

Diagnostic radiographer

Radiography is one of the most innovative aspects of healthcare – you'll use advanced technology to look inside patients' bodies and understand the root causes of their illness, and consult with colleagues on diagnosis and treatment plans.

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Working life

As a diagnostic radiographer, you'll use cutting-edge technology to take images of the insides of patients to help understand and diagnose conditions. Based in a hospital, you'll work with patients and colleagues to design treatment programmes and support patients until their treatment ends. From using a CT scanner to make a 3D image for a surgeon to preparing a patient for an MRI ^[3] scan – you'll be using some of the most complex and advanced technology. Diagnostic radiographers are also central to a wider multidisciplinary team, working and consulting with colleagues across various departments.

Real-life story - Paul Wicklen

Diagnostic radiographer

Making the move into diagnostic radiography and imaging is easily the best one I've made since signing up for the RAF.

[Real-life story - Paul Wicklen](#) ^[4]

Entry requirements

To become a diagnostic radiographer, you must first successfully complete an approved degree or masters in diagnostic radiography. Degree courses take three or four years full time, or up to six years part time. There are also some postgraduate courses that can take two years. Once you've completed your degree, you need to register with the Health and Care Professions Council ([HCPC](#) ^[5]) before you can start practising. The other option is to apply for an apprenticeship degree.

Entry requirements for an undergraduate course are typically:

- Five GCSEs (grades A-C ^[6]), including English language, maths and science
- Two of three A levels, including physics, chemistry or biology/human biology.

Or equivalent qualifications:

Apprenticeships logo

- A BTEC, HND or HNC which includes science.
- A relevant T level (health or healthcare science may be accepted).
- A relevant NVQ.
- A science-based access course.
- Equivalent Scottish or Irish qualifications.

Each university sets its own entry requirements, so it's important to check with them directly. In most cases, the results of an interview and other selection processes are taken into account as well as academic qualifications. It's also a good idea to spend some time with a diagnostic radiography team to get some firsthand experience of what the role's really like.

When applying for a degree, you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work.

Annual payments

You could receive £6,000 a year to help fund your studies while at university. Your personal circumstances may mean you could receive more. And the good news? You'll never have to pay it back. [Find out more](#) ^[7].

Degree apprenticeship

A degree apprenticeship is another way to become a diagnostic radiographer. Apprenticeships give you the chance to earn a living while gaining your qualification. Your employer and the government will pay the tuition fees, so apprenticeships aren't eligible for student grants.

Must-have skills

Don't forget – academic qualifications aren't everything. You'll need to be interested in new technologies, be safety-conscious and have excellent observational skills, as well as an ability to interpret data. But this isn't just a role for the technologically-minded. You'll also need to have strong communication skills and be as comfortable discussing treatment plans with patients as you are with your professional peers.

You'll provide a service for most departments within the hospital including accident and emergency.

Training and career development

Once you've qualified, you'll have annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) check-ins, where we'll discuss your career aspirations and plan how we can help you to achieve them, so you're always moving forward. You'll also be encouraged to join The Society of Radiographers where you can take courses, conferences and seminars.

As your career progresses, you could specialise in a particular type of imaging such as computerised tomography scanning or undertake further training to become a sonographer. Or you could specialise in working with children, [stroke](#) ^[8] patients or cancer patients, for example. Research or teaching are other options.

Working for the NHS, you may also find yourself heading your own radiography team, managing budgets, staff and equipment.

Pay and benefits

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours with the need to work flexibly over a seven day period. As a diagnostic radiographer, you'll be paid on the [Agenda for Change \(AFC\) pay system](#) ^[9], typically starting on band 5.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

Find your course to become a diagnostic radiographer

Region

- Any - ▼

Type of qualification

- Any - ▼

Full or part time

Search ▼

Displaying 1 - 5 of 51 matches

Diagnostic Radiography

University of Leeds

[View course](#) ^[10] Opens in a new window

- Qualification

- Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)

- Study mode

- Full-time

- Duration of the course

- 3 Years

- Leading to a career in

- Radiography (diagnostic)

- Contact details

study@leeds.ac.uk ^[11]

0113 343 2336

- Region
 - Yorkshire and The Humber
- Admissions address
 - Woodhouse Lane
 - Leeds
 - LS2 9JT
 - United Kingdom

Diagnostic Radiography

London South Bank University

[View course](#) ^[12] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Radiography (diagnostic)
- Contact details
 - study@lsbu.ac.uk ^[13]
 - 0207 815 7500
- Region
 - London
- Admissions address
 - 103 Borough Road
 - London
 - SE1 0AA
 - United Kingdom

Medical Imaging (Diagnostic Radiography)

University of Exeter

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- Qualification
 - Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
 - Full-time
- Duration of the course
 - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
 - Radiography (diagnostic)
- Contact details
 - ug-ad@exeter.ac.uk ^[15]

03005556060

- Region
South West
- Admissions address
Laver Building
Exeter
EX4 4QE
United Kingdom

Diagnostic Radiography (Top up)

University of Cumbria

View course ^[16] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
Full-time
- Duration of the course
1 Year
- Leading to a career in
Radiography (diagnostic)
- Contact details
enquirycentre@cumbria.ac.uk ^[17]
0845 606 1144
- Region
North West
- Admissions address
Fusehill Street
Carlisle
CA1 2HH
United Kingdom

Diagnostic Imaging

Glasgow Caledonian University

View course ^[18] Opens in a new window

- Qualification
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- Study mode
Full-time
- Duration of the course
4 Years
- Leading to a career in
Radiography (diagnostic)
- Contact details
studentenquiries@gcu.ac.uk ^[19]
0141 331 8630

- Region
 - Scotland
- Admissions address
 - Cowcaddens Road
 - Glasgow
 - G4 0BA
 - United Kingdom
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Register for your guide to becoming a diagnostic radiographer

We'll email you a step-by-step guide to help you on your way to joining us.

[Sign up](#) [21]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Imaging \(ionising\)](#) [22]
- [Therapeutic radiographer](#) [23]
- [Imaging \(non-ionising\)](#) [24]
- [Radiography assistants and imaging support workers](#) [25]

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