



## **Radiographic Assistant Practitioner CertHE Programme Specification**

Academic Year	2020/21
Degree Awarding Body	University of Bradford
Target and interim awards at Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 4	<b>Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner</b> Certificate of Higher Education Medical Imaging
Programme admission	<b>September</b>
Programme duration	<b>12 months full time</b>
External Reference Points	<b>HCPC Standards of Education and Training (2017)</b> <b>College of Radiographers Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (2013)</b> <b>QAAHE Benchmark Statement for Diagnostic Radiography (2001)</b>
Date last confirmed by Faculty Board	<b>January 2021</b>

**Please note:** This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

### **Introduction**

Support Workers and Assistant Practitioners are key members of the health and social care team in the National Health Service (NHS) and in the private health care sector. By exploiting the properties of X-rays, ultrasound and magnetic fields, and understanding the ways in which they interact with body tissues, Assistant Practitioners role is to ensure the wellbeing and safety of people in their care and produce optimized images of the body (under guidance). At the University of Bradford, we will provide students with a supportive and multi-professional learning environment in both academic and clinical settings, to help them develop the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to practise as a support worker or assistant practitioner. To support its teaching, the Faculty of Health Studies research focuses on developing and advancing clinical radiographic practice which is recognised both nationally and internationally.

A distinctive feature of the Programme is the work-based learning. Clinical placements are undertaken within the imaging department at the Trust in which the applicant is employed, and that offer the student the experience required to support the learning and skills developed required to underpin the application of theory, where they will work with and learn from Clinical Radiographers providing diagnostic imaging services to the public. Practice based learning is structured to ensure a wide range of experience and enables

students to meet the module and programme learning outcomes. Placement learning includes working a variety of shifts (days, evenings, nights and weekends), reflecting modern 24 hours a day, 7 days a week medical imaging services.

Another distinctive feature of the Programme is the integration of the sciences studied in radiography and the associated clinical learning into themed modules. To enable this students will have access to all University learning and teaching resources, including the X-ray room and picture archiving and communication system (PACS) resource.

Our research-informed programmes have a particular focus on developing employability Applications for the programme are sought from individuals whose values align with the NHS England's Values as set out in the NHS Constitution (2015): Respect and dignity; commitment to the quality of care; compassion; improving lives; working together for patients; everyone counts.

## **Programme Aims**

The programme prepares students to meet the needs of the imaging service in the NHS and Private Sector. It will enable them to:

- A1 become an Assistant Practitioner who is capable of practising diagnostic radiography examinations competently, effectively, safely and under guidance, within a multi-professional team environment, to meet service and service user needs
- A2 develop skills in self-assessment, reflective practice, engage in lifelong learning through the enhancement of personal transferable skills
- A3 become an Assistant Practitioner who will take some responsibility for creating a sustainable future by adopting sustainable behaviours and lifestyles in the efficient use of resources and as health care professionals, provide imaging to all our service users regardless of social, economic and cultural background.

## **Admission Requirements**

The University welcomes applications from all eligible students regardless of their previous academic experience; offers are made following detailed consideration of each individual application. Most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on the programme. This is assessed in a personal statement, support from the applicant's line manager and mentor. Academic entrance requirements for university programmes vary but consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience, for example if you are currently working in a health or social care environment delivering direct care to service users.

The minimum entry requirements for the programme are English and Maths GCSE grade C or grade 4 or above, or a national or key skills Level 2 equivalent. If English is not the first language of the applicant, they will need to provide proof of English proficiency before admission. Applicants will need to satisfy the University that they meet the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with an overall band of at least 6.0 with no less than 5.0 for any individual section.

A typical offer to someone seeking entry would be 96 UCAS points including at least 1 full A level or an equivalent vocational or national award of equal depth and volume such as an NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social care.

## Student Eligibility

All places offered on the Programme are also subject to the candidate's ability to meet non-academic requirements; these include assessment by an occupational health department and assessment via an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. These are to ensure the student can meet the physical and emotional demands of the programme and the requirements of the Schools Learning and Development agreement with Health Education Yorkshire and Humber (HEYH) for protection of the public. Where issues are identified during application in the DBS or occupational health assessment the results will be notified to the applicant and/or candidate as well as the actions proposed by a multi-professional panel.

Applicants must also be employed within an NHS Trust or private health care provider in a support worker role and supported to undertake work-based learning for the duration of the one year programme within their radiology department that offers the full range of radiographic and diagnostic imaging procedures. The department must also be able to offer supervision and mentorship by qualified HCPC registered diagnostic radiographers and someone to take the role of clinical supervisor (mentor). The university will liaise with the clinical supervisor regarding work-based learning and assessment for the programme.

## Recognition of Prior Learning and Progression

Applications are welcome from those candidates studying non-standard qualifications. Offers made to candidates who are studying non-standard qualifications will be bespoke to reflect the individual's program of study.

For students achieving the Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner and considering a future application to the BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography Programme at the University of Bradford, Recognition for Prior Learning applications will be favourably considered. Please note that RPL acceptance onto further study may be affected by date of qualification, alignment to current BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography Programme, and availability of places.

Please note: the above information is correct at the time of publication (January 2021). For information relating to the current cycle, please contact [admissionshealth@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:admissionshealth@bradford.ac.uk).

## Programme Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme graduates will be able to:

- LO1 demonstrate the ability to become an autonomous learner through independent study, self-evaluation, critical reflection on learning and clinical skills
- LO2 demonstrate competence in undertaking a limited range of radiographic examinations under supervision, providing safe and effective care in a variety of environments, utilising appropriate technology, and demonstrating effective professional communication in a range of formats

- LO3 identify the evidence base to critically inform professional practice, evaluate, interpret and present research data and new information in a variety of formats
- LO4 apply knowledge and understanding of human anatomy, physiology and pathology to justify the planning and production of diagnostic images and their subsequent evaluation
- LO5 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

Graduates from the Programme will have successfully achieved a standard of education and clinical competence which will allow the graduates to work safely and effectively reflecting the requirements of the role into which they will be appointed. During the Programme students will be required to demonstrate that they understand and fulfil the requirements of the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (HCPC, 2012). The curriculum also aligns with the syllabus for Assistance practitioners outlined in the College of Radiographers the College of Radiographers Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce' (2013), ensuring students develop relevant skills for employment as an assistant practitioner.

**Please note** that although students will operate under the guidance of HCPC Standards of Proficiency (2013) and Guidance on Conduct and Ethics for Students (2016) during their studies their award of Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner **does not give graduates a professional qualification, HCPC recognition to be included onto the register or the award of a Licence to Practice.**

## **Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**

Our University approach to learning, teaching and assessment is encapsulated by an integrated set of themes and principles within our Curriculum Framework. All of our programmes have been designed to provide students with an inclusive and engaging learning environment which gives them the opportunity to thrive and develop in their area of study. Our research-informed programmes have a particular focus on developing employability. We also place a strong emphasis on collaborative, real-world and enquiry-based learning, supported by appropriate learning technologies. Our assessment is designed not just to measure achievement, but also to shape and guide learning.

An induction programme which begins before studies commence on the Programme and continues throughout your year of study will enable students to adapt to becoming a student of the at university for a Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner. A range of learning and teaching methods will encourage student to become a learner capable of independent thought and action and thus become an autonomous practitioner who is capable of working collaboratively for the benefit of their patients.

A blended learning approach will be used to offer a combination of practical campus-based learning which will take place in the radiography clinical skills laboratory which comprises a fully functioning X-ray room, digital acquisition system, and a picture archiving and communication system (PACS) suite, and online sessions, tutorials and materials for the students to engage with to support their learning. This will enable them undertake simulated X-ray examinations and view images from our medical imaging library. Together they will study professional issues, teamwork and study skills utilising face to face contact and on-line discussions.

A distinctive feature of the CertHE programme is the way it integrates theory and practice. The programme integrates clinical practice within academic module throughout the year. The final module of the programme is a clinical module that does not attract academic credit and is assessed on a pass/ fail basis to confirm the student has reached the required proficiency of a Radiographic Assistant Practitioner.

It is the need for substantial periods of clinical experience or simulation during your Programme that means the organisation of the Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner does not conform to the standard model adopted by this University in terms of Programme length and organisation of semesters, which includes two semesters and an end of year consolidation and clinical assessment placement.

In the Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner there are weeks of academic study including:

- online lectures
- tutorials and seminars
- online learning materials and collaboration
- on-campus practical sessions and private study,

as well as weeks of clinical placement education under the supervision of health care professionals working within the Trust including:

- working in a range of imaging and other hospital settings within an NHS trust to gain practical experience in the use of imaging equipment and examinations
- other care related activity
- skills in safe practices such as cleaning for infection control.

During the Programme students will have the opportunity to learn from and alongside students and clinical staff from a wide range of health and social care disciplines. It is an essential aspect of modern health care that practitioners do not see their profession in isolation and can understand their role and communicate effectively with everyone involved in patient care.

Radiography specific modules integrate all aspects of knowledge required to undertake the examinations or procedures being studied. For example, in the module Radiography of the Appendicular Skeleton the student will study the anatomy, physiology, common pathology and radiographic technique (which includes care of the patient) of the appendicular skeleton (which is the upper and lower limb).

Students will be introduced to physical concepts such as fundamentals of X-ray production and exposure factors. This integrated approach ensures that the students acquire all relevant knowledge to be able to undertake radiographic examinations of the body systems being studied. Being able to observe X-ray examinations being performed in practice and then have the opportunity to undertake examinations is an essential element of this Programme. As part of all modules in the Programme, clinical placements are

integrated into the learning, teaching and assessment strategy. Therefore, there is a blend of academic study and clinical learning.

Assessment takes a wide variety of formats including, examinations, assignments, portfolios, formative feedback on skill development, and summative assessment of competence.

Clinical proficiency is assessed throughout the Programme. As these proficiencies are linked to the learning outcomes for the modules being studied, failure in clinical assessments will result in them not being eligible to pass profession specific modules and obtain a Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner. The student will be eligible for academic credit for all successfully completed modules.

## **Student Support and Guidance**

### **Academic Skills Service**

For undergraduate students who are looking to improve their marks during their time at university, study skills and maths advice is available to all regardless of degree discipline or level of study. Students can access a programme of online workshops and support which of these is delivered throughout the year. This is in addition to our extremely popular one to one guidance from our advisers, who also offer a wide range of online and paper-based materials for self-study. <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/study/support/>

### **Clinical Placement Support**

There are a number of people who will provide support to students whilst they are on clinical placement. Clinical education is organised by a University lecturer, the Clinical Education Co-ordinator. However, each Personal Academic Tutor will organise the student's placement and undertake supervisory meetings during the placement.

Whilst undertaking any imaging procedures, student's must be supervised at all times by a qualified clinical diagnostic radiographer. In each department there is a named radiographer who will undertake the role of Clinical Supervisor. This person will support students by being a source of information about any aspects of clinical radiography. They will help the student complete clinical learning objectives and assessments, which are part of the Clinical Portfolio. They will also liaise with the Personal Academic Tutor to ensure that each student is gaining the appropriate clinical experience and they will feedback on the student's personal development. The Clinical Supervisor is there to ensure the students get appropriate clinical learning. If a student has any problems whilst they are on a clinical site the Clinical Supervisor can be approached, in confidence, about any issues encountered. The Clinical Supervisor may refer the student to their Personal Academic Tutor for further advice.

It is important to note that each medical imaging department has its rules, regulations and protocols which students must abide by. The imaging department and its staff are there to provide a service to the public and their primary duty is to ensure the safety of patients and other service users. Therefore whilst on placement students are accountable to the Medical Imaging Services Manager for the placement hospital. The Radiography programme team maintains close liaison with medical imaging services staff.

As part of our protection of the public and to facilitate student wellbeing it may be necessary, on occasion to refer a student back to occupational health and or the University Fitness to Practice panel if issues arise during the Programme.

## Disability

Disabled students will find a supportive environment at Bradford where we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of student life are accessible to everyone. The Disability Service can help by providing equipment and advice to help students get the most out of their time at the University of Bradford and is a place where any concerns can be discussed and where needed required adjustments implemented, whether these relate to study, personal care or other issues., You can contact the Disability Service for more information and a discussion before applying to the programme at [www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before).

Students at the School of Health Studies who are supported through the Disability Office and or following an occupational health assessment will have a learning support report that also includes reasonable adjustment advice for clinical practice settings.

## Employability and Career Development

The University is committed to helping students develop and enhance their employability profile and capabilities through learning opportunities embedded within the curriculum.

Furthermore, the University is committed to supporting students to develop their commitment towards a career pathway(s) and to implementing a career plan. Professional career guidance and development support is available throughout a student's studies at the university and beyond as a graduate from Career Development Services. The support available from Career Development Services includes a wide range of information resources,

All students are encouraged to access Career Development Services at an early stage during their studies and to use the extensive resources available on their web site [www.bradford.ac.uk/careers](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/careers).

Specific to this programme, the number of places available is determined by the National Health Service dependant on demand for Support Workers and Assistant Practitioners in the workforce and Health education Yorkshire and the Humber commissioning numbers. Students gain practical work experience throughout the Programme and therefore gain the practical experience required by employers. Students build up a portfolio of evidence of their professional development throughout the Programme and they receive feedback via formative assessment of their development of personal transferable skills which helps to prepare them for the world of work. **The programme does not confer eligibility for a registerable health professional title with a Professional Regulatory Statutory Body (PSRB) like the HCPC, nor does it guarantee employment as an Assistant Practitioner with the students current or any future employer.**

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## Learning Resources

The JB Priestley Library on the city campus provide a wide range of printed and electronic resources to support your studies. We offer quiet study space\* for students to work on their own, and group study areas to provide space to discuss work with fellow students. Subject librarians for each School provide training sessions and individual guidance in finding the information needed for to meet the assessment brief and will be able to help advise on the organisation of references properly.

Student PC clusters can be found in all our libraries and elsewhere on the campus. Many of these are open 24/7\*. Students are also able to use the University's wireless network to access the internet from their own laptop or access a loan scheme to borrow one. Most of our online journals are available on the internet (both on and off campus), and a University email account, personal information and Programme-related materials can also be accessed in this way.

**. \* these may be restricted in light of current government guidelines around social distancing**

The Faculty of Health Studies is based in the Horton A Building which houses a number of specialised clinical skills suites. These include a fully functional X-ray room which utilises computed radiography image acquisition and a PACS (picture archiving and communication system) suite which allows students access to a large database of medical images.

## Programme Team

Support for students personally and in their Programme of study, will be provided both by central services within the University and the Programme Team. Students will be allocated a Personal Academic Tutor who is someone with whom the student will be able to talk about any academic concerns. The personal tutor will therefore be in a key position to liaise with staff in the host clinical departments to ensure students gain the required experience and to monitor progression whilst on placement.

Students will be provided with a comprehensive School and Programme handbook that they can consult on a range of learning and assessment issues and their Programme tutors will be available to consult on subject specific queries.

## Students' Union

We value the feedback provided by students and collaborate with the Students' Union, through a system of Programme representatives and formal staff student liaison committees, so that any issues raised are addressed rapidly.

The Students' Union and the University of Bradford work in partnership to provide confidential counselling and welfare services where students can get help with any aspect of your personal or academic life. MyBradford Student Life Services will provide students with information about a diverse range of issues such as council tax, personal safety and tourist information. International Students can access a range of additional advice and support services through the Student's Union.

## Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the general principles set out in the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available online at [www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations](http://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations) with three exceptions:

- All modules with theoretical and clinical components of assessment must achieve a component pass at a minimum of 40%.
- All modules must be passed overall at 40%, no compensation is permitted.
- Supplementary assessment at a second attempt will be permitted before a Board of Examiners.

## Curriculum

Throughout the year long Programme students will have the opportunity to study a range of subject areas including biological, physical and social sciences as well as applied topics relating to radiographic and healthcare practice. Students will study 120 credits across a range of modules.

## Outline Syllabus

During the Programme, students will be introduced to the profession of radiography and the principles of being a collaborative health care practitioner. Major topic areas are:

- anatomy
- physiology
- pathology
- radiographic techniques of the:
  - cardiopulmonary and respiratory system
  - appendicular skeleton (upper and lower limbs)
  - axial skeleton (skull, spine, and pelvis)
  - abdominal organs.
- the fundamentals of X-ray production, radiation protection and medical imaging technologies.

As part of the induction to the Programme and studying at university, the first module students will study cover Safe and Professional Radiographic Practice. Staff from the Radiography team, the School of Allied Health Professions and Midwifery within the Faculty of Health Studies (FoHS) will introduce students to the Programme and the resources which are available to support the learning journey.

## Programme Structure

Study at the University and on placement occurs in blocks throughout the academic year.

'Academic Year' study period describes a module that is taught over semesters one and two. 'Nonstandard Academic Year' study period describes a module that is taught starting in January and ending in September.

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Module Type	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
4	Safe and Professional Radiographic Practice	Core	30	Academic Year	RAD4008-C
4	Radiography of the Appendicular Skeleton	Core	30	Academic Year	RAD4006-C
4	Chest and Abdominal Imaging	Core	30	Academic Year	RAD4007-C
4	Radiography of the Axial Skeleton	Core	30	Semester 2	RAD4003-C
4	Assistant Practitioner clinical practice	Core	0	Nonstandard Academic Year	RAD4009-Z

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's Programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

## Study Abroad

This programme is not eligible for participation in study abroad or other international opportunities.

## Achievable Awards

The student will be eligible to exit with an award of **Certificate of Higher Education Medical Imaging** on successful completion of the four 30 credit modules.

Please note: This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

The student will be eligible to exit with an award of **Certificate of Higher Education Radiographic Assistant Practitioner** on successful completion of the four 30 credit modules and the final Assistant Practitioner Clinical Practice module (RAD4009-Z).

Please note: This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

## Minor Modifications Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
1	Specification revised for new delivery	September 2020
2	Specification rearranged and reformatted to current template so that it is made accessible	January 2021
3		