University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration)**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 7**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)** **College of Radiographers (CoR)***
Credit Structure[2]	**Level 7: 180 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**2 years full-time**
Intended Award	**MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration)**
Named Exit Awards	**MSc Imaging Studies** **PgD Imaging Studies** **PgC Imaging Studies**
Entry Requirements[4]	Applicants are required to hold five GCSEs at grade 4/C or above to include Mathematics, English Language and Science (or equivalent) **BSc (Hons) or BA (Hons) degree or equivalent** Applications are welcome from graduates achieving a degree from across a range of disciplines including but not exhaustive to: • Biomedical science • Forensic science • Nutrition and human health • Sports science • Sport performance analysis • Biology / biological science • Chemistry • Physics • Marine biology • Microbiology • Biochemistry • Zoology • Psychology • Sociology • Social science • Criminology We will consider non-health/science related degrees where applicants are able to demonstrate transferable skills or an appropriate level of recent practical experience in healthcare or science. In this case, each application will be considered on its

*Pending formal accreditation

	own merits. IELTS minimum band score 6.5 (with no element below 6.5) is required for applicants whose first language is not English. **Subject to satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and occupational health clearance prior to commencing placement.**
Delivering Institution(s)	**Ipswich**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2026-27 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) course is designed to equip graduates with an appropriate first degree with the knowledge, skills and understanding to produce high quality medical images across a range of healthcare settings. Students are supported to develop and apply the values and behaviours necessary to provide effective care, which is compassionate, safe and meets the diverse needs of service users.

Practice placement is integral to the course, enabling students to apply the theory taught in academic blocks to their interactions with service users in the National Health Service (NHS). Students are prepared for their placements through a structured programme of authentic simulation-based learning in the Imaging Suite on campus. They will observe and participate in the full range of imaging modalities and examinations, participating in the multidisciplinary team and engaging in a range of hospital-wide experiences.

The course is designed to develop diagnostic radiographers who can respond to a challenging and diverse environment, in which traditional health and social care roles are transforming in response to wider demographic, social, economic, and political change. During this course, students will be encouraged to evaluate and critically reflect upon professional practice, engendering a strong foundation for lifelong learning, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and preparation for leadership.

The requirements and recommendations of key stakeholders are recognised and have been embedded within the curriculum to ensure new graduates are fit for contemporary practice. Upon successful completion of the MSc Diagnostic Radiography (pre-registration) course, students are eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

[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 Undergraduate 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.

Course Aims

In providing this course, the University and course team aims to support students to develop the:

1. Knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve the level of competence essential for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) for professional practice as a diagnostic radiographer.

2. Analytical, evaluative and reflexive approach to professional practice which will engender a strong foundation for lifelong learning, continuing professional development (CPD) and preparation for leadership.

3. Interpersonal and communication skills, to effectively engage as part of the multidisciplinary team across a range of contexts for the benefit of the diverse needs of the service user.

4. Knowledge, skills and understanding to supervise, develop and motivate others, to foster resilience in their work and to be responsible for themselves and others in their professional practice.

5. Underpinning principles to develop a set of values and beliefs which embrace, reflect and promote the NHS constitution.

6. Academic and intellectual skills reflecting the rigour required at master's level to include research and independent scholarly activity to promote innovation and integrated services.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) 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].

1. Evidence the requisite knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve the level of competence necessary for professional registration as a diagnostic radiographer.

2. Communicate effectively, work collaboratively and critically reflect upon practice to provide safe and effective, person-centred care.

3. Evidence a comprehensive understanding of and adherence to professional, regulatory, ethical and legal requirements in the delivery of imaging services.

4. Critically evaluate, interpret and synthesise evidence from a range of credible sources to deliver high quality, evidence-based practice and encourage service improvement.

5. Promote inclusivity, diversity and non-discriminatory practices in diagnostic imaging.

6. Systemically analyse, synthesise and critically reflect to manage complex and evolving situations, demonstrating initiative and autonomous decision-making.

7. Evidence supervision, mentorship and leadership skills.

8. Design and undertake an individual project relevant to diagnostic radiography and effectively communicate a critical and comprehensive understanding of the techniques, findings and implications for practice.

9. Demonstrate high standards of personal and professional conduct, and a commitment to lifelong learning and Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) / College of Radiographers (CoR) / Society of Radiographers (SoR) Competency Frameworks:

- HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (HCPC, 2024)
- HCPC Standards of Continuing Professional Development (HCPC, 2017)
- HCPC Standards of Education and Training (HCPC, 2017)
- HCPC Standards of Proficiency – Radiographers (HCPC, 2023)
- CoR Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (CoR, 2025)
- CoR Research Strategy 2021-26 (CoR, 2020)
- SoR Code of Professional Conduct (SoR, 2025)
- SoR Quality Standards for Practice Placements (2012)
- QAA The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
- QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (2020)

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

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Course Structure

The MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) comprises modules at levels 7. Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students online at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 7			
	Diagnostic Radiography 1: Fundamentals of Diagnostic Radiography	30	M
	Diagnostic Radiography 2: Imaging Principles, Technology and Cross-Sectional Anatomy	30	M
	Diagnostic Radiography 3: Evidence, Innovation and Acute Care	30	M
	Diagnostic Radiography Practice 1	0	M
	Diagnostic Radiography 4: Research Project	30	M
	Diagnostic Radiography 5: Person-Centred Care and Inclusive Practice	30	M
	Diagnostic Radiography 6: Transition to Professional Practice	30	M
	Diagnostic Radiography Practice 2	0	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration). Students who leave the course early may be eligible for an exit award. A master's degree, entitled MSc Imaging Studies, may be awarded on successful completion of 180 credits without completing practice placement, a PgD in Imaging Studies on successful completion of 120 credits or a PgC in Imaging Studies on successful completion of 60 credits. Students achieving an exit award are *not* eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the Ipswich campus. Students studying full-time on MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) are likely to have approximately 247 contact hours in year 1 and 206 contact hours in year 2. The contact hours will be a mix of learning activities designed and structured by tutors according to the subject area and intended learning outcomes. This will include traditional lectures, simulation, research supervision, small group tutorials and workshops, as well as asynchronous activities including formative quizzes, guided-reading, multi-media and research tasks. Students will also be required to participate in 21 weeks (30 hours per week) of practice placement in year 1 and 23 weeks (30 hours per week) in year 2. Placements will be arranged by the University. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 657 hours of independent study each year but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

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

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students 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 be approximately 60% examination (including unseen written examinations, viva voces and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)) and 40% coursework (including a case study, a presentation, and a research poster presentation). In addition, students will be assessed in practice placement.

Special Features

On successful completion of the MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) course, students are eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

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 as diagnostic radiographers with the HCPC.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MSc Diagnostic Radiography (Pre-Registration) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£10,215 per year
Part-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Full-time International	£18,900 per year
Part-time International	Not applicable

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

Students will be required to pay for their DBS check with a small ID check and processing fee, a full breakdown of fees can be found on our website. Students are likely to incur other costs for learning materials such as printing, books and stationery. Where eligible, students are reimbursed for travel, accommodation and car parking costs whilst on placement; however, these are paid retrospectively.

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.