



DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHY OR THERAPEUTIC RADIOGRAPHY... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

START
HERE

5 x GCSEs at
Levels 9-4 /
A-C, including
Maths, English
and Science

THEN ONE
OF THESE...

2-3 A levels
including physics,
chemistry, biology
or human biology

OR

L3 qualification:
• BTEC, HND or HNC
which includes science
• relevant NVQ
• equivalent Scottish or
Irish qualifications
• IBAC

OR

Access course
in Science

You want to study Radiography to pick but what's the difference???

Diagnostic Radiographer

Therapeutic Radiographer

IMPORTANT: PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CHOSEN UNIVERSITY FOR THEIR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, THE SOONER THE BETTER!

Diagnostic means to identify the nature and cause of a certain phenomenon, in this case what is causing an illness.

Using a series of fancy kit and awesome techniques you'll look inside a patient's body to find out what's making them ill.

Techniques you'll get to use:

- **X-Ray** – look at cavities, bones and foreign objects (that penny up a kids nose)
- **CT (computed tomography)** – views cross-sections of the body
- **MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)** – will give a 2D or 3D map of tissues
- **Ultrasound** – check circulation and examine the heart, as well as antenatal work

You can specialise and become very knowledgeable in either bits of kit i.e. CT or sonography (ultrasound) OR you can specialise in who you work with i.e. children, stroke or cancer patients.

You will provide a **key** service for most departments within the hospital, without you diagnoses wouldn't happen!

Therapeutic means to treat or heal a certain disease. Normally we think drugs like antibiotics, but radiography is a crucial technique.

You'll use the latest technology to treat conditions such as cancers, tumours, thyroid conditions and blood disorders.

WHAT WOULD I DO?

You'd use doses of x-rays and other ionising radiation to treat medical conditions (mainly cancers). You'll need high levels of accuracy, it's super important that the tumour gets that kick-ass level of radiation BUT the surrounding healthy tissues receive little or no radiation. You'll be involved all the way through a patients treatment, from the initial referral and explaining what's happening to administering and then post-treatment reviews.

SKILLS: you'll need great communication and personal skills to work with people at a sensitive and upsetting time in their life. You'll need to develop a relationship with them; trust will give your patient confidence and make them feel so much better!

Remember this is a **life and death role**, patients will look to you for their treatment and hopefully a cure.

Both degrees will take 3-4 years to complete full-time, or 6 years part time

Area of healthcare service: You'll be based in the Allied Health Professions

PAY IN BOTH ROLES IS EXTREMELY SIMILAR: STARTING £21K – MOVING UP TO £68K

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