

Guidelines for Work Experience and Clinical Work Placements

If you are applying for a place on our BSc. (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging or BSc. (Hons) Radiotherapy and Oncology degree programmes we ask that you undertake a visit to a clinical department where you will have the opportunity to work shadow the radiographers. We hope that your work experience is rewarding and that it will help you to decide whether radiography is the right career choice for you.

Purpose of your Work Experience/Clinical Visit

All applicants must show evidence, in their UCAS personal statement and in any subsequent interviews, of an understanding of the scope of clinical practice and the work of a radiographer. Most universities specify that this should be based on a minimum of one day observational experience in a large, multifaceted department. Additionally applicants should be able to summarise the realistic expectations and commitment required of them from the programme and the associated clinical placements. While experience in a paid or voluntary capacity working with the general public, children or elderly people will strengthen an application there is no substitute for talking to working radiographers and student radiographers.

Two downloadable forms are available on our website to assist you in making the most of your clinical experience. These forms have been designed in conjunction with admissions tutors and are acceptable to all UK universities:

The '**Clinical Visit Form**' is to be used by the clinical staff at the hospital to confirm your attendance and make any comments they might wish to communicate to the admissions tutors of the universities to which you are applying. This form can either be sent directly from the hospital to the university (our address is at the bottom of the form) or can be returned to you for copying and sending to a range of universities. The '**Applicants Reflection Form**' is for you to complete to make the most of your visit by clarifying your thoughts on your observational experience. If you do make the effort to use this form correctly it will help you in completing your personal statement for the UCAS application and in preparing for any interviews that you might subsequently be offered. It would not harm your application to take a copy along to the interview as well.

Organising your Work Experience/Clinical visit

To organise your visit, ring your local department and ask to speak to the Superintendent Radiographer who should be able to assist in arranging the visit. A copy of our affiliated hospitals and staff contacts is available to download on our website.

On the day of your visit

On the day of your visit to the hospital please take some form of photo ID with you. In addition, you may like to take some money to buy a drink or lunch as you should get a break during the day. Hospitals and clinics tend to be warm; therefore it is a good idea to wear clothing in layers that can be taken off if you get hot. You will need to dress in a smart casual manner; no jeans or trainers as these are inappropriate for the environment. However, as you will be on your feet all day you should wear comfortable shoes. A white lab coat will be given to you to wear for the duration of your visit. If you have long hair, this should be neatly tied back and jewellery should be kept to a minimum.

Expectations/Professionalism

During your visit a member of staff will supervise you at all times and your role is purely to OBSERVE the procedures. Please remember that the patients you meet are undergoing treatment and you should be respectful of their needs and their dignity, particularly when patients are in a state of undress. During the course of your work experience, you may see, hear or have access to areas of a confidential nature. All information concerning patients and staff must be treated as STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL at all times. You must comply with these regulations.

Hospitals can be full of hazards and therefore it is important that you listen carefully to the staff member looking after you as this will ensure your health and safety. A radiation monitoring badge will be given to you to wear for the duration of your visit along with instructions regarding radiation protection issues.

Please be aware that hospitals are non-smoking environments and all main entrances to the hospitals are also smoke free areas. You will be advised about the local fire procedure when you arrive in the department you are visiting. However, in the event of a fire the majority of departments will have a fire alarm which will ring continuously. You must stay with a member of staff and follow their instruction to evacuate the building. Please familiarise yourself with the nearest fire exit on arrival at the hospital. Be aware that whilst in the clinical environment your mobile phone must be switched off.

If you have any problems organising your visit please contact either of the following university members of staff and we'll do our best to assist you:

Samantha Glendinning - Admissions Tutor for Radiotherapy, email: S.Glendinning@herts.ac.uk Telephone 01707 284556

Meera Sharma - Admissions Tutor for Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging, email: m.2.sharma@herts.ac.uk Telephone 01707 281350

Prospective Student Clinical Visit Report Diagnostic Radiography or Radiotherapy

Name of applicant:
UCAS number:
Hospital visited:
Date of visit:

Reflection on the clinical visit

This section is to be completed by the applicant and used to assist in completing the personal statement in the UCAS application and in preparing for an interview. A copy may also be returned to the admissions department of the chosen universities.

1. What patients and types of clinical conditions did you see? How did the radiographer adapt to the variation experienced?

2. Outline what were the enjoyable aspects of your clinical visit?

3. Outline what was the most unusual or surprising aspect of your clinical visit?

Hospital site contacts for radiotherapy, with regard to clinical visits for prospective student applicants

- Churchill Hospital, Oxford
David Sinck and Sarah Ruane
Tel 01865 234962 (Practice Educators)
Email: radiotherapyeducation@ouh.nhs.uk
- Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
Azma Siddiqui
Tel 0118 3226866 (Practice Educators)
Email: azmasiddiqui@nhs.net
- Northampton General Hospital
Ruth Rowse
Tel 01604 545228 (Practice Educators)
Email: ruth.rowse@ngh.nhs.uk
- Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Trust (Mount Vernon Hospital)
Urvina Shah or Angela Williams
Tel 01923 844585 (Clinical Placement Facilitators)
Email: urvina.shah@nhs.net / angela.read@nhs.net
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (Charing Cross Hospital)
Sindy Singh (Clinical Coordinator)
Tel 020 331 30804
Email: sindy.singh@imperial.nhs.uk
- Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Trust
Sarah Lambert
Tel 01733 673143/673170
Email: sarah.lambert@pbh-tr.nhs.uk