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Grant ID: 149



# College of Radiographers Industrial Partnership Research Grants Interim report

<b>1. Principal Investigator</b>	Charles Sloane
<b>2. Project Title</b>	The legacies of contemporary medical imaging education: Graduate perspectives on their workplace preparedness
<b>3. Amount of Grant</b>	£9,123
<b>4. Spending – Is the money being used as indicated in your proposal (if not why)?</b>	Yes. The money is being spent exactly as detailed in the original proposal
<b>5. Amendments – Please provide details of any agreed amendments to your original application</b>	<p>As the study has developed it is becoming necessary to make the following suggested amendments which we would like to seek approval for.</p> <p>1) The study methodology utilises a Straussian Model of Grounded Theory employing semi structured interviews. It was anticipated that interviews would last 30 minutes but it has turned out that the subjects have had far more to say on this subject than expected and the majority of interviews are lasting up to an hour. This has increased the research assistant and transcriptions costs per interview. We are therefore proposing, given the increased richness of data from each interview, to reduce the number of subjects from 40 to 20-25 (the exact number will be determined by the exhaustion of resource available for conducting the interviews and transcription).</p> <p>2) Due to the ethical constraints of seeking study participants and the limited pool of potential research subjects with 1-3 years post graduate experience, it has taken far longer than originally anticipated to locate suitable subjects to participate in the study. It has been very difficult to source subjects from around the UK to ensure generalisability of the results. This has necessitated several different changes of approach to recruiting subjects. The current method has proved to be much more successful and the past two months has seen a big increase in the amount of data collected. We anticipate the data collection phase of the study will now be complete by the mid to end of July 2019 if the recruitment continues at the current rate.</p>
<b>6. Summary of objectives</b>	<p><b>Primary research question</b></p> <p>From the perspective of recent diagnostic radiography graduates (with one to three full years of post-qualification experience), how effective are current undergraduate curricula in preparing individuals for the technical and personal demands of the modern healthcare sector?</p> <p><b>Secondary research questions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the specific ways in which undergraduate radiography education effectively prepares new graduates for the <i>technical</i> demands of workplace?</li><li>2. What are the specific technical areas in which new radiography graduates feel under-prepared, or out of their depth, and why?</li><li>3. What mandatory and voluntary technical training do new radiographers receive after graduation, and why is the latter sought?</li><li>4. What are specific ways in which undergraduate radiography education effectively prepares graduates for the <i>personal</i> demands of workplace?</li><li>5. What are the specific personal areas in which new radiography graduates feel under-prepared, or out of their depth, and why?</li></ol>

6. What mandatory and voluntary social/interpersonal/resilience training do new radiographers receive after graduation, and why is the voluntary training sought?
<b>7. Summary of work and findings to date</b>
We have conducted a total of 14 interviews and all the data gathered has been transcribed. Initial analysis of the data has already started and is already showing a number of 'protective factors' which allow graduates to make a successful transition from a student to a confident band 5 practitioner. The critically of a robust preceptorship programme is central in making this transition. There appears to be an emergent theme related to the wide variation in the length and quality of preceptorship programmes. This impacts upon the experience of newly qualified graduates in either a negative or positive way. Another emergent finding relates to the speed at which newly qualified graduates are entering what have (in the past) been considered specialist imaging modalities e.g. interventional imaging.
<b>8. Summary of work ongoing</b>
There are another 5 subjects who have consented to be included in the study and the interviews will be undertake over the next two weeks. Work is ongoing to source the remaining subjects from particular regions of the UK to ensure the data gathered is representative of the whole of the UK. We ideally need to identify the final subjects who would ideally be from the South East, the South West, Wales and Northern Ireland.
<b>9. Summary of future plans – please include an estimate timeline for work progression</b>
The final phase final phase of data collection which is planned to be completed by mid-July. The full analysis of the data will take place at the end of July and August. An initial paper for Radiography will be written in September and submitted for review in early October.
<b>10. Have you presented the work at a national/international event (if so where)?</b>
We are planning to present preliminary findings of the project at a one day conference we have organised on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019 at the Lancaster campus. The focus of the event is radiography curriculum development and workforce recovery. This is a free event and part of the research grant has been used for this purpose (as discussed in the original application). Please see link. There are still some places still available at this event. <a href="https://store.cumbria.ac.uk/product-catalogue/general/conferences-events/radiography-curriculum-development-and-workforce-recovery-conference-3rd-july-2019-lancaster">https://store.cumbria.ac.uk/product-catalogue/general/conferences-events/radiography-curriculum-development-and-workforce-recovery-conference-3rd-july-2019-lancaster</a>
<b>11. Have you submitted any findings for publication (if so please provide publication details)?</b>
We anticipate the first paper to be ready for submission to Radiography in September or October 2019. Papers will be submitted to UKIO 2020.