



University of
CUMBRIA

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF RADIOGRAPHY

DIAGNOSTIC
RADIOGRAPHY
DEGREE
APPRENTICESHIP



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The University of Cumbria is a well-established provider of pre and post registration radiography and has run innovative programmes for over 50 years.

The BSc Diagnostic programme is one of the biggest in the UK and is taught by staff with a broad set of skills, experience and backgrounds from within the profession. Our research is recognised internationally and staff author a number of key radiographic texts.

The University has an established post graduate provision and hosts the NW Ultrasound Academy which educates about one fifth of the UK sonography workforce.

Course Overview

The University of Cumbria's BSc Diagnostic Radiography programme reflects the current expectations of employers, regulatory and professional body accreditation standards for first post radiographers. You will graduate with a range of radiographic skills which will enable you to be employed within the healthcare setting, and a knowledge base that prepares you for a career in Diagnostic Radiography.

Our Diagnostic Radiography degree apprenticeship is approved by the College of Radiographers and will entitle the successful learner to apply for registration with the HCPC as a Diagnostic Radiographer.

We are delivering this as a Top-Up progression to degree apprenticeship for anyone who has successfully completed a relevant Assistant Practitioner programme, providing a route to achieve the apprenticeship standard competencies alongside the relevant professional and regulatory body standards.

Entry is via two routes, typically an Assistant Practitioner who has completed a 2 year programme (240 credits) with associated work experience, will join our bespoke bridging module (6 months) and then progress to the final year of the degree apprenticeship via the BSc Top-Up degree (12 months). All applicants will be considered on an individual basis considering their prior learning and experience.

Assistant Practitioners who have already achieved the learning outcomes of the bridging course may be able to study the Top-Up without the need to undertake the bridging programme.

PROGRAMME DESIGN

	MODULE TITLE	AIMS OF MODULE
Academic Level 5	Bespoke Bridging Programme	UDip Radiographer Assistant Practitioner Bridging programme forms a highly innovative degree apprenticeship programme which allows assistant practitioners working within the medical imaging sector to progress their qualifications to a point whereby they can engage with a Level 6 (radiography year 3) Top-Up degree.

Academic Level 6	Image Evaluation	To enable apprentices to attain the underpinning knowledge and skills required to undertake image evaluation and interpretation (consistent with radiography first post competence). Study will include expanded cross-sectional anatomy and an understanding of the pathophysiology of systems and the evaluation of imaging procedures which may require modification of technique related to imaging protocols.
	Applying Research to Enhance Practice	To evaluate the current state of knowledge or belief about a topic related to medical imaging. Apprentices will establish an evidence base, critically appraise the available evidence, synthesise the findings and draw relevant conclusions. Recommendations and suggested enhancements will then be made in relation to service delivery.
	Focused Radiological Practice 1	To provide an understanding of Advanced/Enhanced Practice within radiography and the generic skills and knowledge required for this role, including modality specific underpinning knowledge and skills to enable safe and effective practice within a defined modality (e.g. Projectional Imaging, CT, MRI, RNI & Mammography).
	Focused Radiological Practice 2	To provide the clinical skills and experience that will enable safe and effective practice within a defined advanced area of radiography/medical imaging (e.g. Projectional Imaging, CT, MRI, RNI & Mammography)
	Applied Clinical Radiography	To enable the knowledge, skills, and competencies to allow apprentices to apply for registration to the HCPC as a Diagnostic Radiographer and work as an effective professional practitioner within a variety of clinical settings.
	Preparation for Professional Practice	To examine wider aspects of healthcare, professional responsibility, the radiographer's role in this and how it impacts on the quality of healthcare patients receive.

End Point Assessment	<p>The EPA starts with the University examination board and finishes when the University submits the required documentation to HCPC.</p> <p>The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments.</p> <p>Consideration by the examination board and notice of the decision of pass or fail to HCPC.</p> <p>Apprentice separately applies for registration once awarded the pass</p>
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Approach to delivery

The degree apprenticeship Top-Up is delivered over a minimum of 52 taught weeks, with the 6-month L5 bridging course delivered prior to this subject learning and experience.

The programme has modular teaching in a block approach to encourage focus on subject areas and to allow for a spread of assessments throughout the year. The work-based elements of the programme will offer a variety of experiences, ensuring competence. A key feature of the programme is its ability to allow apprentices to gain experience in enhancing skills in a given imaging modality whilst still attaining the broad set of threshold competencies required by the regulator.

Proposed delivery arrangements for the Top-Up element of the apprenticeship (indicative), with bespoke delivery to be confirmed at a later stage in partnership with employers.

- 4x 2-day blocks of teaching on a University campus
- 8x 3-day blocks of teaching delivered virtually through a mix of pre-recorded and live teaching sessions
- Work-based learning to take place at the apprentices' normal place of employment

All teaching sessions, including those delivered during attendance blocks, are compulsory.



Assessment

Assessments will also include work-based projects and experience, or other assignments that draw on the knowledge and experience of the workplace. Throughout the programme, the apprentice's employer has an important role to play in supporting assessment, in particular suggesting topics and providing feedback on formative assessment.

It is a requirement for this programme that apprentices must maintain a portfolio of completed, assessed academic work and workplace activities to provide evidence of achievements and capabilities. The portfolio should be discussed and reviewed with the apprentice's employer on a regular basis. Portfolio development progress will be discussed during apprentice review meetings to ensure that the apprentice is making suitable progress. The building of this portfolio is therefore integral to the degree programme and the end point assessment.

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The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments. Consideration by the examination board and notice of the decision of pass or fail to HCPC. The apprentice separately applies for registration once awarded the pass.



Entry criteria

Assistant Practitioners applying for this course will need the relevant qualification required to work as an Assistant Practitioner (normally an FdSc), and relevant work-based experience in an imaging department of 2 years minimum. They may also need to study the Radiographer Assistant Practitioner Bridging course prior to this Top-Up element which enables them to meet the knowledge, skills and behaviours required. Exceptions to this will be considered on an individual basis, for example, Assistant Practitioners who have completed 2 years (240 credits) of a BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography degree may be able to join directly onto the Top-Up course if they meet all the required entry criteria and in line with the University's APL (Accredited Prior Learning) process.

Students will also be required to have a pass in functional skills, Maths and English at Level 2.

Each candidate will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Each candidate for APL will be advised how this may affect ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) funding.

Students may need to undertake some basic Science and Maths study prior to entry depending on the currency and scope of their L2 learning.

Who is the apprenticeship for?

Assistant Practitioners working in the healthcare sector including the NHS and independent sector healthcare providers.

What is the role of employers?

To be successful, apprentices will be supported to transfer classroom learning to the workplace via the allocation of a workplace mentor to support the role of the academic tutor. Both will provide support through meetings (managed and conducted by personal tutors). Apprentices will need a named clinical co-ordinator who will provide training for mentors and support workplace staff to ensure the successful completion of a clinical portfolio charting each learner's development.

Employers are required to provide the opportunity to practice and secure the required off-the-job hours associated with new learning and development as outlined in the occupational standard.



Why the University of Cumbria?

The graduation point of the BSc Top-Up is March / April time, which gives radiology managers a second opportunity to recruit newly qualified graduates each year, in addition to the traditional midsummer graduation point.

The University is one of the leading providers of degree apprenticeships, with over 2,200 learners sponsored by

340 employers throughout England. Our expert academic teams are supported by a dedicated professional support team and the latest learning and apprenticeship management software.

Find out more

To discuss your training needs and how to sponsor learners on the apprenticeship, request a call from our business team

Email: apprenticeships@cumbria.ac.uk

Visit: cumbria.ac.uk/apprenticeships

Call: 01228 888726



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