A Career in Radiology in the West Midlands

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What is Radiology

• ‘A career based around Imaging. It’s multi-modality. We use XRays, Ultrasound, CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine/PET-CT and Intervention to create images and report them’
What is Radiology

- ‘Clinical Radiology is the use of imaging to diagnose, treat and monitor various diseases. Rapid advances in technology and our understanding of the features of disease on diagnostic images have allowed for imaging to be used at much earlier stages of the diagnostic process. Similarly, changes in the characteristics of disease with treatment can be detected by imaging, which is now frequently used to monitor progress as well as to perform image-guided treatment, thanks to a much greater clarity that often even replaces the need for a surgical procedure.'
What is Radiology

• Now almost all clinical specialties rely heavily on Radiology in order to be able to function clinically. Radiology today is a cornerstone of diagnosis and treatment and Radiologists are at the heart of patient care. The enormous growth in applications of radiological imaging and image-guided treatments has resulted in an ongoing demand for top-quality Radiologists. (Careers RCR website)’
Cross sectional Radiology

- ‘Primarily the diagnostic branch of the specialty. It’s modular: you’ll be doing various types of reporting across the week, usually a mix of CT, MRI, Ultrasound, nuclear imaging and plain films. MDT work is a big part of the job, preparing for them and attending them. You’ll be liaising with doctors of all grades across the hospital and work closely with the specialist team in your specialty area’
Interventional Radiology

• ‘A diagnostic and therapeutic area of imaging. You’ll be working mainly in an Interventional Suite within a Radiology department or possibly in a hybrid theatre. You may be running your own clinics and see patients on the wards. It can be combined with cross-section and most interveners do both. There are opportunities to specialise in vascular and/or non-vascular intervention including hepato-biliary and oncology work’
Career in Radiology

Will there be a job for me at the end of training?

• ‘There are currently plenty of jobs and plenty of work! Demand for Imaging keeps rising and rising and rising and rising… and complexity of imaging keeps increasing. Patients often have several types of scan using different imaging modalities. There’s no suggestion at present that Radiologists will be short of work’
Career in Radiology

Is it a varied job?

• ‘Very varied. I can be reporting CT in front of my multi-screen PACS in the morning and then attending an MDT in the afternoon where I will present all the cases with imaging. I will input to patient’s management plans and help decide on further imaging or intervention as needed. The next day I might be doing an Ultrasound list in the morning and then have an SPA session in the afternoon for teaching or management’
Career in Radiology

Is it mainly specialty based or general work?

• ‘Radiologists tend to specialise in one or more systems and become expert in that area but there are opportunities to be as specialist or generalist as you would like’
Career in Radiology

There is on-call and emergency work, what’s that like?

• ‘Duty sessions of in-patient reporting and on-call work keep me on my toes. They are busy but interesting—you never know what will pop up in the in-patient folder! There is night time shift work for trainees. Emergency Radiology is an important big part of training. Consultants on call at night are nearly always second on. Some Trusts out-source some or all their overnight work.’
Career in Radiology

Day to day interaction is mainly with doctors and other health professionals rather than with patients…is that a problem?

• ‘I thought I would miss the patient contact but in fact I have found I find the interaction with medical staff across the Trust very rewarding and patient care underpins all that we do. I maintain some patient contact through weekly ultrasound lists and my colleagues who do Intervention have a lot of patient contact’
Who does Radiology appeal to?

• ‘Pretty much anyone! Radiologists come from a wide range of medical and surgical backgrounds’ If you enjoy diagnosis and a challenge then Radiology may be the career for you’

Click link to view personal specification
Recruitment

Is Radiology hard to get in to?

• ‘Enthusiasm for the career is what we are looking for. Check it out by talking to trainees and Consultant Radiologists. It’s popular—currently about 4 applicants per place’
## Competition Ratios – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty (ST1/CT1)</th>
<th>No of posts</th>
<th>No of applications</th>
<th>Competition ratio</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community sexual and reproductive health</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>21.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiothoracic surgery</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>10.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public health medicine</td>
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<td>686</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
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<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broad based training</td>
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<td>258</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral and maxillofacial surgery</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical microbiology</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical radiology</strong></td>
<td><strong>227</strong></td>
<td><strong>798</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstetrics and gynaecology</td>
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<td>583</td>
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<td>Core surgical training</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>1370</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core medical training</td>
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<td>3065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute care common stem—emergency medicine</td>
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<td>759</td>
<td>2.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anaesthetics</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>1262</td>
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<td>Paediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>General practice</td>
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<td>5477</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core psychiatry training</td>
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<td>643</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8192</strong></td>
<td><strong>16 634</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
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Exams

I’ve heard the exams are really tough…

• ‘They aren’t easy but the vast majority of trainees pass them. You need to be disciplined and prepared to do a lot of bookwork and past exam questions’
Why the West Midlands?

• ‘We are one of the larger Radiology training units in the country. There are two schemes: one based in the Birmingham and Coventry conurbation and the other in Stoke on Trent. We pride ourselves on being friendly schemes and getting to know trainees as individuals. Many Radiologists in the West Midlands have trained in the region and tend to like to stay. The two schemes are quite different, with the Birmingham scheme rotating around different Trusts and the Stoke scheme mainly based at UHN for the duration of training. We take a flexible approach and are happy to consider and support trainees taking opportunities to expand their careers in different ways’
Where to go for more information…

- Royal College of Radiologists
- Health Education England, West Midlands
- British Institute of Radiology
- The Society of Radiographers in Training
- NHS health careers