GI Bill School like C.R.I. Counter Terrorism Training School in Las Vegas accept GI Bill for tuition payment. ([www.critraining.com](http://www.critraining.com)).

**Necessary Skills:** Good Observer, always prepared for unexpected, Surveillance, Crowd Control, Weapons, Hand to hand fighting, Evasive driving, Survival training, First Aid and Communications

**Potential Employers:** Private Security Firms, Wealthy Individuals, Independent Contractor and Private Military Companies (PMC).

**Pay:** There are a some making in the \$180,000+ range but, the average is \$55,000, Depends on experience, threat level, location and client.

**Main clientele** are celebrities, politicians, government big shots, and wealthy families and people that may be targets of violence or harassment.

**Professional Bodyguards**, or Close Protection Agents, offer clients peace of mind. Hollywood portrays the career of a bodyguard as a glorious, action packed job. Actually, it's more mundane. While some may tote machine guns, perform evasive driving in armored cars, or use martial arts skills to fend off bad guys it's not typical, but not unrealistic. Remember it is better to be prepared and have the skills you need, than it is to need the skills and not have them. Bodyguards are keen observers of security issues. They must have excellent hearing and vision. They are usually strong and physically fit. They have a sixth sense about their surroundings – eyeing an overeager paparazzi, controlling crowds at a political rally, or sorting out uninvited guests at a wedding. Bodyguards assess threats and deal with them as necessary – usually this doesn't mean choreographed fight scenes and fast cars. It means surveillance, route planning, car searches, or just being a close, visually intimidating physical presence.



Photo credit: CRI Training School, Las Vegas NV

**A bodyguard's job title** may change regularly. They may work as a personal assistant, bodyguard or driver must blend in with the client looking as if he is just one of the client's friends. The job is to do what the client says. You must have confidentiality and discretion, as well as identify a potential threat before it's too late. This may mean waiting by the car for hours, standing by their side, or carrying their shopping bags. Bodyguards are highly trained. Many come from a Military or Law Enforcement backgrounds.

**How to start as a Bodyguard.** Some take bodyguard training courses at schools like *C.R.I. Counter Terrorism Training School* and others where they learn about Counter terrorists ambush, escape from captivity, execution attempt survival, IEDs and VBIED (vehicle borne improvised explosive device), multiple snipers defense, counter assault team tactics, evasive offensive and defensive driving, first aid, communications, covert surveillance, counter surveillance and surveillance detection, arrivals and departures, advanced formations, cultural behavior adaptation close protection, anti-terrorism techniques, risk assessment, weapons disarming, unarmed combat, dispute resolution and conflict avoidance. Some carry a weapon, while others are trained in martial arts. The more training and experience a bodyguard has, the better he is.



Photo credit: CRI Training School, Las Vegas NV

**Work** may take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Most bodyguards work in teams and do 6 or 8-hour shifts, but others may have longer, irregular hours. They must always be prepared to accommodate the client. This includes traveling to all parts of the world. Being a bodyguard is a serious commitment. The job holds an element of danger. A bodyguard may work with a celebrity in Los Angeles, the children of a wealthy family in Mexico City, or a VIP executive in the Middle East. Wherever the job takes them, they must be ready for anything. They may spend the day skiing in Vail, avoiding bullets from armed robbers in NYC, or searching vehicles for bombs in Dubai. A bodyguard is always close to his client and can never underestimate anyone. Many places around the world are very unstable. In these types of places where the local police or law enforcement do not have full control there are many opportunities for bodyguards and PSD operators.

**In Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq**, the former Soviet Union, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia there is a growing need for professionals that can provide private security services for wealthy individuals and/or corporations.

An additional field where bodyguards and PSD operators are increasingly in demand is the field of counter Marine piracy. The international waters are almost completely unregulated and various terrorist and criminal groups are taking advantage of the situation and attacking both commercial and personal yachts and marine vessels.

Therefore, many Maritime shipping companies have started employing bodyguards and PSD operators as well as drone pilots in order to defeat and repel modern Pirates that try to board their ships. It's been proven that ships with well trained, armed security members on their ships were never successfully hijacked.



Photo credit: CRI Training School, Las Vegas NV

**The best places to look** for bodyguard work is through bodyguard staffing agencies, individuals, or bodyguard schools. It's a big industry and growing. The average bodyguard makes \$55,000 per year while some sign contracts for \$700 per day and a few even make \$180,000+ per year. Location, experience, training, job description, and danger are the major factors in determining pay. Being a bodyguard can be mundane or it can be deadly. It can take you all over the world and put you in some risky situations. It's not the job for everyone, but plenty of jobs exist for trained professionals in the security industry. Remember to stay vigilant, stay trained, and be ready for anything.