Programme Specification

Award and title: BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography

School:	Science, Technology and Health
Subject area:	Diagnostic Radiography
Entry from academic year:	2026-27
in the month(s) of	September
Awarding institution:	York St John University
Teaching institution:	York St John University
Delivery location:	York St John University
Programme/s accredited by:	Approval by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Exit awards:	Certificate of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences Diploma of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences BSc (Ord) Applied Health Sciences
UCAS code / GTTR / other:	B821
Joint Honours combinations:	Not applicable
QAA subject benchmark statement(s):	Health care programmes: Diagnostic Radiography FHEQ Level 6 Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (2013) Standards of Proficiency: Radiographers (2023)
Mode/s of study:	Undergraduate periods of study[1] for full time
Language of study:	English
Paired with Foundation Year	No
Study abroad opportunities:	No[2]
Placement Year opportunity:	No

Introduction and special features

Our BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography programme provides a gateway to an exciting and rewarding career in health sciences, one that is at the intersection of scientific knowledge, public health, evidence-based practice, research, and ever-evolving cutting-edge technology. The programme is designed to enable you to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to be recognised as a Diagnostic Radiographer, a designated title that is protected by law.

This programme places a strong emphasis on providing you with an in-depth scientific principle that underpins Diagnostic Radiography. You will delve into the physics of Diagnostic Radiography and imaging, anatomy and pathophysiology, techniques, and safety. Furthermore, through your scientific knowledge, you will be well-prepared to conduct a wide range of radiographic examinations, and our commitment to hands-on learning ensures that you gain practical experience in a clinical setting and that you have a solid foundation for your radiography career. We highly prioritize ethical and professional conduct throughout our programme, ensuring that you are not only well-prepared academically but also ethically and professionally as you embark on this chosen Radiography career. In addition, our commitment to keeping pace with the evolving healthcare

[1] The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

[2] There is an opportunity to go on an international clinical placement in Level 5, semester 2 as part of the programme.

landscape ensures that you are well-equipped to meet the demands of the profession and progress in your career.

Our programme also stands out with the distinctive integration of Ultrasonography, with a special focus on the abdomen and obstetrics and gynaecological ultrasound. Thus, this specialized area will equip you with an initial hands-on practical experience based on optical simulation to prepare you to perform detailed and accurate ultrasound examinations in clinical practice. With the ever-increasing demand for Sonographers, these additional skills will enhance your career prospects and allow you to make a substantial impact in patient care.

Furthermore, in the era of the rapid digital transformation in healthcare, our programme has embraced the future of Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging. We have integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the programme, equipping you with the knowledge and practical skills to harness the power of AI in clinical practice. You will explore how AI and machine learning are revolutionizing Diagnostic Radiography, enhancing image acquisition, enhancement, image interpretation, and improving patient outcomes. By studying with us, you will be at the forefront of this exciting and innovative field.

Special features

We have a bespoke imaging suite established to support extensive hands-on experience in small student groups. Our imaging suite consists of state-of-the-art AI-powered 1.5 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner, ceiling mounted digital X-ray machine, stationary and portable ultrasound machine, functional near infrared spectroscopy machine, eye-tracking device, and a wide range of anthropometric body phantoms. In addition, we have a fully equipped computer laboratory tailored for image processing, simulation exercises, and tutorials. Your clinical competency will be developed from many classroom-based simulation, and practice in the clinical environment, involving all the required aspects of diagnostic radiography and imaging. An exciting feature in this programme is the integration of two ultrasound modules designed to give you both theoretical and hands-on skills for your professional practice.

The programme will include modules based both at the university and in practice, and it is strongly grounded in theory. The programme includes working in a range of clinical environments for a minimum of 1,200 hours while being supervised by clinical educators from both the UK and other countries. You will have the opportunity to go on an international clinical placement in Level 5 semester 2 as part of the programme, which allows students to pursue placements abroad under the supervision of licensed radiographers.

There are opportunities to embark on clinical and industrial visits such as AI-imaging companies and advanced imaging centres (i.e., PET/SPECT, a high-field MRI centre, animal imaging centre, imaging equipment vendor, etc) to provide our students with a wide exposure to (pre)clinical, research, and industrial applications of imaging modalities.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for undergraduate study. In addition, you must have 120 UCAS points (BBB), including at least one of Physics, Chemistry or Biology. You must also have:

- 3 GCSE passes (grades A*-C including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject or dual science.

Alternative qualifications include: Access to HE Diploma, BTEC, International Baccalaureate (with a science subject), and other qualifications (subject to initial discussion with School on suitability).

Offers are conditional not only on academic results but also on:

• A satisfactory Medical Health Questionnaire
• A satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
• Performance to a satisfactory standard in radiography selection tasks, demonstrating that your individual values and behaviours align with NHS Constitution
• Satisfactory reference(s)

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of Recognition of prior learning (RPL). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.
Disclosure of criminal background:

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 does not apply and all cautions and convictions, including those which are spent, must be disclosed. This is in accordance with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975. If you are offered a place, you must undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and will be required to complete a disclosure application form. All information will be treated in confidence and only considered when necessary.

Manual handling:

As a requirement for practice education, you will be trained in manual handling techniques before being allowed into practice at the beginning of the programme. If you are unable to successfully complete this short course, provided at the start of the programme and updated periodically throughout, you will be asked to attend a fitness to practice meeting where your ability to continue the programme will be determined.

Health assessment, declaration, and vaccinations:

You must be in good health and up to date with your routine immunisations (e.g., tetanus, diphtheria, polio, MMR, and hepatitis B). Additionally, we recommend that you consider a COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination if offered. If you are offered a place, you will be required to complete a questionnaire and must be prepared to undergo a medical examination. You will also be required to confirm your status in respect of several infectious diseases and immunisations and be prepared to have all required vaccinations. If your vaccinations are not up to date this may affect your ability to continue your course. If you have any concerns with regards to vaccinations, please raise this at the point of application

Programme aim(s)

The aim of the BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography programme is to nurture compassionate professionals who are able to excel in technical expertise, connect deeply with patients, and pushing the boundaries of diagnostic radiography within the context of the evolving 21st century health care system. Our graduates will be equipped with the skills to explore a range of diagnostic imaging tools and techniques, embrace emerging technologies, and revolutionize patient care. In accordance with the requirements articulated in the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency - Radiographers (2023), Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (HCPC 2016), Standards of Education and Training guidance (HCPC 2018), Society of Radiographers (SoR) Policy and Guidance Document Library (SoR 2020), and the College of Radiographers Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (4th edition), the curriculum reflects our commitment to produce highly skilled radiographers who are not only proficient in their practice but also passionate about making a difference in the lives of patients and communities.

The programme is designed to provide you with an outstanding education and training which, if successful, will enable you to apply for registration with the HCPC to practice as a Diagnostic Radiographer.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

4.1 Recognise professional, legal, and ethical issues and their impact on safe clinical practice in accordance with the Society of Radiographers and Health and Care Professions Council Standards.
4.2 Describe and discuss the normal structure and function of the human body in relation to dysfunction and pathology.
4.3 Explain and summarize the physical principles, instrumentation and safety underpinning diagnostic radiography and imaging.
4.4 Demonstrate skills required for group and team working.
4.5 Apply the reflective process and understand the duty to make reasonable adjustments upon reflection in practice.

4.6 Demonstrate an appreciation of the importance of evidence-based practice in clinical practice.
4.7 Demonstrate cultural sensitivity, a commitment to human rights, equality, diversity and inclusivity in clinical practice.
4.8 Demonstrate a commitment to effective communication, professionalism, empathy, and ethical practice.
4.9 Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of personal health and wellbeing, person-centered practice, effective teamwork and collaborative working in a multidisciplinary team.

Level 5

5.1 Reflect on scope of practice and critically appraise professional conduct and behaviours in accordance with Health and Care Professions Council Standards.
5.2 Analyse and critically appraise a range of evidence and discuss its implications for diagnostic radiographic practice
5.3 Analyse, compare and contrast a range of physical principles, instrumentation and safety underpinning diagnostic radiography and imaging practice.
5.4 Appraise a range of research methods
5.5 Appraise the importance of person-centred practice and collaborative working with service users and carers
5.6 Analyse and justify appropriate clinical indication, image quality considering the use of appropriate standards of practice to obtain consent, maintain confidentiality, and undertake clinical imaging examinations.
5.7 Design, justify, and apply appropriate research methodology in developing a project proposal.
5.8 Demonstrate and apply information, communication and digital technologies, professional attitudes with value service user involvement in diagnostic radiography practice and research.
5.9 Demonstrate commitment and sensitivity to diversity, equality, and inclusivity, and recognise the associated barriers and support the implementation of change.

Level 6

6.1 Synthesise and critically evaluate health and social care systems, policy, legislation priorities for the advancement of diagnostic radiography services
6.2 Critically evaluate and employ a systematic approach for critically analysing clinical images for technical quality, pattern recognition and image interpretation of a range of body regions.
6.3 Evaluate and apply models of leadership and management to diagnostic radiography practice.
6.4 Demonstrate skills in collection, analysis and interpretation and the evaluation of scientific evidence and research
6.5 Demonstrate proficiency in pattern recognition analysis and interpretation of diagnostic images, considering normal anatomical structures (and variations) and pathological findings.
6.6 Demonstrate the ability to synthesize complex information, apply information, communication and digital technologies, and offer novel insights into the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on diagnostic imaging processes and clinical workflow.
6.7 Demonstrate an understanding of ethical principles in patient care, research practice, and data management.
6.8 Demonstrate appropriate levels of knowledge in occupation health, self-management, quality management, communication, and collaboration within the multidisciplinary healthcare system, contributing to an effective and improved delivery of services
6.9 Demonstrate professional commitment to continuous professional development, practice, valuing service user participation to inform service development, service delivery and research.

Programme structure

Code	L	S	Title	C	Module status

					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
RAD4001M	4	1 & 2	Physical Principles, Instrumentation and Safety of Imaging Modalities	20	C	NC
RAD4002M	4	1	Cross-sectional Anatomy & Pathophysiology 1	20	C	NC
RAD4005M	4	2	Cross-sectional Anatomy & Pathophysiology 2	20	C	NC
RAD4003M	4	1	Essentials of Clinical Imaging in Practice 1	20	C	NC
RAD4006M	4	2	Essentials of Clinical Imaging in Practice 2	20	C	NC
RAD4004P	4	1 & 2	Clinical Practice 1	20	C	NC
RAD5001M	5	1	Medical Imaging Processes	20	C	NC
RAD5002M	5	2	Research & Statistics in Diagnostic Imaging	20	C	NC
RAD5003M	5	1	Essentials of Clinical Imaging in Practice 3	20	C	NC
RAD5006M	5	2	Essentials of Clinical Imaging in Practice 4	20	C	NC
RAD5004M	5	2	Informatics & Artificial Intelligence in Medical Imaging	20	C	NC
RAD5005P	5	1 & 2	Clinical Practice 2	20	C	NC
RAD6001M	6	1 & 2	Dissertation	40	C	NC
RAD6002M	6	1	Abdominal Ultrasound Imaging	20	C	NC
RAD6003M	6	2	Obstetrics & Gynaecological Ultrasound Imaging	20	C	NC
RAD6004M	6	1	Leadership & Management in Professional Practice	20	C	NC
RAD6005P	6	1 & 2	Clinical Practice 3	20	C	NC

The programme will run on a full-time basis over 3 years.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The programme has been designed to develop relevant knowledge, skills and professional behaviours and values required to achieve entry level professional competencies as required by the Society of Radiographers, College of Radiographers, and the Health and Care Professions Council.

Educational philosophy

This programme is delivered through face-to-face, on-campus teaching, using lectures, seminars, workshops, and practical sessions to support student learning. Digital tools may be used to supplement in-person delivery, but the core learning experience is classroom-based. This approach offers flexibility of learning opportunities and is particularly inclusive for students with different learning needs, caring roles and responsibilities, students with part-time jobs and for students travelling long distances from home to university. Enquiry-based learning is embedded throughout the delivery of the curriculum in which students will learn through the process of enquiry, discovery, and problem solving. Learning is scaffolded across the three years of the programme in a way which develops appropriate professional competencies required as independent learners, evidenced-based practitioners and skills to continue lifelong learning during their professional careers.

Teaching strategy
The programme utilises a range of relevant, contemporary real world learning opportunities/resources which will prepare you for the challenges of working in a changing environment of health and social care and innovative models of service delivery. Future proofing an emerging workforce will require you to develop skills in; enquiry, problem setting and problem solving, research, critical thinking, analysis, evaluation, collaboration, reflection, self-assessment, peer assessment, giving and receiving feedback, creativity, innovation, coaching skills, leadership, entrepreneurial and management skills, teamwork, independent learning, self-reliance and autonomy.

Face-to-face learning and teaching may include:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Individual and group tutorials
- Interactive workshops
- Visits and field trips[3]
- Guest speakers and visiting lecturers from service users, clinicians, service providers

Experiential learning may include:

- Practical skills workshops
- Research
- Reflection on 'doing and living'
- Professional practice placements

Online activities may include:

- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
    - Forums, discussion groups, screen-cast lectures (flipped classroom), e-portfolios, module teaching resources, wikis, digital badges
- Online platforms/applications
    - Social media (e.g., Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest)
    - Blogging
- Library electronic resources
    - Databases
    - Specialist software
    - Digital repositories

Assessment strategy

The programme will use a wide range of assessment (formative and summative) methods throughout. Summative assessments aim to assess programme level learning outcomes.

Assessment strategies involve written assignments to challenge your theoretical knowledge within the context of clinical scenarios and evidence-based practice but also oral presentations, involving analysis and critique of information and production of dialogic assessments involving poster production. Practical assessments are designed to bring together 'real life' situations, mimicking what is expected in clinical practice by the demonstration of problem solving ability and skills application (and also the 'softer' skills of

[3] The cost of hiring a coach for trips and visits would be covered by the University, so there would be no cost to the student. For UK based students NHS England refund all travel and accommodation costs related to placements. For international students, they need to fund all this themselves.

professionalism), and the production of a research proposal and subsequently a research article, which you will be encouraged to publish and disseminate, fosters an insight into data collection and analysis and an interest in developing the evidence base for the profession as a whole. A viva will examine your ability to reflect on the culmination of your learning throughout the radiography programme and its application to clinical placement experiences

For each summative assessment, you will receive formal feedback. For each formative assessment activity, you will also receive a range of formal (verbal, written), peer and/or tutor feedback and self-assessment with reflection. You will receive guidance and appropriate training on the giving and receiving of feedback and such activities will be scaffolded across the course of the programme to develop individual skills and competencies in feedback giving and receiving. You will be allocated academic tutors who will support and monitor your progression towards meeting the programme level learning outcomes.

Information and guidance regarding all assessment requirements will be available to you via the university virtual learning environment (Moodle) module sites. You will be offered assignment tutorials (group and/or individual) to support the preparation for assessments. The University also provides a range of central guidance and learning resources through the Information and Learning Services directorate. These resources include online tutorial, factsheets, study skills workshops and individual appointments with specialist staff e.g., writing support, librarian.

The HCPC outlines the Standards of Conduct, Performance, and Ethics (SCPEs), which all registered radiographers must meet. In this regard, assessment of professional behaviour will be conducted through the following methods:

1. Clinical Placement Assessments – Practice educators assess students' professionalism, communication, teamwork, and adherence to ethical standards in clinical settings.
2. Reflective Practice and Portfolios – Students document experiences, ethical dilemmas, and professional growth, critically evaluating their performance against SCPEs.
3. Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) – Simulated patient interactions to assess students' professionalism, communication, and ethical decision-making skills.
4. Professionalism Reports – Feedback from practice, academic staff, and peers evaluates students' conduct, punctuality, teamwork, and respect for others.
5. Fitness to Practise Panels – In cases of concerns about a student's professional behaviour, the University would review their conduct to ensure they meet regulatory expectations before qualification.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's general regulations for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

This programme does not permit the option to study part time to redeem progression failure in Level 4 and 5 due to a PSRB requirement.

Students will be eligible for the award of the BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography when they have:

- Passed all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification
- Passed all clinical practice placements

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- Students must pass all level 4 modules before progressing to level 5 study
- Students must pass all level 5 modules before progressing to level 6 study
- Students must pass all level 6 modules before progressing to the Award of BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography
- Students must successfully complete and pass a minimum of 1,200 hours of professional practice placement

• Students who fail a level 4 placement **MUST** redeem this before progressing to level 5 of the programme
• Students who fail a level 5 placement **MUST** redeem this before progressing to level 6 of the programme
• Students will only be able to fail and redeem one clinical placement. Subsequent failure of another clinical placement will result in termination of the student's enrolment on the programme.
• Students will only be offered one resit opportunity for failed University based modules; failure of a resit will result in termination of the student's enrolment on the programme
• Students who have Semester 1 resits following the Progress and Award Board and are then on placement are permitted to have the option to take their resits in the Semester 2 resit period.

BSc (Hons) in Diagnostic Radiography	Successful completion of all three levels gaining a total of 360 module credits including a pass for all practice placements. Only this award carries eligibility for registration with the HCPC.
BSc (Ord) in Applied Health Sciences	For those who have not met the credit requirements for the BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography but have achieved the regulatory credit requirements for the award of a degree of BSc (Ord) Applied Health Sciences will be given. This will **NOT** enable eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and consequently to practise as a Diagnostic Radiographer.
Aegrotat awards	If a student is offered an aegrotat award as per University regulations, this does **NOT** confer eligibility to apply for admission to the Health and Care Professions Council Register

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- Standards of Proficiency - Radiographers (HCPC 2023)
- ISRRT Safety Culture and General Safety Guide (2021)
- Policy and Guidance Document Library (SoR 2020)
- Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (SoR)
- Code of Conduct and Ethics (SoR 2008)
- Scope of Practice (SoR 2009)
- The Approval and Accreditation of Education Programmes and Professional Practice in Radiography: Guidance on Implementation of Policy and Practices (CoR 2004)
- University mission and values
- University 2026 Strategy
- QAA subject benchmark statements
- Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications
- Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (HCPC 2016)
- Standards of Education and Training guidance (HCPC 2018)
- College of Radiographers Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (4th edition)

Date written / revised: 13/03/2024
Programme originally approved: 20 March 2025 (University approval)