



SoR
THE SOCIETY OF
RADIOGRAPHERS

CHOOSE RADIOGRAPHY

A **STEM** Career



Radiographers play a crucial role in diagnosing, investigating, and treating illnesses and injuries using advanced medical technology.

www.radiographycareers.co.uk





Types of radiographers and their work

Radiography comprises two distinct professionally qualified careers:

Diagnostic Radiographers (DRs) and Therapeutic Radiographers (TRs). Both are essential in healthcare, using advanced technologies to diagnose or treat patients, often as part of a multidisciplinary team. Communicating sensitively and compassionately with patients, their families, carers or guardians is an essential part of radiography work.

Diagnostic Radiographers (DRs)

DRs use high-tech imaging equipment such as **X-ray machines, CT, MRI, nuclear medicine and ultrasound scanners to diagnose conditions.** Key skills include attention to detail, a focus on safety, and providing compassionate patient care, especially when patients are in distress or discomfort. DRs may also assist with certain treatment procedures, always ensuring they communicate clearly and sensitively with patients. They usually work in the hospital setting, though some may work in community settings.



Therapeutic Radiographers (TRs)

TRs specialise in **cancer care and are responsible for patients throughout their whole radiotherapy journey.** They work closely with oncology teams and cancer related organisations to provide the best possible care. TRs manage technical equipment and provide compassionate communication and emotional support during a difficult time. TRs are the only professionals qualified to deliver radiotherapy to treat cancer illness. They are usually based in a radiotherapy department as part of a cancer care centre. Not all hospitals have a radiotherapy service.



Benefits of a radiography career



Fascinating, rewarding work

Work with technology while helping others.



High employability

Radiographers are highly sought in healthcare.



Good salary

Starting salary around £30,000 in 2025 with growth.



Specialisation opportunities

Progress in research, leadership, education, clinical skills and management.



Global opportunities

Radiographers can pursue work internationally.



Transferable skills

Develop skills in technology and patient care.



Radiography training and qualifications

How to apply

There are two main routes to becoming a radiographer in the UK.

- > **University degree:** apply directly to a university offering a radiography programme.
- > **Degree-level apprenticeship:** apply for an apprenticeship, often through an NHS employer, where you will earn a degree while working.

Both routes combine hands on clinical training in a hospital environment with academic studies. Successful completion of either pathway leads to eligibility to apply for HCPC professional registration, allowing you to practice as a radiographer in the UK. Most applications require at least three A-levels (including one science subject) or equivalent qualifications. Volunteering or caring experience can strengthen your application, and some organisations may also ask you to attend an interview as part of the process.

> A levels/Advanced Highers

120 UCAS points, including a science subject.

> BTEC/T Level

Equivalent UCAS points in a relevant science subject.

> International Students

IELTS score of 7.0, with no less than 6.5 in each band.



findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

Funding support

Depending where you live, bursaries are only available for those on direct entry programmes, and apprentices are paid an apprenticeship wage. *The College of Radiographers Valerie Carr Award* is also available for those in therapeutic radiography in England and Wales.

Q collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/vca

Training length

It takes around **3-4 years to become a qualified, HCPC-registered radiographer in the UK**. Training typically combines university-based education with clinical placements in hospital settings. Postgraduate training is also an option if your first degree is in a related subject.

Hard and soft skills required

Hard skills:

- Operating complex medical equipment and using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
- Following legal and procedural guidelines, including those for radiation safety.

Soft skills:

- Communicating compassionately and demonstrating a caring attitude.
- Teamwork and the ability to work independently when needed.
- Organisation, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
- Adaptability to hospital environments and resilience in a stressful workplace.

Additional information



The Society of Radiographers (SoR) is the professional body and trade union representing radiographers in the UK. It provides crucial support across various areas, including education, workplace guidance, and research funding, ensuring members receive the resources and assistance needed to excel in their profession.



The College of Radiographers (CoR) plays a key role in overseeing the approval of educational programmes, ensuring they meet high standards of practice and governance. These approved programmes give students access to essential resources, practice placements, and career development opportunities, preparing them to meet the demands of the healthcare sector.

Work experience and other roles

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Glossary

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)

Specialists in healthcare roles, including radiographers, who help patients achieve their best possible quality of life.

Dosimetry

This is the measurement, calculation and assessment of ionising radiation absorbed by substances, usually the human body.

Oncologist

An oncologist is the key doctor (consultant) responsible for managing a patient's care from beginning to end of their treatment. They work alongside therapeutic radiographers.

Radiologist

This is a specialist doctor (consultant) trained to read and interpret medical images. They work alongside diagnostic radiographers.

Radiotherapy Dosimetrist

A radiotherapy dosimetrist is a specialist in the use of dosimetry for radiotherapy for cancer patients and can be a radiographer.

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

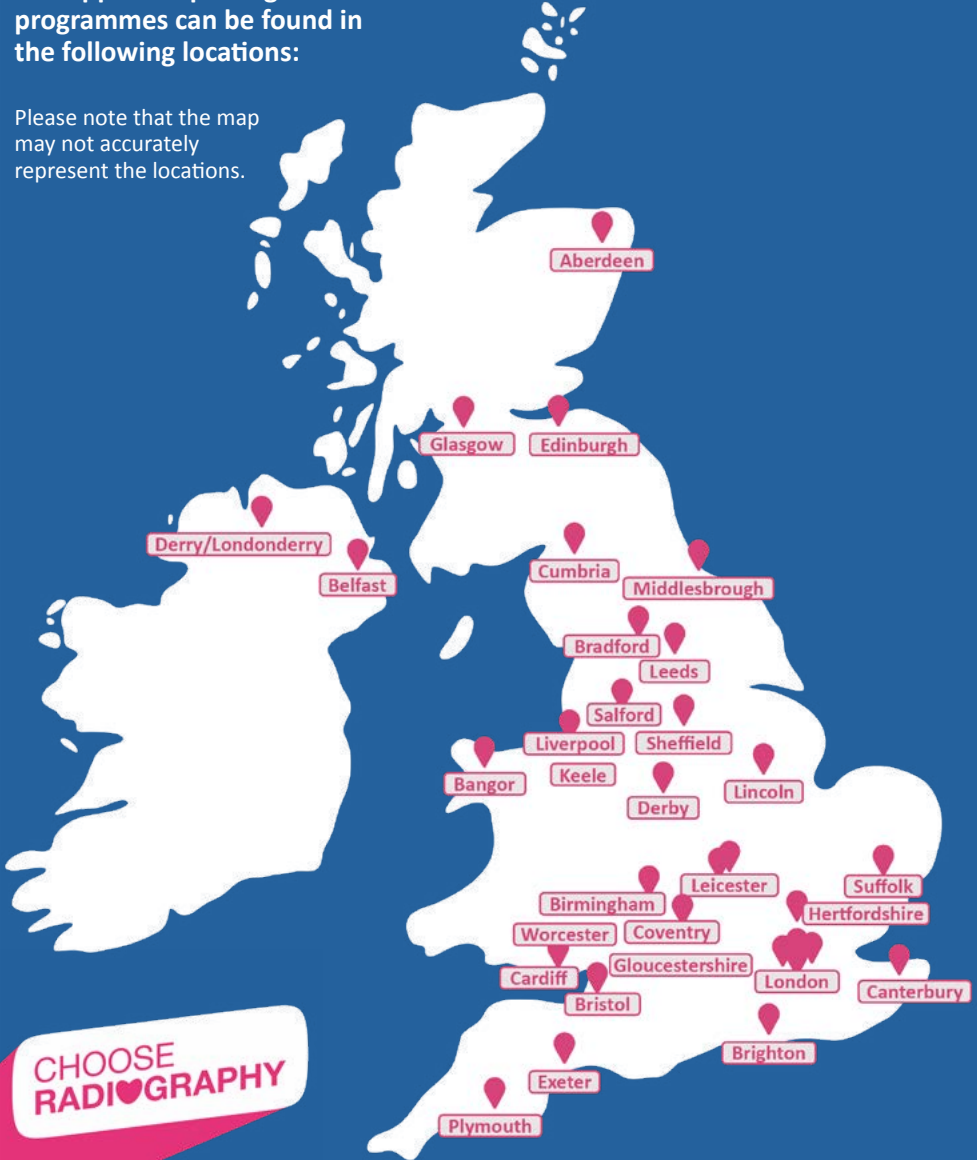
Support Worker

Work experience in radiography may be found at local hospitals or via universities offering clinical placements, as well as through T-Level placements in England. If you prefer not to become a radiographer, there are support roles available, with training opportunities, listed on NHS jobs in England, Wales, and Scotland.

Where can I train in the UK?

Our approved pre-registration programmes can be found in the following locations:

Please note that the map may not accurately represent the locations.



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For up-to-date details about the different programmes available, please visit:

www.collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/prereg



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