

BSc (Honours)

# Diagnostic Radiography

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP



Everything you need to know...



How much does it cost?

Funded through the employer, currently £24,000.



Where is the study based?

On the job learning with block release for academic teaching, which included face to face on campus teaching at Collegiate Campus.



What is the start date?

March



How long is the course?

36 months.



What are the entry requirements?

GCSE at C/grade 4 above in science, English, and maths and 128 UCAS points or approved access course or previous degree's. Experience is also considered.

## Course Summary

This course will enable learners to:

- Gain the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to image the musculoskeletal and soft tissue systems of the body.
- Enter the profession ready to use and contribute to research and evidence.
- Study a course accredited by the Society of Radiographers (SCoR) and the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Block delivery via a blended approach. Apprentices undertake teaching activity for 1, 2 or 3-week blocks of teaching throughout the calendar year, with some activity being delivered online and minimal travel to our specialist facilities at our Collegiate Crescent Campus in Sheffield.

For the remaining time apprentices will be 'on the job' with the expected equivalent of one day per week negotiated self-directed learning time (included in the off-the-job) which may include shadowing or working with other people within their organisation, as well as study time, and undertaking tasks in the workplace provided by the Course Team. Overall apprentices will spend roughly 80% of their time in their substantive post and 20% at university. In some instances, apprentices may be required to undertake placement outside of their substantive post to support learning outcomes which may not be possible at their substantive institution.

## Course Breakdown

### Level 4

This year introduces the principles behind diagnostic radiography. This focuses on:

- An introduction to physics for radiographer (i.e. X-ray systems, understanding ionising radiation, grids, AEC's, inverse square rules, IR(ME)R and IRR etc.)
- An introduction to radiographic positioning of the upper limb, lower limb, abdomen, pelvis and chest.
- An introduction to image interpretation and anatomy relevant to the studied anatomical areas.
- An introduction to the role of the radiographer, such as professional responsibilities etc.

#### Modules:

- Radiographic Practice 1 (RP1)
- Radiographic Practice 2 (RP2)
- Collaboration for Individual & Community Wellbeing (CICW)
- Personal Professional Development (PPD)

### Level 5

This year builds upon the learning from the first year, introducing more complex ideas and alternative imaging modalities. This focuses on:

- Building on the physics learnt in year 1 to develop an understanding of the physics of alternative imaging modalities (i.e. MRI, CT, US, RNI and PET/CT)
- Developing the apprentices understanding of adaptive technique and building upon the positioning to incorporate more complex and less co-operative patients.
- Building on the apprentices anatomical and image interpretation skills and introducing cross sectional anatomy.

#### Modules:

- Radiographic Practice 3 (RP3)
- Alternative Imaging Modalities (AIM)
- Assessing & Addressing Complexity (AAC)
- Evidence & Enquiry for Practice (EEP)

### Level 6

This year consolidates the learning from the previous two years as well as incorporating some more complex ideas. This final year ensures that the apprentice is prepared for registration.

#### Modules:

- Radiographic Practice 4 (RP4)
- Working with Complexities in Practice (WWCiP)
- The Advancing Professional (TAP)
- Professional Leadership (PL)
- Capstone Assessment

## Workplace Mentor

The employer must allocate a workplace mentor for each apprentice to support them throughout their training to qualification. The mentor must be qualified in the relevant profession. The mentor ensures the apprentice is getting the time they need for their learning and adequate training opportunities and participates in quarterly 3-way progress reviews with the apprentice and their university academic advisor. The University will provide training for workplace mentors from pre-induction.

The workplace mentors are key to the support that apprentices receive whilst on the programme. You should work to earmark time for the progress reviews and allow for time to support the needs of the apprentice whilst on the job.

## Application process

There is some flexibility with the approach to recruiting apprentices. For the most part employers select a shortlist of candidates according to their own recruitment criteria and process. The candidates must submit an Apprenticeship Application form to the University, from which they are shortlisted by academic and vocational suitability for the interview stage of the process. Employers can jointly shortlist and interview with the University if that is their preferred route. Places are offered subject to evidencing satisfactory DBS checks and appropriate occupational health screening.

In practice we want to reduce duplication and make the process as seamless for employers and apprentices. In some instances where a competitive interview process is required (multiple applicants) a joint process might be the best method. In some cases, it may be there is only one candidate that is put forward from a department, in which case if the department is happy with the candidate, they could submit an application form and be interviewed by the university. All candidates must be interviewed by the university either jointly (with the employer) or individually.

Discuss the process with the team here at SHU to find the best approach for recruitment for your organisation.

## Costs

The apprentice's employer pays the course fee, which is currently £24,000 through the [apprenticeship levy](#) or £1,200 through government co-funding for [non-levy paying organisations](#)

Additional costs which are to be negotiated between the apprentice and their employer include: travel and accommodation to attend university and placements, enhanced DBS checks, any outstanding vaccinations and placement uniform.

## Salary

Salary is at the employer's discretion and can vary dependant on the experience or role of the apprentice. There is currently no NHS-wide approach. For example, some employers keep existing staff on their pre-apprenticeship salary, some pay Annex 21 to band 5, and some pay national apprentice minimum wage.

## Professional Requirements

For apprentices to undertake placement activities outside of their employing organisation the University must have confirmation of an apprentice's criminal record status and health and vaccination status. As apprentices are already employed within the healthcare sector, we are aware that most of these requirements will have been undertaken upon starting their employment.

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Apprentices also need to be vaccinated in line with Public Health England's 'Immunisation of healthcare and laboratory staff.' The required vaccination / screening is as follows:

- X 2 MMR vaccinations
- X 3 HepB vaccinations and evidence of immunity via blood test. Some boosters may also be required
- X 2 Varicella vaccinations or confirmed history of having Chicken Pox / Shingles
- Evidence of having BCG (TB) vaccine and /or visible TB Scar. If not previously vaccinated will need to undertake TB screening

As most apprentices are already employed as a healthcare worker the above vaccinations and/or screening should have already been undertaken by the organisations Occupational Health provider and evidence of vaccinations should be obtained from them and provided to the University. Where this has not occurred or where further vaccinations may be due the apprentice will need to arrange appointments with their Occupational Health provider as soon as possible and provide evidence to the University once completed. Where apprentices are having difficulties arranging the vaccinations at their employing organisation, they can approach their GP to undertake the vaccinations, however it will be at the discretion of the GP as to whether they will provide the vaccinations and whether there is a charge.

Alternatively, any required vaccinations can be undertaken with Sheffield Occupational Health Service (SOHS) based within Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (the University's supplier of Occupational Health Services) and there are charges for this service. The apprentice will need to arrange directly with SOHS but the University can provide the contact details as required.

*Please note the above professional requirements are only applicable if the apprentice attends a placement outside of their employing Trust.*

## **Academic Entry Requirements**

Entry requirements to the BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography Degree Apprenticeship undergraduate accredited programme are applicable to all applicants and are designed to ensure robust preparation for the academic and practice elements of the course, whilst promoting wide and inclusive entry. These requirements are set, as it is important that we only take students onto the course who we feel are likely to be successful and will cope with the academic level of the course.

In an effort to ensure an inclusive approach for apprentices we can review qualifications and experience to assess whether the applicant would be suitable for the course. If in doubt contact the course team for guidance.

### Entry requirements

The usual entry requirements are 2 GCSE passes at grade C or grade 4 and above including Mathematics, English language or literature. Level 2 equivalent literacy & numeracy qualifications will be accepted.

Plus one of the following:

- 120 UCAS points from 3 A levels. Or equivalent from national BTEC qualifications e.g.: extended diploma in applied science, health science or health studies.
- Successful completion of an Access to HE Diploma in health studies, health science, nursing, or another science-based course.
- If you are taking an Access course not listed, please contact the University to discuss prior to application.
- Previous degree in a related subject.
- Evidence of successful formal accredited study at level 3 and a minimum of 6 months experience in a health and social care capacity

Other qualifications that will be assessed on an individual basis and may meet the entry requirements in part:

- Professional qualifications at level 5 Diploma or above in a related area
- Level 3 apprenticeship in health and social care

We understand that individuals interested in undertaking an Diagnostic Radiography degree apprenticeship will have a rich and varied life and work experience and may not necessarily hold the traditional entry qualifications provided in this information. We would however still welcome applications in this instance and are inviting applicants to provide us with evidence of their experiential learning gained in other ways to support their application. This may include completion of local or other training courses undertaken in the workplace or other organisations as well as testimonies from healthcare professionals you have worked alongside. Qualifications alongside any other evidence provided by applicants will be taken into account to evidence an applicant's readiness and motivation for study at degree level. All applications received will be considered on an individual basis and those individuals who provide satisfactory evidence of meeting our entry criteria and ability to study at degree level will be invited to attend the interview stage of the recruitment process. For those individuals we decide do not meet the entry criteria at Information correct as of 25/05/2021 this time we will provide you with advice and guidance on what steps can be taken to meet the requirements for entry to the course later.