# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

## 1. Key Information

Programme Title:	MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-registration)
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	
Subject Cluster:	Allied Health & Advanced Practice
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-registration)
Pathways (if applicable)	N/A
FHEQ level of final award:	7
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Postgraduate Certificate in Studies in Applied Health Studies Postgraduate Diploma in Studies in Applied Health Studies
Accreditation details:	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approval  College of Radiographers (CoR) accreditation
Length of programme:	2 years
Mode(s) of Study:	Full time
Mode of Delivery:	In-person
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	N/A
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	HCPC Standards of Education (2017) HCPC Standards of Proficiency Radiography (2022) College of Radiographers, The College of Radiographers' Education and Career Framework (Fourth Edition, 2022)
Course Code(s):	MSDIAGFT
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	Sept 23
Date of last update:	

# 2. Programme Summary

The MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) programme is a two-year, full-time master's degree offering a route into the diagnostic radiography profession for graduates. The programme has been designed to align with the skills, requirements, and standards set out by the regulator, the Health and Care Professions Council and the Professional body, the College of Radiographers.

Diagnostic radiographers are the primary health care professionals that use advanced technology within the patient pathway to assist in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of a variety of pathologies while providing high quality patient centred care in a dynamic multidisciplinary environment.

The programme is intended to develop practitioners who can respond to a diverse and challenging service context in which traditional health and social service and associated professional roles are changing rapidly in response to broader political, social, economic and demographic changes. These changes have highlighted a need for locally focused, clinically driven, evidence-based, healthcare services which will widen opportunities for radiographers to step into positions of leadership within service. To ensure competence there is an obvious need to support these changes through contemporary and innovative education.

The programme employs an innovative approach wherein face-to-face instruction is supported by an integrated blended learning approach, using both synchronous and asynchronous teaching methods as the learning and teaching strategy.

There is a dedicated space on the Virtual Learning Platform to facilitate communication between the students and the programme team. Learning through a blend of various methods supports digital literacy development, essential for working in current and future health and social care environments.

Professional competence and clinical skills will be addressed during the programme through practical skills sessions, workshops, problem-based learning and practice placements within the local NHS Trusts. The clinical practice placements will provide real experience into the role of the diagnostic radiographer and the range of their scope of professional practice.

Graduates will have the personal and professional confidence, qualities and attributes and technical competencies required to build a fulfilling career as a clinical diagnostic radiographer and have the opportunity to continue studying to the doctoral level within Diagnostic Radiography and the wider medical imaging field. They will have a high level of professional knowledge and the skills to be able to think critically, make informed decisions, innovate practice, lead change and work in partnership with patients, service users and the wider healthcare workforce.

## 3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

### **Programme Aims**

This programme aims to:

- 1. Produce a graduate who fulfills the requirements to be eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) as a diagnostic radiographer.
- 2. Provide a stimulating, and academically sound education, enabling graduates to practice within a complex environment effectively, flexibly, and responsively as competent diagnostic radiographers.
- 3. Develop the skills of critical thinking, clinical reasoning and a research-informed evidence-based approach to the application of high-quality contemporary diagnostic radiography practice.
- 4. Produce graduates who are resilient and have the skills of accountability, leadership, entrepreneurship, enterprise and innovation to drive the profession and healthcare forward.

5. Enable graduates to reflect on their practice and exercise professional autonomy following legislation, policies, procedures, and best practice.

## 4. Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
<b>K</b> 1	Demonstrate professional skills and proficiency in the skills required for safe and effective diagnostic imaging practice, including, problem-solving, and leadership.
K2	Demonstrate a sound understanding of health, disease, disorder and dysfunction relevant to the practise of diagnostic radiography.
К3	Critically evaluate the role of the radiographer in the promotion of health and health education in relation to healthy living and health screening for disease detection.
K4	Discuss the quality assurance, quality control and audit processes in place within diagnostic imaging.
K5	Critically discuss the technical capability, applications and range of different imaging modalities and techniques used for diagnostic imaging.

## Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Critically evaluate and synthesise research, demonstrating the ability to use research to enhance clinical practice.
C2	Critically appraise radiographic image appearances from a range of imaging examinations of the human body using a variety of imaging methods.
С3	Critically apply clinical decision-making and reasoning in the context of contemporary diagnostic radiography practice.
C4	Make evaluative judgements on the technical outcomes from imaging procedures and report the findings accordingly.
C5	Effectively and safely apply key skills to the management of service users, with continual analysis and evaluation of outcomes and appropriate modification of interventions.

## Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID
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P1	Demonstrate a holistic approach to the delivery of high quality person centred care and innovative service delivery.
P2	Apply critical thinking and leadership skills to support diagnostic radiography practice, encourage self-development and promote service improvement.
P3	Communicate professionally and effectively with service users, colleagues, and others in accordance with professional standards.
P4	Critically evaluate the significance of hazards presented by ionising radiation and apply the ALARP principle (Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRR) 2017, Ionising Radiation(Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 such that the radiation dose to the service user is minimised during imaging procedures
P5	Demonstrate awareness of the impact of culture, equality, and diversity on practice and practise in a non-discriminatory manner

### Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Evaluate your own learning needs and plan your own continuing professional development
T2	Demonstrate effective collaborative working within and between a range of healthcare professionals and teams.
Т3	Utilise information and communication technologies appropriate to professional practice
T4	Demonstrate problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills and clinical judgement in routine and complex, unpredictable and challenging situations.
Т5	Practice as a reflective, critical, evaluative and evidence-based diagnostic radiographer

### **Graduate Attributes**

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, face-to-face teaching will utilise specialist teaching equipment and spaces as required, to support clinical skills learning within the context of ethical responsibility. Professional competence and clinical skills will be addressed during the programme through practical skills sessions, workshops, and problem-based learning with multimedia resources to support reflection. Service users are integral to the programme and will be invited to give their perspectives on the clinical environment. This will be further supported by online content and a minimum of 1000 practice placement hours (approximately 32 weeks). Through project work the attributes of leadership and creativity are fostered and an innovative approach to problem-solving is acquired.

## 4. Entry Requirements

The University's <u>general entry requirements</u> will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions/exceptions:

- Five GCSEs at grade C or above, including English language or literature, mathematics, and a science subject
- A minimum of 2:1 degree (or equivalent) in a related field. Related degrees include medical, sports, health, and science degrees, such as biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and physiology. Other degrees are considered on an individual basis. Advice on the equivalent status of overseas awards will be obtained from the National Academic Recognition and Information Centre for the UK (NARIC).
- Practical experience relating to diagnostic radiography, such as shadowing, work, access to virtual placements or healthcare work experience. It is recognised that it may be difficult for the prospective student to gain access to appropriate practice experience.
- For students, whose first language is not English, there is a requirement to achieve an IELTS tariff of 7 with no individual component below 6.5. This falls in line with the recommendations of the HCPC.

As well as meeting the academic requirements, all applicants need to be able to demonstrate that they have researched diagnostic radiography as a career and are aware of the scope and diversity of the profession.

Students with the potential to meet the academic requirements and who also provide a relevant and informed personal statement will be shortlisted for an interview. At the interview, applicants will be asked to demonstrate motivation and understanding of diagnostic radiography as a career and show that their values align with the values in the NHS Constitution.

If students do not meet the entry requirements they may, if they have relevant professional experience, still be invited for an interview, where they will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and/or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our accreditation of prior learning (APL) process.

#### **Pre-enrolment checks**

A satisfactory occupational health assessment will be required by all applicants prior to acceptance on the course. Candidates who fail the occupational health assessment will not be given entry onto the course. Please see further details in the applicant's guide on the University website. This screening process complies with Public Health England requirements for the protection of the public and students and staff working in health and social care.

Admission to the diagnostic radiography degree programmes is subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1994) section 4 (2) Exemption Order 1975 and DHSS HC 88 (9) guidelines regarding child protection and police checks. All applicants are required as a condition of acceptance to satisfactorily complete a criminal record disclaimer form and give their permission for us to obtain an enhanced police check with the Disclosure and Barring

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Screening Service (DBS). Each year after that students are required to self-declare any Police cautions or convictions at the start of the academic year.

The DBS in the United Kingdom does not currently conduct overseas criminal record checks. Therefore, International applicants, those without British Citizenship and British Citizens with a significant period of overseas residency require a criminal record check or certificate of good conduct from their home/overseas country prior to entry onto the course. Where an equivalent check is provided, applicants are required to complete an enhanced police check with the DBS a year later.

# 5. Programme Structure

Pathway 1 or stand-alone course

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards						
Level 7	Core modules: Year 1  ALL7014 Professional Practice and Anatomy for Imaging (20)  ALL7016 Imaging Practice 1 (20)  ALL7015 Radiation Imaging and Science (20)  ALL7017 Imaging Practice 2 (20)  ALL7018 Evidence-Based Practice (20)  ALL7019 Clinical Practice 1 (0)  Core modules: Year 2  ALL7020 Clinical Judgement and Decision Making (20)  ALL7021 Becoming an Autonomous Practitioner (20)  ALL7022 Independent Scholarship (40)  ALL7023 Clinical Practice 2 (0)	Postgraduate Certificate in Studies in Applied Health Studies awarded on achievement of 60 credits at Level 7  Postgraduate Diploma in Studies in Applied Health Studies awarded on the achievement of 120 credits at Level 7						
	Option modules: No Option modules are available on this programme							
	Opportunity modules: No Opportunity modules are available at this level.							

## 6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

## Learning and teaching

This programme adopts a progressive model of learning and teaching which will support the student to develop autonomy so that by the end of their studies they will be adept, independent learners with the capacity to think critically, adapt to new situations and work effectively both alone and in teams. As the student progresses through the programme they will be required to take more responsibility for their learning.

The development of learning materials and activities that scaffold learning across the different learning environments will enable the students to focus on individual or complementary aspects of the curriculum. Our approach to learning aims to be continuously relevant to practice by utilising experienced service users, registered diagnostic radiographers and other healthcare professionals. This will give students access to a breadth of expertise across a wide variety of professional specialisms throughout the programme.

A blended learning approach is adopted throughout the programme for knowledge and skills acquisition and development. A range of different teaching and learning approaches are used, each designed to support the student's learning and development of subject expertise or competence. This includes face-to-face contact made up of practical workshops, seminars, tutorials, and problem-based learning in small groups. As well as face-to-face contact, some of the theoretical components will be delivered online via different mediums including webinars, videos and discussion forums. A virtual learning environment (VLE) will support the students with online learning content, resources and contemporary technologies enhancing traditional face-to-face teaching. Independent study will be expected under the guidance of the module leader. This will include wider reading, preparation for lectures and reading and planning to prepare for assignment submission.

Clinical skills are key aspects of this professional course and are developed through clinical simulation, seminars, tutorials, practical classes, e-learning resources, and clinical practice placements. The links between academic and clinical modules are consistently emphasised to enable students to develop and transfer their knowledge and skills across all aspects of the programme.

Students will be given the opportunity through structured practice placements to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills within the practice setting. This experience will also allow links to be made between theory and practice based on the content of the modules. To ensure students gain the experience required to become competent diagnostic radiographers practice placements will take place across the NHS Trusts within Buckinghamshire. The emphasis is on students learning *through* practice and not learning *to* practise. Students will be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own learning and practice within the confines of governance.

Throughout the programme, every student will be allocated a personal tutor for their pastoral and academic needs in accordance with the University's personal tutor policy. The tutor will be available to meet with the student when they are on campus. Also, telephone and online support will be available for every student.

#### **Clinical Education**

Practice Placements are an essential part of the programme and students must achieve a minimum of 1000 hours of practice placement attendance hours and associated clinical practice assessment and pass all modules to successfully pass the course. There are two practice placement blocks each in Years 1 and 2. Each clinical week consists of 31.5 hours of practice placement time allocated to each week of placement. In Year 1, students will attend 17 weeks of placement in two blocks of 10 and 5 weeks respectively. The hours of clinical attendance in Year 1 are 472.5 hours. In Year 2, students will attend 17 weeks of placement in one continuous block. The hours of clinical attendance in Year 2 are 535.5 hours.

These study blocks are an integral part of the programme. The clinical practice study blocks undertaken by the students are in a variety of clinical areas within the NHS Trusts. The placements are organised in liaison with a placement coordinator and practice educator. Students will be placed at the following Trusts for practice placement during their two-year course period:

- Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

A dedicated Placement Administrator will do all placement related administration. An allocated member of the Programme Team will act as a Placement Co-ordinator to oversee the administrative process, ensure that practice educators are up to date with relevant practice educator training, allocate Link Tutors (also known as link lecturers) to students before they go out on placement, and oversee students support while they are on placement. The Placement Coordinator will also lead the pre- and post-clinical lectures. Throughout the placement, Link Tutors will maintain regular contact with the Practice Educators, and they will visit the students at least twice in each placement. This will enable an effective line of communication for feedback regarding student performance and ensure the smooth running and coordination of placements for the students.

As diagnostic radiography students are studying on a professional programme, they are required to sign a Student Practice Placement Agreement. This degree allows students to acquire the essential skills, knowledge and clinical competencies needed to work as a diagnostic radiographer. To gain these, and for BNU to be able to facilitate the acquisition of them, a working agreement, rules, and regulations that outline the roles and responsibilities need to be agreed upon.

Pre-clinical Immunisations: Students must have completed all relevant immunisations as requested by the Practice Placement Co-ordinator. Failure to complete the required Occupational Health requirements will result in a delay in attending practice placement which may impact on passing the Imaging Practice 1 and 2 modules in Year 1. Continued failure to meet the requirement for immunisations may lead to the student being referred to the Fitness-to-Practice panel which may ultimately withdraw the student from the programme.

Pre-clinical Training: Mandatory clinical training consisting of moving and handling, basic life support and infection control will be delivered in preparation for practice placement attendance. Where a student fails to attend the required training, their placement would be deferred and usually this will result in an extension of their programme duration except in cases of extenuating circumstances.

Attendance Requirements on the Programme: Students are expected to attend at least 80% of each module's hours in line with similar programmes in the University and must complete a minimum of 1000 placement hours to successfully meet the clinical learning outcomes of the programme. The attendance, both at face-to-face and online sessions will be monitored.

#### Assessment

The <u>Assessment and Examination webpages</u> provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

A variety of assessment approaches will be used to balance the assessment methods and to promote different knowledge, skills and understanding whilst reflecting on the content of the module. The mixed diet of assessments that address practical, intellectual and problem-solving challenges ensures that students with different types of learning styles can be successful in this learning environment.

Assessment methods used on this programme include

- Written examinations
- Oral assessments
- Poster presentation
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- Written assignments

All modules will include online activities for students to engage in providing them with formative feedback on their work feeding forward into their summative assessments. Other forms of formative feedback include peer feedback, discussions, and in-class (face-to-face) interactions. Feedback from exams will be provided to students and will follow the university policy.

Assessments on the MSc Diagnostic Radiography (pre-registration) programme will have a pass mark of 40%. Condonement or compensation for failure in any module is not permitted.

#### **Clinical Practice Assessment**

#### Year 1

- Seven competency-based clinical practical assessments are used to assess the development of the student's professional practice and clinical skills in the practice environment.
- Completion of the Practice Placement Portfolio.

#### Year 2

- Five competency-based clinical practice assessments are used to assess the development of the student's professional practice and clinical skills.
- To assess the student's ability and readiness to work as a Band 5 diagnostic radiographer, student will manage and lead the imaging of a range of patients examined consecutively in an A&E or general imaging room.
- Completion of the Practice Placement Portfolio.

#### **Contact Hours**

A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad / Work- Based Learning (Hours)
Year One	283	717	535.5
Year Two	150	650	535.5

## 7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- BNU Academic Assessment Regulations, accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (<a href="https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice">https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice</a>
- Core modules are non-compensable, and all components must be passed.
- 100% attendance is expected at all scheduled theory and practical sessions. Attendance falling below 80% will trigger a review of students' capability to continue and achieve the requirements for progression. Where it is determined that too much content has been missed, a decision may be made to defer the student to the next cohort.
- Students are expected to attend 100% of practice placement attendance for each year of study. Placement attendance is managed in accordance with the SCoR's Student Radiographer Attendance Management Guidelines (2011).
- Students who fail to meet the standard expected by the Student Code of Conduct, or the Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (SCPEs) for Students, may be subject to Fitness to Practise proceedings and suspension/removal from the programme.
- Practice partners may withdraw support from any student who does not demonstrate
  professional behaviour or adherence to the SCPEs. This would normally result in a
  suspension from practice learning, pending completion of an investigation by the
  University and/or practice partner.
- Students will <u>normally</u> be expected to achieve the following practice learning hours in each year:
  - Year 1 Level 7 472.5 hours of practice-based learning.
  - Year 2 Level 7 535.5 hours of practice-based learning.
- Students on this programme will be expected to complete a <u>minimum</u> of **1000 hours** of practice-based learning across the two years of the programme, prior to completion of their studies.
- Students are expected to successfully complete all the requirements and expectations of the Practice Placement Portfolio 1 and 2 to be considered for the award of MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-registration). Practice Portfolios 1 and 2 are aligned to the Clinical Practice 1 and 2 modules.
- Students must successfully complete Clinical Practice 1 and Practice Portfolio Year 1 before progressing to Year 2 of the programme.

## 8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful in your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases many of which are available in electronic format and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

## 9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

## 10. Internal and external reference points

The design and development of this programme have been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- HCPC Standards of Education (2017)
- HCPC Standards of Proficiency Radiography (2022)
- HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2016) and the accompanying Guidance on Conduct and Ethics for Students (2016)
- College of Radiographers, The College of Radiographers' Education and Career
- Framework (Fourth Edition, 2022)
- College of Radiographers, Research Strategy (2021-2026)
- College of Radiographers, Quality Standards for Practice Placements (2012)

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- College of Radiographers, Scope of Practice (2013)
- European Federation of Radiographer Societies EQF Level 6 (2018)
- European Federation of Radiographer Societies EQF Level 7 (2017)
- Society and College of Radiographer's Student Radiographer Attendance Management Guidelines (2011).
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy, Impact 2022
- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Subject Benchmark Statement for Health Studies (2019)

# Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome		Knowledge and understanding (K)				Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)					
Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	К3	K4	K5	C1	C2	СЗ	C4	<b>C5</b>	P1	P2	Р3	P4	P5	T1	T2	Т3	<b>T4</b>	T5
Level 7																				
Professional Practice and Anatomy for Imaging		х	х								х		х		х	х	х	х	х	х
Clinical Imaging Practice 1	Х			х	Х		Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	х	х		Х	Х	х	х
Radiation and Imaging Science				х	х		х	х	х					х				х	х	х
Clinical Imaging Practice 2	х			х	х		х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х
Evidence-Based Practice						Х							Х		Х			Х		Х
Clinical Practice 1	х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х
Clinical Judgement and Decision Making	х			х	х		х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х
Becoming an Autonomous Practitioner					х	х		х		х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х	х	х
Independent Scholarship	х			Х		Х		Х				Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х		Х
Clinical Practice 2	х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	х