



School of Community & Health Sciences

Department of Radiography

Uniform and Dress Policy for radiography students

Policy:	To prescribe the required standard of appearance that students of the Department of Radiography are expected to present when representing the University in a practice placement or whilst travelling to and from placements.
Purpose:	To ensure students maintain a professional appearance at all times. To ensure the protection of students and the public. To ensure a consistent standard of dress whilst respecting, current practices and cultural beliefs, where possible. To minimise the risk of cross infection and to facilitate good and effective hand decontamination. To ensure uniforms are compatible with safe moving and handling.

Introduction

This policy outlines the minimum standards that *must* be adhered to in all practice areas, unless local Trust policy states differently

Issuing of Uniforms

Uniforms will be provided by the university at the beginning of the student's programme of study.

Replacement Uniforms

Students will pay for any replacement uniforms

Laundering of Uniforms

Students are required to launder their own uniforms and they must be changed regularly to reduce the risk of cross infection. **Uniforms must be washed at 60 degrees centigrade.**

Travelling to and from placement

When travelling to and from their placement students must wear their own clothes and change into their uniform at their placement site. Wearing uniform outside the placement site places the student at risk and incurs infection.

Plastic aprons and gloves

Students must adhere to local policies and practices.

Personal Hygiene

As radiography practice involves close personal contact with patients and clients it is essential that personal hygiene and fragrances do not cause patients discomfort, such as nausea. This includes avoiding smelling strongly of cigarettes after breaks and lunch. Personal attire and uniforms must be clean for each shift and pressed prior to going on duty.

Perfume, Aftershave and Make-up:

If students wish to wear perfume, after-shave or make up whilst on duty this should be discrete.

Fingernails

Fingernails must be, at all times, sufficiently short and clean to prevent harm to patients through infection transfer or inadvertent scratching. They must at all times be:

- Clean to avoid transferring bacteria on or under the nail;
- Short to prevent patients and staff being scratched;
- Free from nail varnish, nail decoration or any form of nail covering e.g. acrylic nails, to prevent flakes of contamination. False nails or extensions are not permitted.

Hair

There is a possibility of hair carrying bacterial or parasitic infection such as staphylococcus aureus or head lice and these may be transmitted to patients. To promote the health and safety of the student and the patient, hair must be clean and tidy at all times. To achieve this it must be:

- Clean, tidy and tied away from the face;
- It should be off the face and shoulder and above the level of the uniform collar;
- Hair should be tied back with a simple dark hair band or ring, clips or hair pins
- Free from any form of decoration or adornment such as: fastenings that have sharp points, beads, slides, decorated or plain bands, ribbons, scarves and hats, all of which are an infection risk
- Male students must either be clean shaven or have their beards and moustaches kept clean and neatly trimmed.

Footwear

Shoes that provide good support to the foot and locomotor system will contribute to protecting the student from harm. Shoe must be:

- Plain;
- Black, leather (not suede);
- If lace up with laces of the same colour as the shoe;
- Non slip soles;
- Low heeled;
- Firm fitting;
- Clean;
- In good state of repair.

The wearing of trainers or open sandals/shoes is potentially dangerous to the student as they do not provide sufficient protection to the foot and back and may not be worn whilst wearing uniform (unless stated in local policy).

Socks, stockings and tights

Students will normally always wear suitable hosiery.

Socks worn by students must be:

- Black;
- Plain;

Stockings and tights must be:

- Plain
- Black

In extremely hot weather students may seek the permission of their placement manager as to whether they can dispense with wearing socks, stockings or tights.

Jewellery

Wearing jewellery of any kind whilst working in a health care setting introduces a health and safety risk. Jewellery can potentially injure patients or be dangerous for a student who may be caring for a confused or aggressive patient. Stones in jewellery often harbour micro-organisms, may become dislodged and can cause damage to patients. The following principles must be adhered to:

- **Rings** – only a single plain band may be worn e.g. a wedding ring;
- **Earrings** – must not be worn (Students may wear one plain ear stud in each ear);
- **Bracelets** – must not be worn;
- **Necklaces** – hanging jewellery must not be worn;
- **Tattoos** – students are discouraged from being tattooed in areas of their body that are visible to patients;
- **Body piercing** – visible body piercing e.g. on the face or tongue must be removed whilst on duty. New piercings (**including ear studs**) will be treated as a new wound and must be covered with a surgical dressing and a blue plaster until the site has healed;
- **Wrist watches** – should not be worn. Fob watches – or placing the wrist watch in a pocket are acceptable.

Badges/Identification

The student's name and designation must always be visible as a matter of security and reassurance to patients. Whilst on placement students must wear their name badges at all times.

Additional clothing

Uniforms for Students with cultural/religious considerations:

- **Headdress** – should be plain black or white, will be provided as part of the standard uniform and must be secured safely and tucked into collar;

- **Trousers** – trousers may be worn under a dress and will be the standard student uniform trousers;
- **Tunic/Dress** – this will be the standard, three quarter sleeved uniform dress. It will be no longer than mid calf and may be worn with trousers. The sleeves of the tunic or dress **must be neatly rolled to elbow length** when engaged in direct patient care. No long-sleeved T-shirts are to be worn beneath this (as per Department of Health uniform policy).

Non compliance with Uniform and Dress Policy

If students are considered inappropriately dressed they will be given a verbal warning and will be sent off duty. This will be reported as an absence until the student returns dressed appropriately. The time associated with these absences will need to be made up.