University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography Practice**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 7**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**College of Radiographers***
Credit Structure[2]	**60 Credits at level 7**
Mode of Attendance	**Part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**1 year part-time**
Intended Award	**Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography Practice**
Named Exit Awards	**None**
Entry Requirements[4]	**The programme is open to Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered Diagnostic Radiographers, practicing within the UK, who either currently perform CT Colonography Examinations or who wish to train to perform CT Colonography.** **All candidates will need the support of their employer to register for the programme. Both the trainees and employers will be required to sign a clinical learning agreement outlining the time and support required to undertake the programme.**
Delivering Institution	**University of Suffolk**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography Practice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2027/2028 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The Postgraduate Certificate in CTC Practice develops enhanced, practice-led expertise for radiographers working in CTC settings. The course is designed with two modules which complement each other, the first module is designed to drive improvement in CTC practice and ensure CTC examinations are safe and effective, and the second module includes the human organisational and operational realities of service delivery. Students will critically

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

examine the wider context in which CT is organised and delivered, specifically in person-centred care and service optimisation alongside resource planning.

CT is now central to modern diagnostics and treatment planning, with an expanding scope, increasing modality complexity, and rapidly evolving technological capabilities. Radiographers working in CTC are therefore expected to practise within an environment characterised by high technical demand, increased autonomy and growing expectations around quality leadership and service efficiency. The course aligns to contemporary workforce requirements, cultivating autonomous practitioners who can integrate their technical knowledge, safety with service-user experience and operational performance and service strategy. The course intentionally bridges the gap between technical mastery and service leadership, recognising that future CTC practice demands both.

The course has been designed to align with the College of Radiographers (CoR) Education and Career Framework (ECF) at Enhanced Practitioner level. Therefore, on successful completion of the course, you will have the skills and knowledge to contribute to all four pillars of practice. According to the CoR (2022, p.91) "Enhanced Practitioners in clinical imaging and radiotherapy therefore develop proficiency and skills that employ a higher level of knowledge, skills and attributes than those obtained for initial registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) or its equivalent. They have developed beyond the practitioner level based on their clinical competence and/or expanded knowledge base in a specialist area".

Course Aims
In providing this course, the University and course team aim to:

1. Develop enhanced knowledge and critical understanding of the theoretical, physical and technological foundations that underpin contemporary Computed Tomography practice

2. Enable critical and reflective evaluation of the structures, processes and policies that shape safe, effective, person-centred CT service delivery.

3. Cultivate autonomous, reflexive practitioners, able to synthesise evidence, optimise resources and lead change across cross-sectional imaging services.

4. Improve knowledge of the CTC examination, from referral to diagnosis.

5. Assess and evaluate student's knowledge of the CTC examination.

6. Provide measurable outcomes for assessing knowledge and safe practice.

Course Learning Outcomes
The following statements define what students graduating from the Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography Practice course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

1. Critically examine and apply legislative, governance and safety frameworks relevant to CT practice and service delivery

2. Critically evaluate, debate and evidence-inform strategies to improve person-centred care, service management and operational performance within CT

3. Synthesise evidence to propose, justify and lead adaptive service developments and change within cross-sectional imaging services

4. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the anatomy, physiology and pathological processes of the large bowel.

5. Translate and embed the theoretical knowledge and practical skills in their role as a Radiographer in CTC and demonstrate practice and procedural independence.

6. To assimilate relevant contemporary research to ensure the provision of evidence-based practice at all times.

7. Critically appraise clinical governance, policies and procedures in relation to CTC.

8. Demonstrate a systematic understanding and critical awareness of cancer pathways, together with an in-depth consideration of the complexities affecting patient-centred care and CTC service provision.

9. Identify the scope and limitations of their role, including a critical evaluation of the ethical issues and challenges faced by enhanced practitioners.

10. Actively contribute to the multi-disciplinary team, taking a lead role when appropriate and critically evaluating their performance within the team.

Course Design
The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / College of Radiographers Competency Frameworks:

• NHSE Bowel Cancer Screen Programme Guidelines; Standards of practice for computed tomography colonography (CTC) - Joint guidance from the British Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology and The Royal College of Radiologists

Course Structure
The Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography Practice comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 7			

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards

	CTC Module A	30	M
	Service Delivery	30	M

Awards
On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography Practice.

Course Delivery
The course is delivered online. Trainees studying part-time on Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography are likely to have approximately 300 study hours per module. The contact hours will be a mix of online learning, online synchronous teaching and practical sessions at a Centre of Excellence. Trainees will normally be expected to undertake 260 hours of work-based learning and 110 hours of independent study, but should be prepared for this to vary during assessment periods.

A range of techniques based on blended-learning are employed, for example interactive virtual learning environments, work-based practice learning and assessment, reflection and professional discussions. Trainees are actively encouraged throughout the programme to connect theory with practice, which is crucial in any vocational programme.

Course Assessment
A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable trainees to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will include but not limited to e-portfolios, viva voce, online examinations and practical assessment. Students will be introduced to the University's recently implemented AI policy, and be encouraged to think of ethical and creative ways that they can utilise AI within their learning and assessment.

Special Features
On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Computed Tomography Colonography trainees are eligible for Enhanced Practitioner status as stated within the College of Radiographers Education and Career Framework (2022). This course is co-delivered with the National CT Colonography Academy (NCTCA).

Course Team
The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. NMC or HCPC).

Course Costs

For Module A, students can apply to have their fees funded by the NHS, which they can arrange with their trust. For students who cannot access funding, the below fees apply

Student Group	Tuition Fees
NHS Staff	£1,565
Non-NHS Staff	£1,800

For Module 2: Service Delivery, the below fees apply

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Part-time UK	£1,665
Part-time EU/International	£2,670

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations
This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.