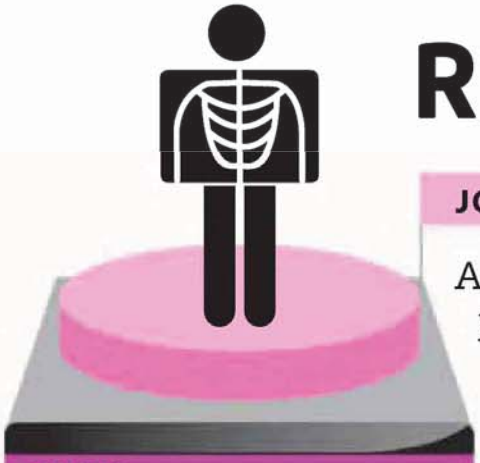
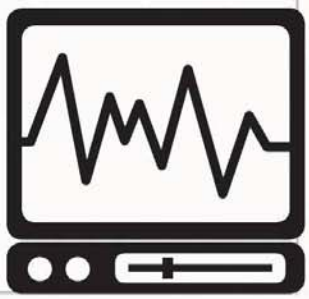


RADIOGRAPHER

JOB DESCRIPTION

A vital part of a hospital team, radiographers use X-rays and sound waves to specialize in either diagnosing disorders and injuries, such as broken bones, or to treat illnesses, such as some types of cancer. They combine an academic knowledge of anatomy and human biology with the technical skills needed to operate sophisticated equipment. Their caring and compassionate approach puts patients at ease.



SALARY

Newly qualified radiographer ★★☆☆☆
Experienced radiographer ★★★☆☆

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Growing profession within the health care industry • Opportunities in government-run and private settings • Rapidly changing techniques require regular training

AT A GLANCE

YOUR INTERESTS Biology • Human anatomy • Physics • Technology • Medicine • Helping people • Problem-solving

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS Most radiographers earn an associate's degree in radiation science. You must also pass a board exam before practicing.

LIFESTYLE Diagnostic radiographers work in shifts, while those working in the therapeutic branches of radiography have more regular hours.

LOCATION Radiographers mainly work in a hospital or clinic, within a specialized radiography unit or in an operating theater.

THE REALITIES Shift work does not suit everyone, and financial rewards are modest. The hospital environment can be physically and emotionally stressful.

CAREER PATHS

The radiography profession is split into two distinct strands. Diagnostic radiographers use imaging technologies, such as X-rays, Computed Tomography (CT), and ultrasound to diagnose illness and injury. Therapeutic radiographers use targeted doses of radiation to treat patients with conditions such as cancer.

ASSISTANT You may be able to help radiographers in day-to-day work as an assistant while studying to qualify as a radiographer.

GRADUATE When opting for a degree in radiography, you will study topics such as biology and anatomy.

RELATED CAREERS

- **MEDICAL DOCTOR** *see pp. 276–277*
- **CLINICAL SCIENTIST** Specializes in the research, development, and testing of medical equipment and advances in diagnostic techniques.
- **MEDICAL PHYSICIST** Develops new methods and technologies to investigate and treat illness, and also assists medical staff with the use and maintenance of complex medical equipment.
- **RADIOLOGIST** Interprets the results of radiographic tests before planning and carrying out treatments, including taking cell samples (biopsies) from the patient. They are qualified hospital doctors who have specialized in the diagnosis and treatment of illness.

SKILLS GUIDE

- Clear and effective communication skills for dealing with patients of all ages and from all backgrounds.
- Care and consideration for others for dealing sympathetically with patients who are ill and weak.
- Being a team player in coordinating patient treatments with other health care staff.
- A natural flair for working with complex technology and sophisticated scanning equipment.
- An eye for detail when interpreting scans to maintain high standards of patient care.

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHER
In this role, you use high-tech scanning equipment to diagnose illness and injury.

THERAPEUTIC RADIOGRAPHER
This type of radiography involves you planning and delivering doses of radiation to treat patients suffering from cancer.

SPECIALIST RADIOGRAPHER
Uses advanced types of diagnosis radiography, such as ultrasound or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and becomes involved in research into new imaging techniques.

CONSULTANT RADIOGRAPHER
Works in a range of settings, including hospitals, to develop and promote new and exciting research.