

# 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.

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

[Read Paul's story \[1\]](#)

Watch this video which covers what both diagnostic radiographers and therapeutic radiographers do.

## 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 [2] 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.

## 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 [3]) 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 [4]), including English language, maths and science
- Two of three A levels, including physics, chemistry or biology/human biology.

Or equivalent qualifications:

- A BTEC, HND or HNC which includes science.
- 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.

## **New annual payments**

You'll receive at least £5,000 a year to help fund your studies, through the NHS Learning Support Fund. The best part? You won't have to pay a penny back.

## **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 Radiography 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 sonography. Or you could specialise in working with children, stroke [5] 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 [6], 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.

- Expand / collapse  
Live vacancies
  - View Vacancy [7]

### Band 5 Diagnostic Radiographer

Cross-site, London, SE1 9RT

- **Salary:**  
£29,888 - £36,738 p.a inclusive of HCA
- **Type:**  
Permanent
- **Employer:**

Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

- [View Vacancy](#)
- [View Vacancy \[8\]](#)

## **Diagnostic Radiographer**

Stoke and County, ST4 6QG

■

### **Salary:**

£31365.00 to £37890.00 a year

■

### **Type:**

Permanent

■

### **Employer:**

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust

- [View Vacancy](#)
- [View Vacancy \[9\]](#)

## **Band 5 Diagnostic Radiographer**

Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 6QG

■

### **Salary:**

£24907.00 to £30615.00 a year

■

### **Type:**

Permanent

■

### **Employer:**

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust

- [View Vacancy](#)
- [View Vacancy \[10\]](#)

## Diagnostic Radiographer - with Preceptorship

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, Reading, RG1 5AN



**Salary:**

£24,907 - £30,615 pa



**Type:**

Permanent



**Employer:**

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

- View Vacancy

- View Vacancy [11]

## Band 5 Diagnostic Radiographer

Denmark Hill, London, SE5 9RS



**Salary:**

£29,888 - £36,738 per annum, inc HCA



**Type:**

Permanent



**Employer:**

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

- View Vacancy



Find your course to become a diagnostic radiographer

Expand /  
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Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 30 matches

## MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-registration)

Teesside University

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

Region **North East**

Type of course  
**Postgraduate/accelerated programme**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**25 months**

Contact details  
shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk [13] **01642 384110**

Course webpage  
[https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professio...](https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professio...) [14]

Admissions address

Middlesbrough  
Tees Valley  
TS1 3BA

Course webpage  
[https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professio...](https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professio...) [14]

Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information [15].

## BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography

Teesside University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[16]

Region **North East**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk [13] **01642 384110**

Course webpage  
[http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG\\_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossup=25](http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossup=25) [17]

Admissions address

Middlesbrough  
Tees Valley  
TS1 3BA

Course webpage  
[http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG\\_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossup=25](http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossup=25) [17]

## **BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography**

London, South Bank University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[18]

Region **London**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk [19] **0800 923 8888**

Course webpage <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/diagnostic-radiography-bsc-hons> [18]

Admissions address

Southwark Campus  
103 Borough Road  
London  
SE1 0AA

Course webpage <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/diagnostic-radiography-bsc-hons> [18]

## **BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography (part-time, in-service)**

London, South Bank University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[18]

Region **London**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Part time**

Duration  
**3.5 years**

Contact details  
[course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk) [19] **0800 923 8888**

Course webpage <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/diagnostic-radiography-bsc-hons> [18]

Admissions address

Southwark Campus  
103 Borough Road  
London  
SE1 0AA

Course webpage <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/diagnostic-radiography-bsc-hons> [18]

For this (in-service pathway) course, applicants must be employed in a support capacity within a health care setting (e.g. radiography department assistant [20]) and have the support of their departmental manager. Please contact the university for details.



# BSc (Hons) Radiography (Diagnostic Imaging)

London, City, University of London

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[21]

Region **London**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**3 years**

Contact details  
[health@city.ac.uk](mailto:health@city.ac.uk) [22] **020 7040 5000**

Course webpage <https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-diagnostic-imagin...>  
[21]

Admissions address

20 Bartholomew Close  
London  
EC1A 7QN

Course webpage <https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-diagnostic-imagin...>  
[21]

- [Load more](#) [23]

## 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.

[Let's go](#) [24]

## Other roles that may interest you

- [Imaging \(ionising\)](#) [25]
  - [Therapeutic radiographer](#) [26]
  - [Imaging \(non-ionising\)](#) [27]
  - [Radiography assistants and imaging support workers](#) [28]
-

**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/diagnostic-radiographer>

## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/diagnostic-radiographer/real-life-story-paul-wicklen>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#MRI>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#HCPC>

[4] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Grades\\_A-C](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Grades_A-C)

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Stroke>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>

[7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916340041>

[8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916331891>

[9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916339395>

[10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916331069>

[11] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916347299>

[12]

[https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professions/MSc\\_Diagnostic\\_Radiography\\_registration\).cfm](https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/MSc_Diagnostic_Radiography_registration).cfm)

[13] <mailto:shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk>

[14]

[https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate\\_courses/Nursing\\_Midwifery\\_&\\_Health\\_Professions/MSc\\_Diagnostic\\_Radiography\\_registration\).cfm](https://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/MSc_Diagnostic_Radiography_registration).cfm)

[15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/looking-course/faqs-about-our-course-finder>

[16] [http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG\\_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossb=25](http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossb=25)

[17] [http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG\\_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossb=25](http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=137&fos=9&fossb=25)

[18] <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/course-finder/diagnostic-radiography-bsc-hons>

[19] <mailto:course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk>

[20] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/clinical-support-staff/radiography-assistants-and-imaging-support-workers>

[21] <https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-diagnostic-imaging/2020>

[22] <mailto:health@city.ac.uk>

[23] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/214?page=1>

[24] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/allied-health-professionals-registration>

[25] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/imaging-ionising>

[26] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/therapeutic-radiographer>

[27] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/imaging-non-ionising>

[28] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/radiography-assistants-and-imaging-support-workers>