

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Programme Title: | PGCert Interventional Radiology |
| Awarding Institution: | Buckinghamshire New University |
| Teaching Institution(s): | Buckinghamshire New University |
| Subject Area: | Allied Health |
| Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered): | PGCert Interventional Radiology |
| Pathways (if applicable) | N/A |
| FHEQ level of final award: | 7 |
| Other award titles available (exit qualifications): | N/A |
| Accreditation details: | N/A |
| Length of programme: | 1 year |
| Mode(s) of Study: | Blended Learning |
| Mode of Delivery: | Part-time |
| Language of study: | English |
| QAA Subject Benchmark(s): | N/A |
| Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard): | N/A |
| Course Code(s): | PCINRABP |
| UCAS Code(s): | N/A |
| Approval date: | June 2025 |
| Date of last update: | N/A |

2. Programme Summary

This programme equips learners with the essential knowledge and practical skills needed to work effectively in interventional radiology (IR) imaging. It offers opportunities to develop and refine clinical abilities in real-world IR settings.

The curriculum covers a wide range of interventional procedures and imaging techniques used to support services across radiology, including:

- **Cardiac catheterisation and angiography**
- **Computed Tomography (CT)**
- **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)**
- **Ultrasound**

Content is regularly updated to reflect current clinical practices and evolving service needs, ensuring that learners are prepared for the demands of modern healthcare environments.

This course is designed for healthcare professionals such as **Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs)**, **theatre nurses**, and **diagnostic radiographers** whose roles involve interventional radiology. It also supports the professional development of nurses and other healthcare practitioners working in IR settings.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

As a programme team, our aim is to provide you with:

- A **strong foundation in interventional radiology**, helping you build in-depth knowledge of key imaging techniques and procedures used in clinical practice.
- The **practical skills** you need to work safely, confidently, and effectively in interventional radiology environments.
- Opportunities to develop your **communication and teamwork skills**, so you can contribute effectively within multidisciplinary healthcare teams.
- The ability to **think critically and reflect on your practice**, supporting your ongoing professional development and commitment to high-quality patient care.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

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

| ID | Learning Outcome |
|----|---|
| K1 | Apply the principles, techniques, and technologies underpinning interventional radiology procedures, using a range of imaging modalities, including CT, MRI, ultrasound, cardiac catheterisation and angiography. |
| K2 | Critically analyse the role of interventional radiology in patient care, including pathophysiology, anatomical, and clinical considerations for a wide range of procedures. |

Analysis and Criticality (C)

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

| ID | Learning Outcome |
|----|--|
| C1 | Evaluate clinical scenarios to determine appropriate interventional radiology procedures, considering patient safety, ethical implications, and evidence-based practice. |
| C2 | Critically assess the effectiveness of interventional radiology techniques and related interventions. |

Application and Practice (P)

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

| ID | Learning Outcome |
|----|---|
| P1 | Apply theoretical knowledge and technical skills to support interventional radiology procedures, ensuring patient safety and procedural efficiency. |
| P2 | Demonstrate proficiency in assisting with imaging modalities including CT, MRI, ultrasound, cardiac catheterisation and angiography in various clinical contexts. |

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

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

| ID | Learning Outcome |
|----|--|
| T1 | Communicate and collaborate effectively with multidisciplinary teams, patients, and their families to ensure clarity and support during interventional radiology procedures. |
| T2 | Demonstrate adaptability and continuous learning of both knowledge and skills to keep pace with advancements in interventional radiology, including own professional growth and development. |

Graduate Attributes

At BNU, we are committed to helping you develop the core graduate attributes that define our students: **Knowledge and its application, Creativity, Social and ethical awareness and responsibility, and Leadership and self-development**. These attributes are designed to prepare you to thrive in a dynamic healthcare environment and make a meaningful contribution as a global citizen.

On this programme, we support your development in the following ways:

- We help you **apply theoretical knowledge to real-world practice**, enabling you to deliver safe, effective, and evidence-based care in interventional radiology settings.
- You'll be encouraged to **think creatively and adaptively**, especially when facing complex clinical challenges or responding to advances in imaging technology.
- We place a strong emphasis on **ethical practice, patient advocacy, and cultural sensitivity**, ensuring you are equipped to deliver respectful and equitable care.
- You'll have opportunities to **develop leadership skills**, take initiative in clinical environments, support your peers, and reflect on your personal and professional growth.

- Through engagement with professional standards and best practices, you'll be prepared to **positively influence healthcare delivery** and contribute to continuous improvement in your field.

4. Entry Requirements

In addition to the University's [general entry requirements](#), applicants to this programme must meet the following criteria:

- Hold an **Honours (BSc [Hons]) degree in a relevant discipline**.
- Be a **post-registration practitioner** currently employed in a **radiology or theatre setting** for a minimum of **three months**.
- Have access to a **placement in interventional radiology** for approximately **6–12 months**, as agreed with their line manager.
- Hold **current registration with a relevant professional regulatory body**.
- Provide **written support from their department manager**, confirming suitability for the course and access to appropriate clinical experience.
- Be willing and able to **visit other departments** to broaden their clinical exposure.

Part-time learners must also:

- Work a minimum of **three days per week** in a relevant clinical setting to ensure sufficient practical experience.

Applicants may also be eligible for **Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)**. Previous academic study, professional qualifications, or relevant work experience may be considered for exemption from certain modules, in line with the University's [APL policy and process](#).

5. Programme Structure

| Level | Modules (Code, Title and Credits) | Exit Awards |
|---------|---|-------------|
| Level 7 | Core modules: ALL7066 Interventional Radiology Procedures (20 credits) ALL7067 Interventional Radiology Safety and Practice (20 credits) ALL7068 Interprofessional Collaboration and Professionalism in Interventional Radiology (20 credits) | N/A |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

This programme uses a **blended learning approach**, combining face-to-face and online learning to create an engaging and flexible experience. You'll learn through a mix of lectures, tutorials, group supervision, independent study, and hands-on clinical practice in your workplace. Teaching is delivered by a diverse team of clinical experts in interventional radiology.

Learning activities include:

- **Lectures** – Delivered by experienced radiography and nursing lecturers, these sessions cover core knowledge and current practices in interventional radiology.
- **Interactive Tutorials** – Small-group sessions that encourage discussion, problem-solving, and applying theory to practice.
- **Group Supervision** – Weekly one-hour online meetings to support your learning and professional development.
- **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** – Weekly check-ins and discussion forums on Blackboard help you stay connected, share experiences, and learn from peers.
- **Online Learning Platforms** – Access to resources on platforms like Blackboard, DetectedX, and RAIQC to support your learning throughout the module.
- **Guided Independent Study** – Structured tasks such as case studies, written assignments, and reflective exercises help you develop independent learning and critical thinking skills.
- **Clinical Practice** – You'll gain practical experience in your own clinical setting, applying what you learn directly to your role.
- **Specialist Input** – Guest sessions from radiologists, radiographers, specialist nurses, and other professionals from local NHS Trusts provide real-world insights and best practices.

Assessment

You'll be assessed through a combination of coursework and practical tasks designed to reflect real-world clinical practice. Assessments are designed to help you demonstrate your knowledge, skills, and professional development.

Assessment methods include:

- Case studies
- Written assignment
- Clinical portfolio (including evidence of procedures and competencies)
- Oral presentation on interprofessional collaboration and professionalism

Each summative assessment is supported by a **formative assessment**, where you'll receive individual feedback to help you improve. Ongoing support is provided through weekly VLE check-ins and scheduled meetings with the course team.

Contact Hours

Teaching is typically delivered as follows:

- **Week 1** – Intensive block of on-campus and online teaching via Blackboard.
- **Weeks 2–8** – Weekly one-hour online group supervision sessions, plus optional online seminars.
- **Week 9** – One-to-one meetings with the course team for formative feedback on assessments.
- **Week 10** – Submission of summative assessments.

When not attending scheduled sessions, you are expected to continue learning through your work in an interventional radiology (IR) setting.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the *Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes*, with the following exceptions:

- Learners must successfully complete all assessment elements of each module to pass that module and be awarded credit
- Modules may not be compensated under any circumstances

8. Support for learners

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

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme. The personal tutor will also conduct the role of link lecturer for continuity of support.
- 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 learner 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 several 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 Quality Assurance Committee
- Review by the relevant Professional, Statutory, Regulatory Body(s)
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

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

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy, Thrive 2028
- The Royal College of Radiologists, Guidelines for nursing care in interventional radiology, third edition, 2023

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) | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----|--|--|--|------------------------------|----|--|--|--|------------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|----|--|--|--|--|
| | K1 | K2 | | | | C1 | C2 | | | | P1 | P2 | | | | T1 | T2 | | | | |
| Level 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALL7066 Interventional Radiology Procedures | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| ALL7067 Interventional Radiology Safety and Practice | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| ALL7068 Interprofessional Collaboration and Professionalism in Interventional Radiology | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |