Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	MSc Therapeutic Radiography (pre-registration)
2	**Course Code**	PT1711
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	Health and Care Professions Council College of Radiographers

6	**Course Description**
	Therapeutic Radiography is a rewarding career that is challenging and has a combination of science, technology and patient care. The MSc Therapeutic Radiography (pre-registration) is a two-year, full time, qualifying course for graduates with a suitable and relevant first degree, providing an accelerated route into the profession. It is not for those who have already completed a qualification in Therapeutic Radiography. The MSc Therapeutic Radiography (pre-registration) course is the only MSc pre-registration course in Birmingham that covers oncology, radiotherapy technology and psychosocial issues surrounding cancer care. Our radiotherapy course will teach you to work with patients of all ages, to help relieve and/or cure the symptoms of their cancer. As the only education centre for radiography in the West Midlands region, our MSc Therapeutic Radiography (pre-registration) course will prepare you to be a fully qualified Therapeutic Radiographer once you have graduated. On qualification, you will be entitled to apply for registration with the regulator, the Health and Care Professions Council, to gain registered practitioner status and be able to practice in the UK. As a Therapeutic Radiographer, you will be responsible for preparing and administering radiation to cancer patients, operating highly technical radiation equipment, imaging patients with the latest technology, monitoring patients' progress and giving advice as they progress through radiotherapy treatment. You will develop specialist skills by spending time on clinical placements within hospital cancer centres, providing you with plenty of experience to develop professionally and gain valuable employability skills. Your academic studies will take place at our City South Campus, which features a radiotherapy treatment couch with laser alignment system, a Virtual Environment for Radiotherapy Training (VERT) and advanced treatment planning facilities. With use of these dedicated facilities, you will confidently develop essential skills within a safe educational environment. You will learn the science behind radiotherapy practice, as well as the human anatomy and physiology, radiation physics and radiobiology. You will also study the social and psychological aspects of cancer care and the needs of patients to ensure that you leave with all the skills needed to be a professional and expert Therapeutic Radiographer.

	As you advance your knowledge of radiotherapy practice and the science of oncology, you will develop analytical skills and will explore the research evidence that forms the basis of current and emergent practices. You will apply research strategies to health and care practice and merge your clinical skills and knowledge.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	MSc Therapeutic Radiography (pre-registration)	Level 7	180
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Postgraduate Certificate in Studies in Health Postgraduate Diploma in Studies in Health	Level 7 Level 7	60 120

8	Variations from the University Academic Regulations
	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		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time	City South	2 years	PT1711

10	Entry Requirements
	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
	The MSc Therapeutic Radiography (pre-registration) course will develop competent autonomous, compassionate, patient focussed and reflective therapeutic radiographers capable of problem solving and critical thinking with an adaptive approach to their focus and highly developed interpersonal skills capable of promoting high quality care tailored to the needs of service users and their carers. The course will: 1) Provide students with a supportive and engaging environment in which they can develop academic and professionally with the focus on providing exemplary patient focussed care which is highly skilled, evidence based and compassionate.

	2) Develop the clinical and research skills and professional attributes of a student's professional practice enabling them to demonstrate a level of competence as demanded by both the Health and Care Professions Council and the College of Radiographers. 3) Provide an environment and opportunities for students to develop their collaborative skills and effectiveness for working together with and learning from, a range of healthcare workers, fellow professionals, patients, their carers and other stakeholders within both the clinical and academic setting. 4) Enhance employability of our students, developing them into highly respected, caring, competent and autonomous graduates who are eligible for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council and who through their professional expertise are able to influence future healthcare provision. 5) Ensure that therapeutic radiography graduates are responsive to the needs of diverse cultures and have the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to practice and contribute effectively to a global workforce.

12	**Course Learning Outcomes**
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Apply the knowledge, skills and professional competence required of a qualified practicing therapeutic radiographer.
2	Examine and evaluate the application of theoretical physics, radiotherapy technologies and radiobiology.
3	Apply knowledge of radiation to maintain safety of self, service users and others within the radiotherapy environment.
4	Examine extensive theoretical knowledge of cancer and critically evaluate its management.
5	Critically appraise and be able to explain the rationale for use of different radiotherapy modalities and techniques including how radiotherapy technique may be adapted to meet the specialised needs of the patient.
	Skills and other attributes
6	Foster a highly skilled, patient focussed and compassionate approach with highly effective interpersonal, communication skills, teamwork and leadership competence to establish a career within therapeutic radiography practice.
7	Develop reflective skills and motivation to foster a pro-active lifelong approach and commitment to learning, enabling you to provide consistent service user focussed care, and adapt and support the implementation of changes within an ever-changing healthcare environment.
8	Develop effective collaborative working within and between a variety of healthcare teams.
9	Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.
10	Incorporate and embrace leadership strategies as a team leader and member to promote collaboration in both traditional and emerging health care settings.
11	Practice as a reflective, critical, evaluative and evidence-based therapeutic radiographer
12	Practice within the legal and ethical boundaries of therapeutic radiography and practice safely and effectively within your own scope of practice.
13	Develop into a highly respected, caring, competent and autonomous graduate who meets the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency, Standards of Conduct Performance and Ethics and is eligible to apply for registration as a therapeutic radiographer with the HCPC.

13	**Level Learning Outcomes**
	Upon completion of PG Certificate students will be able to:
	Evaluate the importance of professionalism in working practice
	Analyse and appraise key Therapeutic Radiography theory
	Upon completion of PG Diploma students will be able to:
	Critically appraise research and its application to Therapeutic Radiography practice.
	Apply understanding of complex aspects of therapeutic radiotherapy practice and undertake analysis of the evidence base that underpins recent developments in cancer care.
	Upon completion of Level 7 Master's of Science students will be able to:
	Meet the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency, Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics, and be eligible to apply for registration as a therapeutic radiographer with the HCPC.
	Identify and critically review relevant literature/methodologies and complete a chosen Therapeutic Radiography research task

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	There will be delivery of modules worth 100 credits during Year 1 alongside 15 weeks of clinical placement. During Year 2 there will be delivery of modules worth 80 credits alongside 20 weeks of clinical placement. We utilise a variety of methods within our learning and teaching strategy to encourage a reflective and critical thinking enabling students to become confident and autonomous learners with sound academic and clinical knowledge, so they are readily employable and well equipped for lifelong learning. The year plan is designed to integrate theory and practice using a modular approach with alternate blocks of academic studies and clinical practice across both years so that students can forge connections between their developing professional knowledge and practical skills as a developing therapeutic radiographer. Delivery of academic elements of the radiotherapy course are mainly at the university either face to face or through online learning platforms, through a blended approach to learning. Clinical experience is gained through attending clinical placement rotation and is reinforced within the university environment through the use of our dedicated skills suite and simulation activities. Our approach to teaching has been to embed fundamentals of professional knowledge within the first phases of the course so that students have a firm foundation in the science of radiotherapy practice and the basis of provision of high standards of patient care. From these, students will study increasingly more complex aspects of radiotherapy practice and undertake analysis of the evidence base that underpins recent developments in cancer care. As students progress through their course of study, the course content reflects the radiotherapy patient journey from initial diagnosis to follow up, and students will develop skills and understanding of each respective step of the radiotherapy workflow process. During the final stages of the course, students are encouraged to adopt self-critical and analytical approaches to their developing professional identity and their role as a therapeutic radiographer within the wider multidisciplinary cancer care team. Students will be assessed using a range of methods including examinations, assignments, presentations, case studies and clinical assessments and competencies.

	Formative assessment opportunities exist within all modules and helps students prepare for their summative assessments. Following completion of any formative assessment students will receive feedback on how they have performed as well as guidance on how they should proceed with their learning.

15	**Course Requirements**
15a	**Level 7:** ***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
LBR7649	Applied Radiation Science and Technology	20
LBR7651	Introduction to Radiotherapy Practice	20
HCS7004	Evidence Based Professional Practice (20 credits) Joint	20
LBR7650	Core Radiotherapy Practice	40
HSC7019	Consolidating Professional Practice	20
HSC7011	Healthcare Professional Project	40
LBR7648	Specialised Radiotherapy Practice	20

15b	Structure Diagram

Level 7

Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core LBR7649 Applied Radiation Science and Technology (20 credits) LBR7651 Introduction to Radiotherapy Practice (20 credits)	Core LBR7650 Core Radiotherapy Practice (40 credits)
Core HSC7004 Evidence Based Professional Practice (20 credits)	

Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core LBR7648 Specialised Radiotherapy Practice (20 credits)	
Core HSC7019 Consolidating Professional Practice (20 credits) Core HSC7011 MSc Healthcare Professional Project (40 credits)	

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 students 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.

Level 7

Workload

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	396 (22%)
Directed Learning	420 (23%)
Private Study	984 (55%)
Total Hours	1800 excluding 1190 placement hours

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	43%
Exam	14%
In-Person	43%