

13th January 2020 – Career of the Week

Radiographer

Medical Radiographer

Radiographers use equipment to diagnose or treat patients who are ill or injured.

National Careers Service

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk



Entry Requirements

You can get into this job through a university course, an apprenticeship or working towards this role.

University

You'll need to do an approved degree or postgraduate qualification, which allows you to register with the Health and Care Professions Council. You'll need registration to work.

Before you apply for a course, you'll need to think about whether you want to work in diagnostic radiography or therapeutic radiography. Visiting a radiography department at your local hospital may help you decide.

If you're a health professional or a graduate with a relevant first degree, you may be able to take a fast-track postgraduate qualification over 2 years.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English, maths and a science
- 3 A levels, including at least one science subject
- a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

Apprenticeship

You may be able to do a diagnostic or therapeutic radiographer degree apprenticeship.

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent qualifications, for a higher or a degree apprenticeship

Work

You can start as a radiography assistant and work your way up to assistant practitioner. At this level, your employer may give you the opportunity to work and study part time for a degree and a professional qualification to become a radiographer.

Registration

- you'll need to register with the [Health and Care Professions Council](#)

Further information

You can find out more about a career in radiography from [Health Careers](#) and [The Society of Radiographers](#).

What you'll do

As a diagnostic radiographer, your day-to-day tasks may include:

- producing and interpreting high quality images of the body to identify and diagnose injury and disease
- screening for abnormalities
- taking part in surgical procedures like biopsies (examining tissues to find the cause of disease)

As a therapeutic radiographer, your day-to-day tasks may include:

- planning and giving treatment using x-rays and other radioactive sources
- working closely with medical specialists to plan treatment of malignant tumours or tissue defects
- assessing and monitoring patients through treatment and follow-up

You'll need to:

- pass [enhanced background checks](#), as you may be working with children and vulnerable adults

Skills Required – You'll need:

- knowledge of medicine and dentistry
- knowledge of English language
- thinking and reasoning skills
- knowledge of biology
- the ability to read English
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- excellent verbal communication skills
- knowledge of teaching and the ability to design courses
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Related Careers

- Nurse
- Healthcare assistant
- Dental nurse

Salary

These figures are a guide.

Starter: £ 24,214

Experienced: £ 43, 772

Working Hours

Typical hours – 35 to 40 hours per week
You could work evenings/weekends/Bank holidays on a rota.

Working Environment

- You could work in an NHS or private hospital or at a hospice.
- Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding.
- You may need to wear protective clothing and a uniform.

Career paths and progression

With experience, you could become a sonography specialist, radiography team leader or consultant practitioner.

You could also take further qualifications to specialise in:

- counselling and palliative care
- the use of certain techniques or equipment
- working with specific groups of patients
- research and teaching

Labour Market Information

In **North West England** there are currently 2975 Radiographers in employment.

www.icould.com