Studying Radiography at City

This Online Chat session is for anyone who is interested in studying Radiography courses including Diagnostic Imaging and Radiotherapy and Oncology at City. The session will be run by current students and staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your subject of interest and find out what life is like as a university student. Throughout the session you can type questions for the students and staff to answer and there will be interactive quizzes on student life and your subject.

Welcome to this Radiography Taster session at City, University of London. Unfortunately, we cannot have you on campus but hope that our online session will still give you a good idea of what it is like to study Radiography courses University. To give you an idea of what to expect, our session will follow this format: 1) Our academic staff have recorded a short presentation to give you an idea of the topics covered in the Radiography courses at City and the career options open to you within this profession. We’ll begin by watching this. 2) We will follow this with a fun subject quiz, don’t worry this is just a bit of fun and all answers are anonymous! 3) You can also ask questions at any point, which our academic staff and Student Ambassadors will be happy to answer. We also have campus tour videos to give you an idea of what our university campus is like. We are also running sessions on personal statements, the UCAS process, researching Universities and more: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/city-at-higher-education-exhibitions

Recruitment Events 2019/20

We regularly visit other parts of the country as part of UCAS and Higher Education fairs. Find out when we’re near you.

Hi all, we will begin the presentation in a few minutes. Feel free to ask questions during the presentation.

Are there interviews to get accepted into the course?

Hi That is right. On successful application to the course, you will be offered an interview.

Hi, I looked at your website I wanted to know what independent study meant specifically?

Independent study means time that you spend studying on your own.

Hi, I’m I’m planning on doing diagnostic radiography at uni. Would 3 months volunteering with children be enough to show I am a caring person (as volunteering is usually required by NHS courses) :)}
Hello! Your volunteering work sounds great! If you were interested in applying to one of our radiography courses, we would also recommend you undertaking some radiography work experience too. It will provide you with an opportunity to observe the work of radiographers, speak to radiographers and importantly prior to committing it will help you make sure that radiography is the right career choice for you.

Good Afternoon, I hope you are well, what if students are able to meet the grade requirements?

Afternoon, Thanks for your question. We would only be able to consider applicants who meet our entry criteria. Our entry criteria can be found here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-diagnostic-imaging and https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-radiotherapy-and-oncology

Radiography - Diagnostic Imaging

City's degree will provide you with the skills and knowledge to help diagnose illness by producing and interpreting images.

Radiography - Radiotherapy and Oncology

This degree will give you the knowledge and skills to work on the frontline of cancer care making a vital difference to the care and support of patients and their families.

Hi, why did you choose radiotherapy and oncology over diagnostic imaging?

Hi, I chose Radiotherapy because I was drawn to the Oncology side of things - cancer treatment and cancer patient care. You spend a lot more time with your patients than you do as a Diagnostic radiographer and get to see them through their entire course of treatment.

For diagnostic radiography, do you do the minimum clinical hour for registration or do you do more than required?

Hi, The hours we ask our students to do is based on the HCPC requirements for registration. Students are required to have at least 95% attendance in their clinical placement over the three years to meet this criteria.
If you would like to watch the video back after the session please use this link https://youtu.be/eFlty_mClMoo

Radiography Taster Session April 2020

Loading...

Range of techniques:
Diagnostic imaging (X-ray)

Hi, we have a high number of applicants so it is popular. There are more places on the diagnostic programme that the therapy one but that is due to the number of radiographers that are required in the UK. We have approximately 90 places for diagnostic and 40 for radiotherapy and we fill all these places each year.

How many hours is there for clinical placement

Hi,

At the moment the working week is 28 hours during clinical time which is in blocks within each academic year. Year 1 has only 1, year 2 has 3 and year 3 has 2. As to what pattern this takes it can vary from clinical site due to their working patterns in different areas. You should expect some level of shift work though.

will we still be given the non-repayable grant and can we use this to pay student finance?

The Government announced that students starting radiography courses from 2020 onwards will get non-repayable grants, you can use these to support your studies in addition to the loan you can claim from the Student Loan Company, more info here: https://www.city.ac.uk/news/2020/january/nursing-midwifery-radiography-speech-language-students-government-grant-5000

City students taking nursing, midwifery, radiography or speech and language therapy courses will benefit from £5,000 grant from September 2020

City, University of London students taking nursing, midwifery, radiography or speech and language therapy courses will benefit from £5,000 grant from September 2020

Hi, as the Diagnostic Radiography course stated that applicants need to have a clinical visit form by the end of August, based on current situation (widespread of covid 19), how can we get this clinical visit form done as it's difficult for us to go out and get the shadowing.
Hi, at the moment, the clinical visit form is not due in until the end of June (for 2020/2021 entry) and the advice from the government may change within the next 2 months. We will be monitoring the situation and if does not improve closer to this deadline, we will be in contact with everyone with an update. At this moment in time, we have decided to keep the clinical form requirement as we believe that radiography experience prior to enrolling on the programme is invaluable. It will provide you with an opportunity to observe the work of radiographers, speak to radiographers and importantly prior to committing it will help you make sure that radiography is the right career choice for you. Please note in these exceptional times, we have also reduced the minimum observation time from a day, to a morning or afternoon. We are also able to accept clinical visit forms that you may have filled in for other universities too. Thanks.

Since we would be working with radiation doses, would it become harmful at any time for the radiographer?

Hi,

Radiation protection is a huge part of our jobs and radiographers are constantly monitored to make sure dose is kept at safe levels to us, our colleagues and our patients. We are very well protected and kept away from direct exposure in most instances, and very very well protected when we can’t be away from the primary beam!

Hi, how employable is this degree? / are there many career options with this degree?

Hi, All our students get employment and if you are willing to move you will be able to secure a job earlier than if you are only look in one location. The NHS is always looking for radiographers and changes in working patterns, especially in diagnostic, are creating more opportunities as well.

Hi all! We hope you enjoyed that presentation. We will now begin our subject quiz. Note that you won’t be able to change your answer once you’ve submitted it. Your responses are anonymous. If you are on a mobile you need to swipe left if you see a question mark, or if you’re using Internet Explorer you might need to click on the question mark.

Q1. What types of cancer would be treated with radiotherapy (select all that apply)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tumours of the lymph tissue</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast Cancer</td>
<td>36.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumours of the skin</td>
<td>13.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostate Cancer</td>
<td>26.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumours of the eye</td>
<td>3.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: All. Radiotherapy has its place in treating all these types of cancer. You will learn about how different cancers can respond to radiotherapy in your first year of the course.

Q2. What advice would therapeutic radiographers NOT give to someone having radiotherapy to the mouth/neck (select one answer)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advice</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Regularly sip fluids</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Expose the treatment area to direct sunlight</td>
<td>84.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Clean your teeth with a soft toothbrush</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What other requirements do I have to meet as well as the grades?

You will need to meet the qualifications listed on our website (see here for an example: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-diagnostic-imaging) but also you will need to have an interview and go on a clinical visit to a radiography department of your speciality choice.

Answer: The treatment area should not be exposed to direct sunlight. Patients' reactions to radiotherapy treatment have to be carefully managed. You will learn about what advice to give during both the academic and clinical components of the course.

Q3. What areas of the hospital could therapeutic radiographers work (select all that apply)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A theatre</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A CT scanner</td>
<td>20.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A radiotherapy treatment room</td>
<td>29.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An office</td>
<td>12.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A review clinic</td>
<td>20.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How physics based is it—does it include high-level maths or does it focus more on biology and the biological side of physics?

Hi,

There certainly is some physics to the course and how much can vary from Diagnostic to therapy. On both courses you can certainly expect to encounter some radiation physics early on and looking into how the equipment we use works and in radiotherapy you'll look at dose calculations too.

Answer: All. Therapeutic radiographers (TR) could work in a theatre whilst brachytherapy treatment is being given, CT scanners are used to locate where radiotherapy treatment is given, treatment rooms are a core work area for a TR, a variety of offices are used by TR's from calculation rooms to managers offices, TR's can work in clinic rooms advising patients on their treatments.
Q4. What types of radiation are used in the treatment of cancer (select all that apply)?

- Beta radiation: 16.67%
- Electrons: 11.11%
- Gamma rays: 38.89%
- X-rays: 22.22%
- Protons: 11.11%

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Q5. Which radiation type has been recently made available in the UK by the NHS at a cost of £250 million (select one answer)?

- Beta radiation: 33.33%
- Gamma rays: 13.33%
- Protons: 53.33%

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**Answer:** Protons. Two proton centres are coming on line. One of these is located at UCLH in London and radiotherapy students from City will be able to go on placement there during their course.

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Which of the following foods have radioactive elements?

- Brazil nuts: 14.29%
- All of the above: 85.71%

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**Answer:** All of the above! Did you know that bananas are also radioactive? And are one of the more radioactive daily foods? There is even a colloquial measurement in radiation dosage called the 'banana equivalent dose'. To get the same dose as a CT scan, you’d need to eat around 70,000 bananas. (Please do not do this!)

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Which body part was included in the first ever X-ray taken?

- The foot: 8.333%
- The pelvis: 8.333%
- The hand: 58.33%
- The chest: 25.00%

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**Answer:** The foot.
HI, what would you say is your favourite part of the course?

I love both the academic and practical side of it! The academic side gives you a really good insight into all the theory and technological advancements, teaching you all the underpinning principles of radiotherapy physics and biology, as well as other treatments like chemotherapy and surgery. The placement side of things really brings everything together, giving you the opportunity to develop and apply your new-found knowledge and really feel a part of the department you work as a student in.

Answer: The hand! The first ever x-ray was taken by Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen in 1895 who later won the prestigious ‘Nobel Prize’ in physics. The hand that was imaged, was the hand of his wife.

What assessment methods are used? Like what percentage is exams?

The course is modular in structure which means each year you’ll take a number of modules and each one will have its own assessment. Take my first year module for example which is a physics module. That is assessed with a 100% written exam. There’s another second year module though which is entirely assessed with written coursework and presentations. Every module will have an assessment of some kind in which you’ll have to meet the 40% pass mark. You’ll see written exams, written course work, presentations, vivas (which are interview style spoke exams), image evaluation exams and clinical assessments to name some. We try to be as broad as possible with assessment types to give everyone the chance to show their strengths.

Where did the funding come from that helped to build the first CT scanner?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military funding</td>
<td>6.667%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charity funding</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Beatles (rock band)</td>
<td>6.667%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A donation from the Queen (not the band)</td>
<td>46.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: The Beatles! Godfrey Hounsfield, the inventor of the CT scanner, worked for EMI who were the company who owned the Beatles. They used the profits from the music to fund the construction of the first scanner.

When we fly in planes, we receive higher cosmic radiation doses as we have less air between us and space. How far would you have to fly from London to get the same dose as one hand x-ray?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London - Paris</td>
<td>14.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London - Rome</td>
<td>7.143%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London - New York</td>
<td>35.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London - Tokyo</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London - Australia</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: London to Paris! An extremity x-ray (such as an x-ray of the hand) only gives someone about 0.001 mSv of radiation dose. The doses we use these days are very small.
I applied for work experience in my local hospital in the Radiography department, but was not accepted due to being under 18 and the risk of radiation exposure. Is there any other departments where work experience would be advised?

Some departments are happy for you to visit to have an opportunity to talk to staff and see the working environment but not "in action" i.e. when the machines are off. They sometimes do open days at the weekends. Also if your birthday comes late in the academic year there still may be a chance for you to pay a visit once you are 18 and before term starts.

What are some career progression pathways after becoming a radiotherapist?

When you graduate you will be a treatment radiographer. From here you can specialise in planning, dosimetry, becoming an advanced practitioner, prescribing, or research- lots of opportunities!

Which of the following imaging modalities does NOT use ionizing radiation to take images?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imaging Modality</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X-ray</td>
<td>7.692%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound</td>
<td>53.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>23.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computed tomography</td>
<td>15.36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: Ultrasound! It does not use ionizing radiation and instead uses a form of non-ionising radiation called sound waves.

In what year was the first clinical use of an X-ray image?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>64.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1780</td>
<td>7.143%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>7.143%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer: 1896! It was taken in Birmingham, England by John Hall-Edwards who was taking a picture of a needle stuck in a colleague’s hand.

Hope everyone enjoyed the quiz! We’ll now be turning to you to ask any questions you may have to our academics and students. Get typing!

Are there any possibilities to do one or more of the clinical placements abroad? Similar to an ERASMUS exchange programme or something?
As a team we are working hard to build relationships internationally and we currently have an exchange with Malata which we have successfully run for a number of years. As part of your studies we also offer you the opportunity to undertake elective placements if you meet the course requirements up to that point. These can be anywhere you want in the world and one of my students recently went to Kuwait. This is based on your ability to fund these placements though. You can also go more locally if there’s another side you’d like to visit.

I applied for work experience in my local hospital in the Radiography department, but was not accepted due to being under 18 and the risk of radiation exposure. Is there any other departments where work experience would be advised?

Any care setting will give you good experience but only seeing and understanding what happens in a diagnostic or radiotherapy department will prepare you for this.

how do we know if our interview has been successful

HI you will usually hear back within a week after your interview has taken place

Hi, how much maths would you say diagnostic radiography entails?

Not so much at all. There is a little involving very simple equations in the first year of diagnostic and a couple to remember in the second year physics but there’s very little you actually need to do in terms of maths and calculations. A lot of the physics is around the inner workings of the equipment we use.

Less academic question, but are the radiography uniforms comfortable and how are the regulations on things like piercings, hair, etc?

Speaking as a student, the uniforms are comfortable, the tunics are white and short sleeved and you will wear plain black trousers with plain black shoes. You may wear a top underneath your tunic but the sleeves must be rolled up above the elbows at all times for hygiene purposes. Hair must be tied back, earrings- only studs with no stones. Rings- no stones, just a plain band, no wristwatches worn

How many types of radiotherapy treatments will students learn about?

You will learn about all of them including all the modalities for example; x-rays, brachytherapy, protons, electrons etc. You will also learn about other forms of cancer treatment including chemotherapy, biological therapy, hormone therapy and surgery. This isn’t an exhaustive list by the way!

Hello, I have already done my one day clinical placement and I will be applying for 2021, do I need to do another clinical placement in 2021?
No you won’t. We just need to see the feedback from the visit you have been on.

Is the academic side to the course mainly lectures?

Hi, there certainly are quite a few lectures but we also have a number of workshops that we run in our skills suites for both diagnostic and therapy which we use to build upon the knowledge we give you in the lectures. You can also expect to learn all about CPR and manual handling (how we move our patients) too.

If you work abroad, do you work for one year? And come back?

Hi, the way the course is structured is that you study and are placed in the UK for the majority of the time. There are opportunities to go on a short elective placement but only when you have fulfilled the requirements of the programme at that point.

Are AS Levels considered alongside BTEC/A Levels?

Hi, we would usually consider the UCAS points from your A-levels (BTEC) only thanks. Please find our entry criteria here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-diagnostic-imaging and here: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/radiography-radiotherapy-and-oncology thanks

Radiography - Diagnostic Imaging
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Radiography - Radiotherapy and Oncology
This degree will give you the knowledge and skills to work on the frontline of cancer care making a vital difference to the care and support of patients and their families.

How close are the student accommodation options to the site where the lectures and workshops are delivered?
There are maximum 15 minutes away from campus. More information can be found on the accommodation page [https://www.city.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate](https://www.city.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate)

**Undergraduate student accommodation**

City, University of London undergraduate students can apply for a place in our modern halls of residence or get help with finding private accommodation in London.

**Will any consideration be made to Y12s who will have no predicted grades to apply with?**

Hi, we would usually ask you to provide us with your predicted grades so we know that you are likely to meet our entry criteria. Thanks.

**On the Radiography & Oncology course, what would you say the average % split between mature and non-mature students is?**

Hi, this split changes from year to year. Sometimes we have 2 or 3 mature students (5%) other times we have had up to 20%. It is always nice to have a mix as different people bring different views and experience to the cohorts and everyone benefits.

**What are diagnostic radiography hours like?**

Hi, it can vary from site to site. Some sites have full shift systems where all students work 12 hours shifts for 2 days a week and a half day. Some have shifts that run from 09:00 - 17:00 in some areas of work and in that case you’ll work 4 days of the week. For our more senior students, night shifts are becoming commonplace too. You should expect at least some shift work in your clinical experience if not completely shift based. We do our very best to get you used to the working patterns you’ll see when qualified.

**Are all of the lectures filmed and made available to watch online?**

Students have access to most of their lecture slides on a database called Moodle. Not all lectures are recorded as it not always possible for the lecturer to do so. You will have to ask permission if you would like to record the sessions or access documents that are not available on Moodle.

**Thank you so how long do people generally work abroad for?**
Electives are around 2-3 weeks with sites we work in partnership with. If you are talking more generally i.e. once you are qualified, then the world is your oyster. We have had graduates that have moved abroad to many places around the world and either emigrate or come back after a year or two.

What is the difference between diagnostic radiography and radiotherapy and oncology?

Hi. Diagnostic imaging uses radiation to image patients to discover what is wrong. Radiotherapy uses radiation to treat people who have cancer. They are very different but both very rewarding in different ways. The choice is yours!

Does it matter what kind of work experience you get as long as you are in a healthcare environment?

Hi. It is best to get experience in the healthcare setting you are interested in as they are all very different. In radiography we would want you to have seen what happens in a diagnostic or radiotherapy department, whichever you are interested in pursuing.

How many days a week would you go uni for diagnostic radiography course?

Hi. While you aren’t on clinical placement you’ll find that you’re normally in university for most days of the week. We do make a conscious effort to ensure that we group our lectures together on as few days as possible to make sure you aren’t traveling in for just a couple of hours of content and give you days off where we can.

Thank you everyone for all your questions and we hope today’s session was useful. If you do have any further questions then please do contact us using either our contacts page on our website: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/contact or through our Unibuddy page where you can contact staff and students: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student.