# Course Specification

| Course Summary Information | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Course Title** | MSc Radiography |
| 2 | **Course Code** | PT0854 – MSc<br>PT1044 – PG Dip<br>PT0879 – PG Cert |
| 3 | **Awarding Institution** | Birmingham City University |
| 4 | **Teaching Institution(s)** | N/A |
| 5 | **Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) approval** | College of Radiographers (CoR) |

| 6 | **Course Description** |
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| | This part-time Master's degree in Radiography is designed to support practising radiographers who wish to train as advanced practitioners while continuing in employment. This course will prepare you for extended roles in radiography to improve service capacity and patient access to high quality imaging.<br><br>The MSc Radiography course has been developed in response to increasing demand for advanced-level radiography practitioners across the UK healthcare system. This demand is driven by workforce shortages, the expansion of diagnostic services, and national policy drivers such as the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan, which highlights the need for flexible training routes and enhanced skill sets within the diagnostic imaging workforce.<br><br>Radiographers are well-placed to expand their scope of practice as they bring existing core competencies in anatomy, physiology, pathology, image acquisition, and patient care, as outlined in the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Radiographers and the College of Radiographers' (CoR) Education and Career Framework. However, access to College of Radiographers approved training courses remains limited in many regions, and the profession requires flexible, clinically embedded postgraduate routes to support service delivery and professional development.<br><br>The course is delivered through a blend of academic learning, simulation, and workplace-based clinical education. Support from their clinical environment is a pre-requisite for entry, ensuring you can gain hands-on experience under appropriate supervision.<br><br>The course provides:<br><br>• A flexible learning model to support working professionals across NHS and independent sectors<br>• Development of independent reporting and decision-making skills underpinned by legal, ethical and professional knowledge<br>• A focus on evidence-based practice, critical appraisal and service improvement.<br><br>The course also reflects the increasing role of radiographers and contributes to diagnosis and patient management through education, leadership, clinical practice and research. You will graduate with the skills to undertake autonomous practice within professional and departmental protocols, and to engage in further advanced or consultant-level practice. |

| 7 | Course Awards | | |
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| **7a** | **Name of Final Award** | **Level** | **Credits Awarded** |
| | MSc Radiography | 7 | 180 |
| **7b** | **Exit Awards and Credits Awarded** | | |
| | Postgraduate Certificate Radiography<br>Postgraduate Certificate Radiography (Musculoskeletal Reporting)<br>Postgraduate Certificate Radiography (Chest and Abdomen Reporting)<br>Postgraduate Certificate Radiography (CT Head Reporting)<br>Postgraduate Certificate Radiography (CT Applications)<br>Postgraduate Certificate Radiography (MRI) | 7 | 60 |
| | Postgraduate Diploma Radiography<br>Postgraduate Diploma Radiography (Image Reporting)<br>Postgraduate Diploma Radiography (MRI) | 7 | 120 |

| 8 | Variation from the University Regulations |
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| | This course has approved variations to the University's Academic Regulations. These can be accessed via the student contract page: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract. |

| 9 | Delivery Patterns | | | |
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| **Mode(s) of Study** | **Location(s) of Study** | **Duration of Study** | **Code(s)** |
| MSc (part-time) | City South campus | 6 years | PT0854 |
| PG Diploma (part-time) | City South campus | 4 years | PT1044 |
| PG Certificate (part time) | City South campus | 2 years | PT0879 |

| 10 | Entry Requirements |
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| | The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/. |

| 11 | Course Aims |
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| | The MSc in Radiography aims to develop advanced knowledge, critical insight, and professional competence in radiographic practice, giving you the ability to pursue excellence in both clinical and leadership roles.<br><br>Through the integration of applied academic learning and structured clinical experience, the course promotes evidence-based decision-making, professional autonomy, and accountability in advanced radiographic practice. |

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| | With an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, you will gain the skills necessary to work effectively within diverse healthcare teams, ensuring patient-centred care.<br><br>The course also prepares graduates for enhanced roles in the workforce by fostering high-level clinical proficiency, reflective practice, and a commitment to continuous professional development (CPD). Additionally, the course ensures that you acquire a global perspective, preparing them to contribute ethically and effectively to the international healthcare community. |

| 12 | **Course Learning Outcomes** |
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| | This MSc Radiography course is designed to meet the requirements of:<br><br>• FHEQ Level 7 academic standards<br>• CoR Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (4th edition)<br>• RCR/CoR: Standards for the education, training and preceptorship of reporting practitioners in Musculoskeletal imaging (2022)<br>• RCR/CoR: Standards for the education, training and preceptorship of reporting practitioners in adult chest x-rays (2023)<br><br>It ensures that radiographers completing the course are equipped to deliver safe, effective, and autonomous radiographic practice within the scope of an enhanced/advanced practitioner role within Radiography. |
| **1** | Demonstrate expert and autonomous diagnostic radiography practice across imaging modalities, adapting techniques appropriately for complex patients and pathology presentations while maintaining high technical and ethical standards. |
| **2** | Apply advanced theoretical and scientific knowledge (including anatomy, physiology, pathology, imaging physics, radiation protection) to routine and novel imaging situations to optimise diagnostic accuracy and patient safety. |
| **3** | Use current evidence, research, and guidelines to inform and justify changes in practice, contribute to improved service delivery, and lead innovation in imaging practice |
| **4** | Demonstrate capacity to lead or engage in research or service evaluation, synthesising knowledge, designing/implementing small-scale studies, interpreting findings, and applying them to practice. |
| **5** | Demonstrate leadership or specialist role effectiveness, including supervising, mentoring, collaborating across multidisciplinary teams, and contributing to service development or pathway optimisation. |
| **6** | Maintain and promote patient safety and quality assurance, including radiation protection, ergonomic safe practice, risk identification, management of unexpected/clinically significant findings, and escalation procedures. |
| **7** | Adapt practice to meet diverse patient needs, understanding and addressing issues of equality, diversity, inclusion, cultural competence, communication differences and the impact of historic/social factors on healthcare outcomes. |
| **8** | Engage in reflective professional practice and continuing personal development, identifying learning needs, using feedback, reflecting on strengths and weaknesses, planning and undertaking further learning or research. |

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| **9** | Critically evaluate, synthesize and contribute to clinical governance and audit activities, including imaging discrepancy reviews, equipment evaluation, protocol development, and risk management to improve service quality. |
| **10** | Understand and apply legal, ethical, and regulatory frameworks relevant to advanced radiography practice, including professional scope, registration requirements, consent, confidentiality, data protection and organisational policy. |

| **13** | **Level Learning Outcomes** |
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| | ***Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7 / the PG Cert, students will be able to:*** |
| **1** | Demonstrate a critical understanding of radiographic practice, underpinned by current research, professional guidelines, and relevant policy frameworks at local, national, and international levels. |
| **2** | Apply theoretical knowledge to clinical scenarios, demonstrating the ability to critically evaluate and synthesise information to inform evidence-based decision-making within radiographic practice. |
| **3** | Exercise autonomy and initiative in professional practice, demonstrating ethical reasoning, accountability, and sound judgement in managing clinical complexity and uncertainty. |
| **4** | Demonstrate autonomy and leadership in professional practice, taking responsibility for clinical decision-making, service development, and contributing to the strategic goals of imaging services and the wider healthcare system. |
| | ***Upon completion of 120 credits at Level 7 / the PG Dip, students will be able to:*** |
| **1** | Demonstrate a comprehensive and systematic understanding of advanced radiographic practice, including the integration of emerging technologies, evidence-based guidelines, and the evolving professional and regulatory landscape. |
| **2** | Evaluate and synthesise a wide range of evidence and theoretical perspectives, drawing on current research and advanced scholarship to inform and enhance radiographic practice, service improvement, and innovation |
| **3** | Critically evaluate and apply research evidence, demonstrating a sound understanding of research principles and methodologies relevant to radiographic practice, and their application in improving service delivery and patient outcomes. |
| **4** | Engage confidently with research methods and quality improvement methodologies, demonstrating the ability to design, implement, and critically evaluate small-scale service improvement or practice-based research projects. |
| | ***Upon completion of 180 credits at Level 7 MSc, students will be able to:*** |
| **1** | Critically apply advanced theoretical and clinical knowledge to complex and unpredictable situations, exercising professional judgement, ethical reasoning, and innovative problem-solving in line with the requirements for extended and advanced practice roles. |
| **2** | Demonstrate intellectual agility and originality in the evaluation and application of research, theory, and policy, contributing to the advancement of practice, education, leadership, or service transformation within radiography and wider healthcare settings. |

| 14 | Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy |
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**How will you learn**

A variety of learning and teaching strategies are adopted during the course. Lectures are delivered by school staff and clinical colleagues who are experts in their field. This includes consultant radiologists or reporting radiographers, clinical leaders and specialists from manufacturers. The range of external speakers will be dependent on the modules you choose to study. A range of teaching strategies will be adopted and may include whole group work, small group work, tutorials, online quizzes and access to the Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) which is our image repository. For reporting courses Formative Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) will be offered at every contact session to help monitor your progress and give an opportunity for discussion. Image sessions will be utilised in support of taught content. Furthermore, students who undertake an image reporting module will require 1 day a week in the clinical setting to allow you to report and meet with your clinical supervisor. Having a clinical supervisor and dedicated study time in your clinical departments is a requirement for the reporting modules.

The course will allow for broad discussion to allow you to draw on your clinical expertise and share information and will equip you with the skills required to execute activities relevant to your area of study. Directed learning while on this course may include audio/video presentations, online quizzes, engaging with online discussions and producing online material. This will be supported by our Virtual Learning Environment. (VLE).

**Assessments**

A range of assessments are used throughout the course. The core modules for this course utilise a number of different forms of assessment relevant to the module learning outcomes.
Thereafter the assessment you will have to submit will be individual to the module you choose to study.

**Formative Assessment**

This type of learning takes place to help prepare you for a summative assessment; for example, when studying for an examination or doing research for an essay. In order to facilitate this type of learning you will be offered formative (practice) opportunities during your course. When you have completed a formative assessment, you will be given feedback on how you have performed and guidance (feedforward) on how you should proceed with your learning. Sometimes this formative feedback is from your student peers, working together to develop each other. The final assessment which gives the mark for the module is known as a summative assessment and listed below are the type of summative assessments used in the course and the corresponding formative learning.

The PG Cert/PGDip/MSc Radiography course is based upon the fundamental belief that the process of learning will be most effective if it is student centred and driven by your enthusiasm for learning and proactive engagement in the learning community.

**Course Delivery**

Our learning and teaching strategy includes a variety of methods to encourage a reflective and critical thinker, enabling you to become a confident and autonomous learner with sound academic and clinical knowledge The course consists of a range of 20 and 40 credit modules, depending on the award, and these can be studied as a module only option. Our 20 credit Professional Practice, Reflection and Leadership module is core for all Postgraduate Certificates Radiography award and the 20 credit Research Methods of Enquiry module is core for the Postgraduate Dip/MSc award.

All Reporting modules will require clinical reporting time equating to a minimum of 1 day per week.

Each module is designed to ensure that a range of pedagogical approaches are adopted. All modules will be supported by our VLE, Moodle, which will act as a repository for presentations, quizzes, and video lectures supporting flipped classrooms and webinars. You are encouraged to lead some sessions and, in some modules, you can negotiate the module learning outcomes. By taking a learner-centric approach this course will allow you to realise their full potential and succeed in their development to become enhanced/advanced practitioners. Central to this overarching intent is the fostering of a culture that continually supports innovation and improvement within our students. During the course it is expected that you will attend the university on the timetabled days for your modules.

Modules run to a 6-month delivery time for 20 credits and 12 months for 40 credit modules.

The course will allow for broad discussion to give you the opportunity to draw on their clinical expertise and share information and will equip them with the skills required to execute activities relevant to their area of study.

| **Summative assessment** | **Formative learning** |
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| Essays and written assignments | Workshops<br>Question & answer sessions<br>Online quizzes<br>Formative examinations |
| Portfolio | Practice writing short sections (patches)<br>Marking example assignments<br>Question & answer sessions |
| Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) | Learning and Practicing reporting technique<br>Discussing reports with clinical supervisor<br>Keeping a reflective log of reports<br>Calculating level of accuracy<br>Formative OSCE |
| Oral Presentations | Practice writing elements of the poster<br>Marking example posters<br>Question & answer sessions<br>Annotated Bibliography |
| Poster Presentations | Producing PowerPoint sessions<br>Marking example PowerPoint sessions<br>Marking online/video presentations<br>Mini Presentation to student peer group |

**Clinical Practice**
If you are studying a particular imaging modality, we recommend that they work within this modality in the clinical setting. We do stipulate 1 day a week reporting time in the clinical setting for reporting modules, and this will be guided self-study to gain practical experience. This will allow you to report, meet with their clinical supervisor and attend multi-disciplinary meetings (MDT). Their individual learning is based on professional clinical practice alongside their academic studies.

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| | **Course structure**<br><br>Modules within this course are delivered as block release, single days or half days on campus and there is also online delivery.<br><br>You will study Professional Practice, Reflection and Leadership (PPRL) in the first year as a core module for PGCert Radiography. Research Methods of Enquiry is the 2nd of the 2 core modules for Postgraduate Diploma Radiography.<br><br>PPRL will prepare you for level 7 study by helping them to develop their study skills underpinning Academic skills, Reflection and Leadership styles and their application and context within healthcare.<br><br>You must study Research: Methods of Enquiry (20 credits) at the diploma level which will prepare them for the final MSc dissertation.<br><br>You will have 2 options available to them regarding the pathway they decide to take to complete their MSc Radiography: 40 or 60 credit dissertation modules.<br><br>Please note modules on this course will only run if they are viable to do so. |

| 15 | **Course Requirements** |
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**15a** **Level 7:**

**MSc Radiography:**

***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits or 100 credits depending on Dissertation option):***

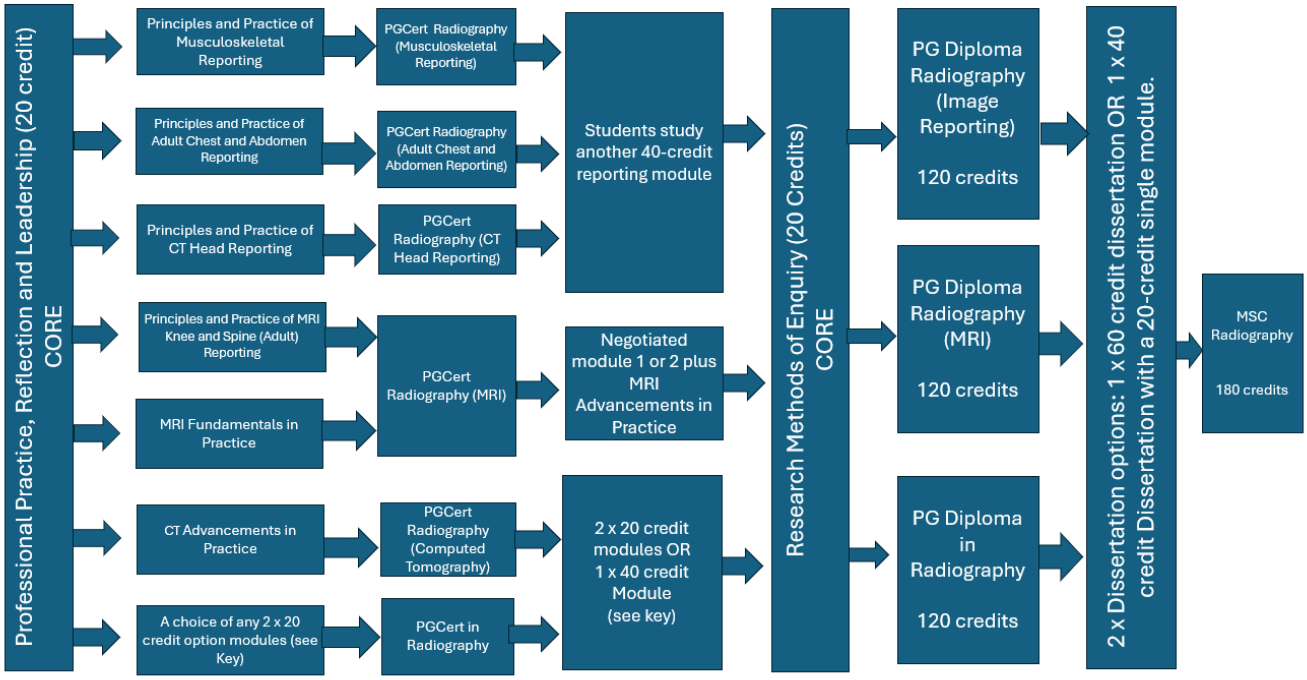
| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value |
|---|---|---|
| LBR7733 | Professional Practice, Reflection and Leadership. | 20 |
| LBR7339 | Research: Methods of Enquiry | 20 |
| LBR7467<br>LBR7337 | MSc Dissertation | 40<br>60 |

***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 80 credits (completing with 60 credit Dissertation) or 100 credits (completing with 40 credit dissertation) from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.***

| Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value |
|---|---|---|
| LBR7739 / 7740 | Negotiated Module One or Two | 20 credits |
| LBR7731 | Cross-Sectional Imaging | |
| LBR7734 | Enhanced Radiography Practice | |
| LBR7736 | Introduction to Musculoskeletal Radiography Imaging Interpretation for Healthcare Professionals | |
| LBR7735 | Introduction to Adult Chest Radiograph Imaging Interpretation for Healthcare Professionals | |
| LBR7737 | MRI Advancements in Practice | |
| LBR7742 | Principles and Practice of CT Head Reporting | 40 credits |
| LBR7744 | Principles and Practice of Musculoskeletal Radiography Reporting | |
| LBR7741 | Principles and Practice of Adult Chest and Abdomen Radiography Reporting | |
| LBR7743 | Principles and Practice of MRI Knee and Spine Reporting | |
| LBR7732 | CT Advancements in Practice | |
| LBR7738 | MRI Fundamentals in Practice | |

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| | **If you are studying for a PG Cert or PG Dip, please refer to the structure diagram in section 15b below.** This shows the required combination of core and optional modules for your chosen award. |

## 15b Structure Diagram




*Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules, but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.*

**Level 7**

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| Core: PGCert<br>Professional Practice, Reflection and Leadership (PPRL) – 20 credits | Core: PGDip<br>Research: Methods of Enquiry – 20 credits |
| **Optional (20 credits)**<br>Negotiated Module One<br>Cross-Sectional Imaging<br>MRI Advancements in Practice<br>Enhanced Radiography Practice | **Optional (20 credits)**<br>Negotiated Module Two<br>Cross-Sectional Imaging<br>MRI Advancements in Practice<br>Enhanced Radiography Practice |

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|---|---|
| Introduction to Musculoskeletal Radiography Image Interpretation for Healthcare Professionals<br><br>Introduction to Adult Chest Radiograph Imaging Interpretation for Healthcare Professionals<br><br>**Optional (40 credits)**<br><br>Principles and Practice of CT Head Reporting<br><br>Principles and Practice of Musculoskeletal Radiography Reporting<br><br>Principles and Practice of Adult Chest and Abdomen Radiography Reporting<br><br>Principles and Practice of MRI Knee and Spine Reporting<br><br>CT Advancements in Practice<br><br>MRI Fundamentals in Practice | Introduction to Musculoskeletal Radiograph Image Interpretation for Healthcare Professionals<br><br>Introduction to Adult Chest Radiograph Imaging Interpretation for Healthcare Professionals<br><br>**Optional (40 credits)**<br><br>Principles and Practice of CT Head Reporting<br><br>Principles and Practice of Musculoskeletal Radiography Reporting<br><br>Principles and Practice of Adult Chest and Abdomen Radiography Reporting<br><br>Principles and Practice of MRI Knee and Spine Reporting<br><br>CT Advancements in Practice<br><br>MRI Fundamentals in Practice |

## 16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student workload consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The balance of assessment by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

**Workload**

**Level 7**

**49% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity**

| Activity | Number of Hours |
|---|---|
| Scheduled Learning | 282 |
| Directed Learning | 608 |
| Private Study | 910 |
| **Total Hours** | 1800 |

**Balance of Assessment**

| Assessment Mode | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Coursework | 60% |
| Exam | 20% |
| In-Person | 20% |