

Programme Specification

Programme Title and Name of Award	PGDip Medical Imaging		
Academic Level	7	Total Credits	120
Professional Body Accreditation / Qualification	Approved by the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR)		
Date of Professional Body Accreditation	May 2021	Accreditation Period	5 years
UCAS Code	Not applicable		
HECoS Code	100129		
Criteria for Admission to the Programme	<p>The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the Applicant Information pages of the University website for more information. For APL, please refer to the University website. APL will usually be granted for academic credits achieved at another college of Radiographers accredited UK Medical Imaging course, provided an adequate match can be made to this course. APL from other courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis but must always be at the appropriate academic level and have a high match to the learning outcomes to modules on this pathway.</p> <p>Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage: http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/medical-imaging-pgd/</p> <p>Selection criteria:</p> <p>It is recommended that students have at least 12 months' equivalent full-time experience in general radiography. They will need support from a clinical department and access to a suitable clinical placement in such a department for the duration of the course. A mentor will be appointed – a senior member of staff with experience in Reporting/Advanced Practice in radiography who will be able to report on the student's progress through the course.</p>		
Teaching Institution	University of Cumbria		
Owning Institute	Health		

Programme delivered in conjunction with	NHS and possible private sector placement providers
Principal Mode of Delivery	Blended learning
Pattern of Delivery	This is a flexible part time pathway that may be completed over 2-4 years. Module delivery is via one-week academic study blocks, for most modules, though some are delivered by distance learning.
Delivery Site(s)	Distance Learning and both Lancaster and Fusehill campus
Programme Length	Up to 2 years standard and 4 years maximum
Exit Awards	You may be awarded one of the following Exit Awards if you fail to achieve the requirements of the full programme. PGCert Medical Imaging – 60 credits You may be awarded the following Exit Awards if you fail to achieve the clinical requirements of the programme and which are not SCoR Accredited: PGDip The Theory of Medical Imaging – 120 credits but no QCPM PGCert The Theory of Medical Imaging – 60 credits but no QCPM
Period of Approval	August 2023 - July 2029
<p>This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage: http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/medical-imaging-pgd/</p>	

Cumbria Graduate Attributes

Throughout your studies, you will be provided with the skills and knowledge relevant to the global workplace. All successful graduates of the University of Cumbria will be:

- Enquiring and open to change
- Self-reliant, adaptable and flexible
- Confident in your discipline as it develops and changes over time
- Capable of working across disciplines and working well with others
- Confident in your digital capabilities

- Able to manage your own professional and personal development
- A global citizen, socially responsible and aware of the potential contribution of your work to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and its impact on the environment
- A leader of people and of places
- Ambitious and proud

Programme Features

The Medical Imaging programme aims to develop a variety of health professionals with roles in imaging modalities such as ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and general Advanced Practise for Radiographers.

There are limited post-graduate routes for radiographers working in general practice to progress and attain level 7 credits. The four tier and 'banding' system within the NHS and progression in the non-NHS sector for motivated radiographers to advance in their chosen field is enhanced by demonstrating motivation to study and learn in the academic setting. Hospital managers have verbally expressed their concern at the lack of post graduate modules available that can significantly enhance practice for staff working in general radiography. These discussions have prompted this programme design and pathway. The programme includes modules that will enhance both professionalism as well as practice and allows you, the student to negotiate a bespoke programme of study that meets your own learning needs.

The Mentorship (Contemporary Mentoring and Assessment in Diverse Clinical Environments) module which is specific to the PGCert route allows you to develop your knowledge and skills to support the learning and assessment of students in practice, in order to develop in the role of mentor/supervisor.

The aim of the Leadership module (HLLG7006) which is specific to PGDip route is to examine the nature of leadership and in particular its role in health and social care organisations. It allows you to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of theories of management and leadership and to critically evaluate different approaches to understanding self and organisations.

This is a flexible part-time (PT) programme that will appeal to a wide range of healthcare professionals who wish to develop advanced general radiographic practice skills as an extension of their scope of practice. This sits within the MSc Medical Imaging programme and is aimed at those employed within a suitable clinical environment. This allows you to negotiate a bespoke programme of study that meets your own learning needs

Students will be supported in developing their skills to become autonomous practitioners, who are able to undertake advanced practice safely. The development of critical, analytical and evaluative skills and incorporating these into the clinical environment, encouraging evidence based practice will be a fundamental part of the course.

The principal academic staff members on the programme team are university lecturers as well as still practicing extended role radiographers clinically in the NHS or private sectors. The programme is also supported by colleagues from the wider medical science programmes at the University of Cumbria.

Learning outcomes for all modules are those that will enable practitioners to develop their skills, both clinically and academically to fulfil their role within the NHS. The programme maintains high academic standing and clinical relevance by involving senior specialist clinical practitioners in

curriculum planning and delivery as well as providing mentorship support for students during any specialist clinical placement activities.

Programme Learning Outcomes

By the end of this Programme learners will be able to:

1. To prepare students for the next stage in their careers and improve their employability by developing their understanding and clinical expertise in the theory and application of Advanced Practice for Medical Imaging in their chosen domain.
2. To facilitate and support effective learning and develop students' abilities to reflect on their professional practice so that they will continue as independent practitioners with a commitment to lifelong learning, scholarship and research.
3. To ensure students have a comprehensive knowledge base and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their area of professional practice.
4. To ensure the students understand the role and responsibilities of mentorship in the clinical setting and are able to critically analyse and evaluate theories of learning and teaching and contemporary approaches to mentorship to facilitate learning within practice-based settings.
5. To ensure the student has the skills to critically analyse and evaluate the principles of assessment and apply these to learners in practice settings with consideration to accountability and responsibility with reference to your professional code.
6. To ensure the student has the skills to critically discuss the application of evidence-based practice and leadership skills in mentorship using a reflective approach.

The programme aims, at the point of graduation, to produce graduates who will be able to:

7. Practice competently according to the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Practice for Radiographers (2023)* and the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) Code of Conduct and Ethics.
8. Critically evaluate the quality of the evidence-base and articulate difficulties related to its implementation in complex clinical situations.
9. Demonstrate clear supervision, leadership and management abilities through appropriate decision-making, resource allocation and team working.
10. Understand and apply the values enshrined within the NHS Constitution in all aspects of their professional practice.
11. Plan and be prepared to undertake research in practice.

Level Descriptors

Level Descriptors describe in general terms the expected outcomes you will achieve at each level of study as you progress through your programmes. They describe the relative demand, complexity, depth of learning and learner autonomy associated with a particular level of learning and achievement. The University's Level Descriptors are aligned to the national [Framework for Higher](#)

[Education Qualifications](#) (FHEQ) and are a key mechanism for ensuring the academic standards of the University's provision.

At Level 7 (Usually Master's level), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

- To display a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
- Employ advanced subject-specific and cognitive skills to enable decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Generate new ideas and support the achievement of desired outcomes.
- Accept accountability for decision making including the use of supervision.
- Analyse complex concepts and professional situations by means of synthesis of personal and workplace reflection and data drawn from scholarship and research in the field.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 60 credits of study (PGCert) Medical Imaging you will be able to demonstrate:

K1. The principles of image assessment and the formation and the relationships between tissue structure and image appearances.

K2. The requirements of diagnostic test requests and the advice which should be given to other health care professionals on matters of diagnostic imaging.

K3. The evaluation of the medico-legal implications of using imaging techniques and the subsequent dissemination of the diagnostic information provided.

K4. A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

K5. A practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in their clinical domain.

After 120 credits of study (PGDip) Medical Imaging you will be able to demonstrate:

K6. Develop awareness of the nature of leadership and management issues in advanced radiography practice.

K7. Plan and carry out a research study.

K8. The methods used to locate, interrogate, evaluate and synthesise the evidence in their chosen area of study.

K9. The role of diagnostic imaging specialists in a multi-disciplinary environment.

K10. A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

K11. A practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in their clinical domain.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes (including Employability Skills)

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 60 credits of study (PGCert) Medical Imaging you will be able to demonstrate:

- S1.** The capacity for enquiry, inductive and deductive reasoning and critical thinking and analysis.
- S2.** A creative and independent approach to learning contributing to peer learning and support.
- S3.** Synthesise information from a wide range of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of the relationship between theory and practice.
- S4.** To ensure the student has the skills to critically analyse and evaluate the principles of assessment and apply these to learners in practice settings with consideration to accountability and responsibility with reference to your professional code.
- S5.** Reflect on and evaluate your own academic, professional and clinical performance, exercising autonomy in the management of your learning and recording of continuing professional development.

After 120 credits of study (PGDip) Medical Imaging you will be able to demonstrate:

- S6.** Critically evaluate research techniques/methodologies, where appropriate propose new hypotheses.
- S7.** Demonstrate key transferable skills such as; information fluency skills, appropriate communication skills and the ability to manage resources effectively in the planning, commissioning and delivery of imaging services.
- S8.** Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of theories of management and leadership and critically evaluate different approaches to understanding self and organisations.
- S9.** Manage change effectively in response to changing demands.
- S10.** Use information technology (IT) competently and appropriately to support academic studies and advanced radiographic practice.
- S11.** To ensure the student has the skills to critically discuss the application of evidence-based practice and leadership skills in mentorship using a reflective approach

External and Internal Reference Points

The following Subject Benchmark Statements and other external and internal reference points have been used to inform the Programme Outcomes:

Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) professional standards in Radiography

Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) guidelines on professional standards

Internal drivers having informed the development include:

University Academic Strategy

Institute Business Plan for Medical and Sport Sciences

[UoC Strategic Plan](#)

Graduate Prospects

General radiographers with advanced practice skills remain a recognised shortage profession within the UK. Radiographers with general projectional experience often transfer into other modalities, not long after qualification, for band progression and to gain an opportunity for post graduate qualifications.

This programme offers an opportunity to gain extended skills in mentorship, leadership and commenting in image evaluation for MSK and Chest imaging. All of these skills are required by a general imaging department to provide a quality service and support new staff and students. The Leadership skills gained via this programme can be utilised in many aspects of day-to-day clinical practice in a variety of roles and will enhance your ability to manage many situations.

Your advanced critical thinking, research and independent enquiry skills, acquired from completing this programme of study, will put you in a great position to advance your career and to take on the challenges that clinical leadership and more senior clinical roles can bring.

Further career development opportunities exist for general radiographers. These include clinical role extension through further study, research engagement and development of a clinical management or clinical academic role. The University of Cumbria offer a wide portfolio of health related CPD modules as well as support for study up to doctoral level.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies employed to enable the Programme Outcomes to be Achieved and Demonstrated

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in a collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance, on placement or in the workplace. Facilitated by our expert practitioner staff, you will experience a learning environment that is well equipped, flexible, and stimulating.

The programme and modules are structured to meet the needs of students and employers. Taught components of the academic modules on the programme are delivered in attendance blocks at the university followed by clinical learning blocks in the designated clinical placement. Students are supported on placement by experienced mentors who have been trained by the university. Students are also able to access UoC digital resources, library facilities, [Pebblepad](#) and Blackboard (VLE), whilst on placement. Students will also be supported by their personal tutor, who is a member of the academic team at the university. The clinical aspects of the programme are documented in the students' clinical e-portfolio and it is a requirement of the programme that students take ownership of this portfolio throughout the programme in line with professional requirements to maintain lifelong learning and to monitor and ensure clinical progress and competence.

Learning is based within academic study and professional practice, and the programme team collaborates with experienced clinical ultrasound practitioners. These practitioners perform key roles

in helping to maintain the currency and relevance of the programme through their involvement in curriculum planning and delivery as well as providing mentorship support for students during placement blocks.

Learning and assessment are considered as interrelated, as the assessments enable students to demonstrate the extent to which they have achieved the learning outcome of modules and the programme of study overall. Students are supported throughout the assessment process.

There are extensive opportunities within the clinical sphere, evidenced within the assessments in the form of reflective practice, for students to engage with inter-professional learning. Examples of how this might be achieved are: through other imaging modalities/radiology reporting sessions within an imaging department or reflective practice based on working with the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) on clinical placement.

A wide range of assessment methods are used which are clinically relevant and aligned to programme and module level learning outcomes.

Intellectual, professional and key transferable skills are central to learning opportunities and assessment. Successfully undertaking modules on this programme will enhance opportunities for students in their professional careers.

Student Support

We provide responsive learner support that promotes student success. Our approach to learner support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

Induction

There are a range of induction materials on the programme Blackboard site. In addition, you will be offered an induction to the programme on commencing the postgraduate certificate.

Induction portfolios are available from the New Students My.Cumbria page:

<https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/New-Students/>

- Postgraduate Induction Portfolio
- International Induction Portfolio

Personal Tutoring

You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. They will support your learning and development, including through tutorials, Progress Reviews and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutoring Policy.

Personal Development Planning

Personal development planning is integral to the programme, the portfolio of modules will progress your training, in-line with professional body requirements for lifelong learning and continued professional development. You will be required to demonstrate proficiency in pre-defined areas of

advanced practice such as mentorship, assessment and leadership. This will be demonstrated via the assessments for these modules.

Library Services and Academic Skills

The Library home page can be accessed here: <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning>.

Module leaders will collaborate with Library Services to ensure that your online reading and resource lists are current and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using [OneSearch](#) and you can find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's [subject resources webpages](#). Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically on Blackboard using the University's [online reading and resource list system](#).

Each campus library has a dedicated webpage. Check out local information about opening hours, reserving books, using self-service kiosks, printing and photocopying, booking study spaces and more. <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/>

An [Ask a Librarian](#) service runs from 17:00 - 09:00 weekdays and round the clock on weekends and holidays. This means you can get professional help using about library services, finding information, referencing and searching, even when the library is closed. <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/Ask/>

The [Skills@Cumbria](#) service can help support your academic, library and digital skills and success throughout your programme. It includes a suite of [online self-help resources](#) accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site.

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Library and [Skills@Cumbria](#) Services. Additional skills support for students is offered via:

- [Workshops](#)
- [Appointments](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Learn Well at Cumbria](#)
- [Study from Home Webpage](#)
- [Digital Capabilities](#) and [LinkedIn Learning Pathways](#)

[Head Start to Postgraduate Study](#): This free online pre-entry Master's level course is available free of charge through Blackboard. It provides a useful insight into the academic requirements of study at postgraduate level, including advice from academic tutors and current students, and an opportunity to refresh and develop the library, academic and digital skills for this level. It is recommended to students who are about to start their PG qualification.

The module is accessible via Blackboard on a self-enrol basis, where you receive badges and certificate of completion, or there is a non-certificated open access version available via the [Head Start webpage](#).

Student Support Services

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)

- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)
- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty \(SpLD\)](#)
- [International Student Support](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Money Matters](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Skills@Cumbria](#)
- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)
- [University Student Accommodation](#)

Further support and guidance, including EDI and Safeguarding: We are an inclusive community, committed to supporting and learning from each other, find out more about [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#). Depending on the nature of your course, you may well already know about or be learning about safeguarding in a professional context and to find out about the University of Cumbria's safeguarding policy and procedures visit: [Safeguarding](#).

Student Voice

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me.

You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

IT and Technical Support

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent [IT facilities](#) we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access university electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The [Student Hub](#) is your one-stop gateway to all University systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.

Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the [IT Services website](#) and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

University Cumbria Students' Union (UCSU) Student Support

UCSU offers a free, independent and confidential advice service to all students. They can help with things like academic appeals, extenuating circumstances or if you're considering a formal complaint. UCSU are also on hand to represent you in any formal meetings, for example in malpractice panels or fitness to practice meetings. Appointments are telephone based and can be booked at www.ucsu.me/support.

Programme Curriculum Map					
Academic Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Module Status*	Programme Outcomes achieved
7	HMSR7120	Commenting skills for Radiographers Appendicular + Axial Skeleton	20	Core	K 1-5; S 1-5
7	HMSR7140	Commenting skills for Radiographers Chest	20	Core	K 1-5; S 1-5
7	HCPD7100	Contemporary Mentoring and Assessment in Diverse Clinical Environments	20	Core	K 1-5; S 1-5
7	HMSR7150	Negotiated Learning in CPD Medical Imaging 2 (Single Weighted Module)	20	Core	K 6,7,8,9,11; S 1-9
7	HMSU7074	Research Methods in Medical Imaging	20	Core	K 6-8, K10; S 1-11
7	HLLG7006	Leadership	20	Core	K 4-11; S 1-11
Notes					
<p>This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes</p> <p>On the PGDip students choose from a selection of CPD Modules within Medical Imaging and 20 credits must be obtained from these subject specific modules or as a Negotiated Learning module (above) as agreed with the Programme Leader.</p>					

* Key to Module Statuses	
Core Modules	Must be taken and must be successfully passed.

Programme Delivery Structure: Part Time

The date of module delivery and assessment deadlines on some modules may be subject to change.

Module Code	Module Title	Delivery Pattern	Method(s) of Assessment	Indicative Assessment Deadline
		Sept – Dec Jan – May June – Aug		
HMSR7120	Commenting skills for Radiographers Appendicular + Axial Skeleton	Sept – Dec	1 x essay; 1 x OSCE	November / April
HMSR7140	Commenting skills for Radiographers Chest	Jan – May	1 x essay; 1 x OSCE	July
HCPD7100	Contemporary Mentoring and Assessment in Diverse Clinical Environments	Extended	1 x portfolio	Dec/June
<p>Students exiting at this point with 60 credits and a pass in the QCPM could receive a PGCert Medical Imaging</p> <p>In the case of a student successfully passing 60 academic credits but a failure in the QCPM, they may receive a PGCert</p> <p>The Theory of Medical Imaging award</p>				
HMSR7150	Negotiated Learning in CPD Medical Imaging 2 (Single Weighted Module)	Year - long	1 x essay; 1 x report	N/A
HLLG7006	Leadership	Extended	On-going assessments; 1 x report	Sep/ Jan/Apr
HMSU7074	Research Methods in Medical Imaging	Jan – May	1 x report	March

Students exiting at this point with 120 credits and a pass in the QCPM could receive a PGDip Medical Imaging
In the case of a student successfully passing 120 academic credits but a failure in the QCPM, they may receive a PGDip
The Theory of Medical Imaging award

Exceptions to Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes with no exceptions due to the requirements of professional bodies.

Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Learning

Mechanisms used for the Review and Evaluation of the Curriculum and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

- Module Evaluation
- Programme Validation and Periodic Review
- Annual Monitoring
- Peer Review
- External Examiner Reports
- Clinical Placement Evaluations
- Online Forums (Blackboard etc)
- Student Module Evaluations (given to students on completion of each academic module)
- Personal Tutor meetings with feedback to Module and Programme Leads
- Informal discussion with students
- Staff-Student Forum Meetings (SSFs)
- Student Success and Quality Assurance Committee
- Stakeholder and Steering Group meetings
- Module Assessment Boards
- University Assessment Board

Mechanisms used for gaining and responding to feedback on the quality of teaching and the learning experience – gained from: Students, graduates, employers, placement and work-based learning providers, other stakeholders, etc.

- Staff Student Forum
- Module Evaluation Forms
- Programme Evaluation: National Student Survey, UK Engagement Survey
- Module/Programme/Personal tutorials
- Meetings with External Examiners

Date of Programme Specification Production:

October 2022

Date Programme Specification was last updated:	December 2022
For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website	

The following information has implications for potential international applicants who require a Student Visa to study in the UK	
Is the placement requirement more than 50% of the programme?	No
If yes, what % of the programme is the placement requirement?	N/A
If yes, is the amount of placement a statutory requirement to meet Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) or Department of Education requirements?	No