

Level 6 Diagnostic Radiographer Degree Apprenticeship

BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging



DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER



The Diagnostic Radiographer (BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging) Degree Apprenticeship is an employment based route into the profession of Diagnostic Radiographer. Working in partnership with employers we offer an excellent work-based learning package supported by the educational excellence of University of Exeter.

The University of Exeter has offered a BSc (Hons) Medical Imaging degree programme since 2004. This undergraduate degree course is consistently rated as one of the best in the UK. The apprenticeship route into radiography builds on the success of this existing programme. It utilises existing facilities, which include a recently upgraded x-ray room, laboratory, demonstration room and learning resources as well as the experience and commitment of the current academic team in a way that supports work-based learning.

Successful completion of the apprenticeship programme will ensure apprentices have the skills required to successfully embark on a career as a Diagnostic Radiographer. The programme is subject to approval by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Successful graduates of approved programmes are eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC as a diagnostic radiographer.

In addition, the apprenticeship programme shares the same ethos as the undergraduate degree course and successful graduates of both courses will be prepared, not just for the first day of their career, but for the entirety of it, with the skills and knowledge needed to continually learn, develop and use the evidence base to improve practice.

The apprenticeship route is an employment based route, apprentices will benefit from gaining extensive professional experience throughout their degree, and will not accrue University tuition fees. Furthermore, by being an employee of an imaging department, apprentices will very quickly become regarded as being part of the team. Apprentices will also contribute to their employing department by preparing and then undertaking an audit, service evaluation or a research project in their second and third years.

To meet the needs of specific departments, pathways relating to specific imaging modalities are available. This distinctive employer negotiated third year placement, agreed between the employer and the apprentice, enables departments to plan their workforce for the future in the knowledge that they will have new graduates with the skills required for particular aspects of their imaging service.

The University's dedicated education team will work with apprentices to ensure that the work-based learning component of the programme is designed to meet both the requirements of the clinical department as well as complying with the University's educational standards. Apprentices will benefit from the same support as other Exeter undergraduates, including all aspects of the 'Exeter experience' such as personal tutor support and the Students' Guild advice.

Contact

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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Academic components

- Mandatory block attendance at the University of Exeter (3 blocks of 3 – 5 days per annum)
- One day a week protected study time – either local to the apprentice or at a regional hub
- E-Learning
- Virtual tutorials and webinars
- Highly directed study
- Access to e-books via the University library

Support is provided for the apprentice by a named academic tutor, and the apprentice will have access to the full range of student support services provided by the University.

Workplace components

- Workplace based four days (equivalent) per week
- Able to work a typical roster pattern (including out of hours shifts) as skills develop
- Attendance requirements are aligned to the contract of employment
- Annual leave is as for an employee of the organisation (although not to be booked during academic blocks or assessment periods)
- The workplace is responsible for providing an induction, initial and on-going mandatory training.
- The employer must ensure the apprentice can gain the required range of skills and experience, and may need to facilitate visits to other units / departments to support this.
- In the final year, apprentices will undertake an employer negotiated module in an agreed area of practice (this could be to gain cannulation skills, or be within a particular modality or area of the department).
- An employing organisation will be required to nominate a named individual to act as a workplace mentor for their apprentice(s).

	Week 1	Week 2-5	Week 6	Week 7-13	Week 14	Week 15-30	Week 31	Week 32-35	Week 36	Week 40-45	Week 46	Week 47	Week 48-52
Year 1	University	Workplace	Workplace	Workplace	University	Workplace	University	Workplace	Assessment Window	Workplace	Assessment Window	Referred Assessment Window	Workplace
Year 2	University	Workplace	Referred Assessment Window	Workplace	University	Workplace	University	Workplace	Assessment Window	Workplace	Assessment Window	Referred Assessment Window	Workplace
Year 3	University	Workplace	Referred Assessment Window	Workplace	University	Workplace	University	Workplace	Assessment Window	End Point Assessment Window	Assessment Window	Referred Assessment Window	End Point Assessment Window

Assessment

Assessment is by a variety of methods including:

- Progress testing
- Coursework and report writing
- Professional discussions (viva)
- Computer based tests (radiographic anatomy and image evaluation / interpretation).

Apprentices will have the opportunity to undertake a department based audit or service evaluation, or a research project which will also be assessed.

End Point Assessment

The Diagnostic Radiographer degree apprenticeship is an integrated degree. This means that there is an independently assessed 'End Point Assessment' which contributes to the degree, and must be passed in order for the apprentice to gain the award.

The EPA can only be taken when all other aspects of the programme have been successfully completed. Apprentices will have a 3 month window within which to undertake this assessment, and once it is completed they will have met all requirements for the award.

PROGRAMME MODULES

Please note that all modules are compulsory. For-up-to-date details of all our programmes and modules, please check the degree apprenticeships section of our website at <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships/>

Year 1

Applied Radiographic Knowledge 1

This module enables the development of knowledge of the essential multi-disciplinary sciences that underpin diagnostic radiography practice with a focus on projection radiography. Topics including radiation biology and physics with consideration of safety implications of working with, and exposing patients to ionising radiation; this includes being introduced to the legislative framework for the use of ionising radiation in medical imaging. Apprentices will be introduced to digital imaging as used in medical imaging, and the principles of image (and therefore dose) optimisation. This module also encompasses normal anatomy and physiology.

Professional Practice 1

This module introduces the principles of sociology, psychology, evidence-based practice and research methodologies that underpin contemporary patient and client care. By utilising an evidence-based approach, students will gain basic problem solving and reasoning skills, laying the foundations for critical, reflective and holistic clinical practice. This module introduces verbal and non-verbal communication skills including active listening skills as well as transferable skills such as time management and IT skills. This module also introduces apprentices to the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and their responsibilities in relation to the HCPC. Apprentices will

also be introduced to legal, ethical and professional concepts such as consent and confidentiality, to support their clinical practice.

Practice Foundations 1

Undertaken in a practical learning environment students will apply their theory to practice enabling recognition and understanding of radiographic images. This module introduces the equipment and technical aspects involved in projection and fluoroscopic radiography, including quality assurance requirements and the need for accurate record keeping. Apprentices will begin to be able to apply patient assessment skills so as to be able to recognise a deteriorating patient and escalate concerns.

Practice Placement 1

Undertaken in a practical learning environment this module equips students with basic radiographic skills focusing on common examinations and imaging in able bodied, compliant patients with a focus on compassionate, holistic, patient care. Apprentices will begin to undertake reflective practice and will commence their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) portfolio. Through successful completion of this module, students gain an understanding of technical, legal, ethical and professional aspects of radiographic practice.

Year 2

Applied Radiographic Knowledge 2

Further developing the knowledge of the science and technology gained in year 1 this module extends to include the science underpinning additional x-ray techniques such as interventional radiography and computed tomography as well as encompassing other modalities such as radionuclide imaging, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging. Apprentices will learn about the safety and quality assurance requirements in these areas. They will learn more about digital image processing including confidentiality considerations. In addition apprentices will learn about common pathologies seen in medical imaging, including the relative role of the various modalities in the demonstration of these pathologies, and will learn about the pharmacology relating to contrast agents and medicines used in medical imaging.

Professional Practice 2

Apprentices will deepen their understanding of sociological and psychological aspects of healthcare including the implications for individuals with disability, and / or who experience trauma, chronic and acute disease. They will learn about policies such as Duty of Candour and safeguarding, with an appreciation of the events and situations in the past that have led to such policies. Apprentices will further develop their communication skills, to include giving and receiving feedback, raising concerns and conflict

management and will learn about the skills needed for supervision, training and mentoring. They will also further develop skills in evidence based practice by developing a sound understanding of research terminology, methods and principles including evaluation of published research and its application to practice. During this module apprentices will identify an area of practice from within their employer's department and will prepare and plan a service evaluation project.

Practice Foundations 2

Undertaken in a practical learning environment this module will introduce apprentices to the clinical and technical aspects involved in a range of Imaging modalities (including computed tomography, radionuclide imaging, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging), including quality assurance requirements. Apprentices will learn to adapt practice to meet the needs of a wide range of patients in these modalities with a focus on compassionate, holistic care. They will also see in practice the image appearances and will deepen their understanding of the relative roles of the various modalities for demonstrating a range of conditions.

Practice Placement 2

This module provides further practical experience of the safe and effective practice of projection and fluoroscopic imaging. This module also introduces apprentices to interventional radiography and other imaging modalities (including computed tomography, radionuclide imaging, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging). They will continue to develop patient care skills with an emphasis on adapting their practice to meet diverse patient needs with compassion. Apprentices will identify 'professional' and 'leadership issues and understand how these are significant within the inter-professional clinical context.

Year 3

Applied Radiographic Knowledge 3

Consolidating prior learning and to prepare apprentices for practice, they will gain a deepened understanding of the digital image processes that underpin all medical imaging modalities including awareness of system specifications and security related issues. They will develop their knowledge base, relating this to clinical practice, to describe safe practice, including compliance with legislative frameworks for the administration of contrast agents and medicines used in imaging. They will also develop the fundamental skills that underpin image comment writing as well as considering current developments and trends in Medical Imaging, and how these might impact upon future practice.

Professional Practice 3

This module will deepen understanding of the legislative and professional framework that govern radiographers together with associated managerial, professional and interprofessional issues encountered in clinical practice. Apprentices will build upon the foundations of evidence based practice and research already gained by planning, undertaking and evaluating a workplace based service evaluation project, written up to be suitable for publication.

Practice Foundation 3 (employer negotiated module)

This module enables the employer, in consultation with the apprentice, to select an area of practice. The apprentice will build upon their prior knowledge and clinical experience to deepen their understanding of this area of practice and to develop and demonstrate clinical competence, with a focus on compassionate, holistic patient care. During this placement, the apprentice will become an integral member of the area's multi-professional healthcare team. They will also learn about mental health, resilience and

self-care and will deepen their communication skills by learning how to communicate professional opinion effectively.

Practice Placement 3

During this final placement module apprentices will become integral members of the multi-professional healthcare team. They will build upon their prior knowledge and experience to become competent to undertake a full range of examinations using a wide range of modalities; they will be able to provide holistic and compassionate care for every patient they meet, knowing the limits of their experience and knowledge base, seeking advice as required. They will learn to take responsibility for organising their working day and liaising with staff in other departments and will gain experience of managing an inter-professional team.

End Point Assessment (integrated)

The End Point Assessment is incorporated within the degree, contributing 20 credits to the final year. The criteria for this assessment is established by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Further information can be found [online here](#).

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Contact:

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Civil Engineering

Our programme is unique in that it caters for both the Consultancy and Site Management pathways within engineering.

[exeter.ac.uk/business/people/
degreeapprenticeships/civilengineering](https://exeter.ac.uk/business/people/degreeapprenticeships/civilengineering)

Research Scientist

This MSc programme provides commercial and public sector organisations with an opportunity to develop, reward and retain talented data scientists, bringing cutting-edge knowledge and expertise into an organisation.

[exeter.ac.uk/business/people/
degreeapprenticeships/datascience](https://exeter.ac.uk/business/people/degreeapprenticeships/datascience)

Digital and Technology Solutions

This full University of Exeter degree, develops high caliber IT staff with the opportunity to focus specialist skills in an area relevant to your business.

[exeter.ac.uk/business/people/
degreeapprenticeships/dts/](https://exeter.ac.uk/business/people/degreeapprenticeships/dts/)

Financial Services Professional

This programme supports new entrants to the financial sector, allowing them to develop their career while building towards professional qualifications from CISI or CFA alongside achieving a BSc Hons degree in Applied Finance.

[exeter.ac.uk/business/people/
degreeapprenticeships/appliedfinance/](https://exeter.ac.uk/business/people/degreeapprenticeships/appliedfinance/)

Senior Leader

Our Masters level degree apprenticeship is accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) and represents an exciting opportunity to gain a prestigious MBA.

[exeter.ac.uk/business/people/
degreeapprenticeships/mba/](https://exeter.ac.uk/business/people/degreeapprenticeships/mba/)