

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Radiography) apprenticeship
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 5
Normal length of the programme	2 years
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus Online
Accreditation (if applicable)	This programme is accredited by the Society and College of Radiographers. For further details see the section on Accreditation.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS), Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE)
Tuition Fees	<p>Fees: The employer pays all course fees and no fees are charged to apprentice students.</p> <p>Programme price is set at the maximum funding band for this apprenticeship standard set by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) which is a government non-departmental body sponsored by the Department for Education (DFE). We reserve the right to increase price in future. Fees will be paid by the employer on behalf of the apprentice using Levy or co-funding arrangements. For further information please visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding-from-may-2017</p> <p>A full breakdown of costs is set out in the training plan.</p>

This is an apprentice programme and can only be undertaken with an employer who has interviewed, employed and deemed the apprentice suitable for the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Radiography) apprenticeship. The apprentice must complete the whole degree programme with the employer and Keele University in order to achieve the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Radiography) apprenticeship award. There are no interim awards for this programme. Fees have been determined by the Office for Students and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) and will be paid by the employer.

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the

information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2. What is a Foundation Degree programme?

The FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Radiography) is equivalent to the first two years of a Bachelor's degree and allows you to focus exclusively on Radiography (Diagnostic Imaging).

Foundation Degrees are normally focused on specific professions and were developed as a need was recognised for intermediate higher education qualifications that combined vocational and academic elements.

All Higher and Degree Apprenticeships combine higher education study and work-based learning to enable apprentices to achieve a higher-level award whilst in work. The provision of an academic award is integrated with experience, practice and learning in the workplace where the apprentice has paid employment status. Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are co-designed by training providers and employers to ensure that apprentices are equipped with the skills employers need and to develop their own careers.

3. Overview of the Programme

This programme is used to deliver the apprenticeship standard. Apprenticeship standards are co-designed by employers and training providers to ensure that apprentices are equipped with the skills employers need. All higher and degree apprenticeships combine work-based learning with part-time study leading to a recognised qualification. The programme has been designed for delivery in a work-based learning context, where assessments for each module of the programme provide opportunities for the student to apply the learning from the module back into their workplace context.

During delivery we will work with you and your employer to ensure that you progress through your apprenticeship, as a job with training. This will involve regular tripartite review meetings each year of study, monitoring compliance with apprenticeship requirements, including the provision by each employer of 20% off-the-job academic study, and identifying any changes required to your learning plan. Throughout your apprenticeship, you and your employer will have access to APTEM, our apprenticeships management system, where you will be required to sign and submit documents to demonstrate your progress and adhere to compliance requirements.

Achievement of the apprenticeship is through the End Point Assessment (EPA) and further details are provided in the section titled 'How is the programme assessed?'

The End Point Assessment for this programme is integrated.

As an apprentice on the FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Radiography) apprenticeship programme in the School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy, you will study alongside physiotherapy, P&O and rehabilitation and exercise science students. The School sits within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and other professional groups represented within the Faculty include medicine, nursing and midwifery, pharmacy, and paramedical science. This gives you opportunities for inter-professional learning, in line with government guidelines [1], similar to those you will experience in your workplace. This is called Inter-Professional Education for academic study and multi-disciplinary learning within your workplace.

Radiography (Diagnostic Imaging) has undergone, and continues to undergo, significant development due to the philosophical and political changes that have occurred in health and social care since the early 1990s. These developments have occurred against a backdrop of rapid and on-going changes in technology, changes in the Ionising Radiation Regulations [2], fundamental changes in healthcare practices and extension of responsibility for diagnostic radiographers[3].

The profession of Radiography, like many other health professions, should be evidence based, with an emphasis on patient care and service delivery, therefore the research element of the programme is consistent with the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) Research Strategy [4].

The Assistant Practitioner role has been introduced as part of a drive to meet service demand within the NHS. This role also allows clear career progression routes at all levels as the role of assistant practitioner can be a route to registered Radiographer. Assistant Practitioners are pivotal in the delivery of high quality, patient centred care. Radiographers, more than at any other time in the history of the profession, are key practitioners in the provision of diagnostic imaging services. In addition to ionising radiation-based imaging, they are responsible for the operation of ultrasound, nuclear medicine and MRI facilities, providing health screening, diagnosing and monitoring disease processes and performing interventional procedures carried out under imaging control. The increased role of all allied health professionals in Public Health and Health Promotion means that for radiographers this will be a core part of their future role [5].

This programme is intended to develop assistant practitioners who can respond to a diverse and challenging service context in which traditional health and social service and associated scope of practice is changing rapidly in response to broader political, social, economic and demographic change. These changes have highlighted a

need for locally focused, clinically driven, evidence based, healthcare services which may widen opportunities for assistant practitioners to step into a variety of positions within service. To ensure competence there is an obvious need to support these changes through imaginative and innovative educational apprenticeships, such as inter-professional learning and work-based learning.

The programme design is consistent with outcomes for autonomous practice and the indicative curriculum for Assistant Practitioners set out in Society and College of Radiographers: Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (2013) [6].

The profession is founded on a strong, evolving evidence base and scope of practice, clinical leadership and patient-centred professionalism. The Keele FdSc Assistant Practitioner route programme is designed to ensure that its content is current, reflecting contemporary radiography practice in the UK, and sufficiently flexible to accommodate the changing demands of health and social care and the future requirements of the profession, both in the UK and globally. The programme is committed to the development and provision of high quality multi- and inter-professional learning. The School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy uses a range of high-quality clinical bases to deliver the clinical component of their programmes.

The regular monitoring and evaluation of practice placements is the collaborative responsibility of education providers and placement providers and are systematic and measurable as per SCoR guidelines.

The FdSc Assistant Practitioner programme at Keele will enable you, through an environment of reflection and research awareness, to develop into an autonomous professional who can initiate and respond to change in a wide variety of settings. You will embrace a vision of patient-centred care within contemporary health and social care environments. You will develop the attributes of a competent practitioner underpinned by knowledge enabling you to become, and remain, fit for purpose, delivering high quality, safe, integrated and effective care. During the programme, you will develop responsibility for your own continuing professional development and will be confident to function in partnership and leadership roles.

Key features of the FdSc Assistant Practitioner programme are:

- Expert teaching through a range of highly skilled, appropriately qualified and knowledgeable staff;
- Extensive and co-operative planning for learning and teaching within the clinical environment, both synchronous and asynchronous;
- A state-of-the-art Radiography suite to ensure high level vocational skills with a Digital Health Hub for image interpretation skills training for the in-situ days on Keele campus;
- Inter-professional education embedded within the programme allowing students to learn alongside other health and social care students and the multi-disciplinary teams within the clinical environment. This is designed to contribute to professional understanding and respect for various professions to learn with, from and about each other for the benefit of patient care;
- Comprehensive range of learner support mechanisms (See the Student Handbook);
- Research awareness embedded into the curriculum.

In your programme you will sometimes be expected to role play and engage in simulated clinical scenarios with other students, such as the practice and observation of practical skills in physical contact with other students. For some specific practices, this may necessitate modification of dress - e.g., to shorts and t-shirt. These activities will be conducted in a professional, safe, respectful and culturally sensitive way, under the supervision of academic staff, according to a defined protocol.

References:

- [1] Learning Together - Working Together/ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/culture/> (July 2022)
- [2] The Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (2017: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1322/contents/made>)
- [3] Radiography Skills Mix: A report on the four-tier service delivery model (DoH, 2004)
- [4] Society and College of Radiographers Research Strategy: <https://www.collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/researchgrants-and-funding/cor-research-strategy>
- [5] Healthy Lives, Healthy People (DoH, 2010)
- [6] Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce: Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR, 2013)

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Gain the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to underpin contemporary radiography (diagnostic imaging) practice and develop your competence in applying clinical skills to the practice of radiography (diagnostic imaging). You will develop your clinical reasoning and decision-making skills to enable you to undertake best radiography (diagnostic imaging) practice. The programme will facilitate your development of the competencies required for autonomous practice.
- Develop your research awareness, which will support the development of transferable skills.

- Enhance the development of your interpersonal skills along with effective team working and partnership skills. This promotes engagement in lifelong learning, a key feature of the development of an autonomous professional.
- Cultivate effective inter-professional working practices that will facilitate the development of leadership, management and organisational skills.
- Achieve the standards of education and training that are approved by the Society and College of Radiographers and prepare you for lifelong learning throughout your career.

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful apprentices will be able to:

The programme is designed to meet the Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (2013) and Indicative Curriculum for Assistant Practitioners, therefore, as a successful graduate of this programme, you will be equipped to meet the:

- Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce for Assistant Practitioners.

Subject specific skills

Successful apprentices will be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theories, models, principles and concepts underpinning radiography (diagnostic imaging) within the public policy and organisational context for health and social care practice and service delivery;
- Practise safely, competently and confidently in radiography (diagnostic imaging) within the boundaries of legal, ethical and professional frameworks.
- Adhere to and, where appropriate, challenge the boundaries, constraints and obligations inherent in professional practice employing skills of critical self-reflection and a commitment to lifelong learning;
- Analyse, reflect upon and evaluate research findings, utilising these where appropriate, to underpin an evidence based approach to practice;
- Communicate and work collaboratively with patients, carers and fellow professionals in an appropriate and context specific way;
- Exhibit the appropriate professional values, attitudes and behaviours expected of an integrated member of the interprofessional healthcare team.
- These elements are taught, developed and assessed via individual modules, across the two years of the programme.

The programme has been mapped to the following regulatory body outcomes, subject benchmark statements and the professional body outcomes:

- SCoR Outcomes for Autonomous Assistant Practitioners
- Apprenticeship standards for Assistant Practitioners

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful apprentices will be able to demonstrate:

- The ability to use information and communication technology effectively;
- The ability to communicate effectively in writing, including the use of language that is appropriate for a variety of audiences;
- The ability to critically review their own work;
- The capability to communicate effectively orally and visually, including participation in group discussions, communicating ideas and presenting information to a variety of audiences;
- The competence to use interpersonal skills and awareness, including: a capacity to work in groups both as a team member and as a leader, to be sensitive to the views of others, to be able to negotiate, and to be aware of how one's actions are seen by others;

- The ability to solve problems in the workplace;
- The ability to use information handling skills which enables the individual to locate, assess and evaluate information and synthesise and build upon existing information;
- An aptitude to develop independent study skills, including the maturity and judgement to manage one's own personal development and a capacity for self-reflection, self-assessment and self-criticism;
- A readiness for lifelong learning and recognition of its necessity within the profession.

The Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. The programme is structured around core study themes that are introduced, developed and enhanced via individual modules over the programme. Clinical/Practice training and education occurs in your employers' organisation.

Radiographic practical skills are taught both synchronously and asynchronously and are reinforced both by the Practice Education team in the workplace and the in-situ days on the Keele campus in the Darwin Suite and the Jack Ashley Digital Health Hub. In the clinical setting apprentices work with designated clinical/practice educators and are also supported by visiting tutors from the School. This ensures integration of academic learning and clinical practice. There will also be at least three tripartite meetings a year with your line manager, academic team and you (the apprentice).

The University based elements of the programme are taught using a variety of blended learning approaches including:

Traditional lectures where the lecturer provides apprentices with a framework and context for further reading and independent study; some lectures may feature invited external speakers who are clinicians, active researchers, and academics in the field of radiography, radiation science and related health practice. These utilise a blended teaching experience with in-situ, asynchronous online sessions and synchronous online sessions.

Interactive lectures to engage the apprentices in their learning, for example the use of Audience Response Systems

Practical work allows the apprentice to observe the application of, or develop the acquisition of radiography (diagnostic imaging) practical skills under the supervision of academic staff

Simulation and role play will be embedded in the workbooks to allow you to consider scenarios outside of the practise that you are observing daily to imagined scenarios that will improve your overall practice

Learning in the workplace where apprentices develop their clinical and professional skills under the supervision of a designated practice educator(s)

Group workshops which require apprentices to work together over an extended period to develop a piece of work

Individual and group presentations where apprentices research and present a topic with relevance to practice (for example specific approaches to communication or reasoning for particular approaches in radiography research) to the whole group with time allowed for interactive questions and discussion

Learner and tutor-led tutorials which encourage topics of interest and relevance to a theme to be discussed in depth within a small group; problem-solving scenarios and case studies may be used as a vehicle for such discussion

Web-based learning using the Keele Virtual Learning Environment (KLE) and Microsoft Teams: this is used by all modules and provides a platform for students to share online discussions and to access a wide range of learning resources.

Workbook with continuous milestones completed whilst in the work place environment

Independent study will be required in each module; some study will be guided by tutors where necessary but will also be self-directed in relation to the various demands of each module and its assessment. This type of learning may be facilitated by use of various resources such as work packages and access to specific web based programmes. The development of a workbook will also be used as a vehicle for learning. Apprentices will engage in **inter-professional learning** in groups made up of a range of other health and social care students and the multi-disciplinary team in your workplace.

Apart from these formal activities, apprentices are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable apprentices to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Lectures and independent study enable apprentices to broaden and deepen their existing professional knowledge and understanding of the core scientific principles and concepts of radiography (diagnostic imaging), and to transfer scientific knowledge from theory into practice.
- Practical work in both university and clinical environments and the university enables apprentices to develop, enhance and update their learning of new skills under the supervision of experts and to ensure safe and competent practice, and to integrate theoretical and practical knowledge.
- Focusing on identification of common pathologies demonstrated on the radiographic image, while demonstrating the transferability of these skills to identification of the existence of less common pathologies.
- Discussion on a one-to-one basis following clinical work (de-brief session) using for example, case studies, justification of exposure of the patient to ionising radiation, with evidence and reflection upon experiences to identify personal learning needs is encouraged via workbooks.
- Small group work, such as seminars, and workshops, provides opportunities for apprentices to clarify and exchange ideas, and to question and challenge professional concepts.
- Guided independent study, tutorials and the use of portfolios will assist the apprentice to explore in depth, and evaluate, aspects of professional practice.
- Seminars, tutorials and web-based activities encourage apprentices to reflect upon their learning and to take responsibility for its development, and to collaborate with others to share, explore, and evaluate ideas in greater depth.

7. Teaching Staff

The permanent academic staff contributing to the programme are drawn from the University's School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy along with contributions from specialist experts when appropriate. The School Team includes: professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, teaching fellows and academic related staff. All permanent academic staff are currently members of, or are working towards, membership of the Higher Education Academy.

All permanent academic staff hold (or are working towards) academic qualifications to at least Masters Level. All staff who are recognised healthcare professionals, such as radiographers, physiotherapists or nurses are registered with the relevant body e.g. HCPC or NMC, and have had experience working in the NHS and other areas of healthcare. The academic staff group currently includes staff from different professions such as Radiographers, Physiotherapists, an Exercise Physiologist and a Biomedical Scientist. The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level and includes individuals with expertise in learning and teaching and research. The work of research active staff has been widely published and shared via conference presentations.

Several staff are active members of clinical specialist interest groups and in various research groups. The School of Medicine has honorary contracts in place with Consultant Radiologists and Medical Physicists.

The clinical component of the programme is delivered and assessed by a range of Practice Educators. These are suitably qualified and professionally registered clinicians working across a broad range of clinical environments who will undertake the SAHP Practice Educators training course (which includes regular updates). This will enable them to achieve the learning outcomes required to participate in the College of Radiographers Practice Educators Accreditation Scheme[1].

[1] Practice Educator Accreditation Scheme; The Approval and Accreditation of Educational Programmes and Professional Practice; Society and College of Radiographers 2006.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content (SCOR standards will continue to be met). The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on learners is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the programme?

The programme is studied part-time over two years and the teaching is delivered via individual modules relating to six themes across each year. The academic year runs from September and is divided into two semesters. All modules are compulsory modules (a module that you are required to study on this course). This programme is a full calendar year programme but taught elements may not take place throughout the whole year.

An End Point Assessment is a required part of the programme which apprentices undertake following successful completion of all other elements of the programme.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

Table 1. Academic and Clinical Learning (illustrative)

	YEAR 1 / FHEQ LEVEL 4	YEAR 2 / FHEQ LEVEL 5
Total weeks in education / annum	34	31 (+ 2 elective)
Academic teaching weeks / annum	23	23
Percentage time for academic study	20% (as per apprentice agreements - per annum of study)	20% (as per apprentice agreements - per annum of study)
Hours available for clinical study / annum (7.5 hours x 5 days = 37.5 hours / week @ FTE)	225	562.5 637.5 (elective)
Percentage time for clinical practice	100% (less annual leave requirements and study leave)	100% (less annual leave requirements and study leave)

The course is structured around core themes.

- Practice Experience
- Anatomy
- Image evaluation
- Radiographic practice/skills
- Fundamentals of Radiographic assistants and Health Care practitioners
- Research
- Science

Each of these themes are introduced, developed and enhanced via individual modules over the two-year programme, totalling 240 credits. Adopting a spiral curriculum approach [1] allows each theme to be revisited in subsequent years adding depth and breadth of knowledge. The curriculum also facilitates the progression from novice to advanced beginner to competent practitioner [2].

[1] Harden and Stamper (1999), General Teaching Council for England (2006)

[2] Benner (2001) and Benner (2009)

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	120	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Foundations for Academic Skills	RDI-10038	15	Semester 0
Foundations of Research, Radiographic Science and Safe Practice (AP Apprentice route)	RDI-10040	30	Semester 1-3
Appendicular and Axial Anatomy, Image evaluation and Radiographic Practice (AP apprentice route)	RDI-10042	60	Semester 1-3
Practice Experience 1 (AP Apprentice route)	RDI-10044	15	Semester 1-3

Certificate in Higher Education in Healthcare Studies. You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher NB: the title of any such award will not include the title Assistant Practitioner. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the SCoR.

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Fundamentals of Radiographic Assistant and Healthcare Practitioners (level 5)	RDI-20037	30	Semester 1-2
Practice Experience 2 (AP Apprentice route)	RDI-20039	20	Semester 1-2
Assistant Practitioner (Diagnostic Imaging) End Point Assessment	RDI-20041	40	Semester 2-3
Leadership, Teamworking, Professionalism and wellbeing at work (AP apprentice route)	RDI-20035	30	Semester 3

9. Final and intermediate awards

The programme is designed to educate Assistant Practitioners - Radiography (Diagnostic Imaging) practitioners to Foundation Degree level.

By committing to an apprenticeship, you are committing to work towards achieving the final award for the programme.

The End Point Assessment must be passed in order to gain the final award title. Where intermediate awards are made, this would result in non-completion of the apprenticeship.

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Foundation Degree (FdSc) Assistant Practitioner (Radiography)	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits or higher at level 5.
Certificate in Higher Education in Healthcare Studies	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher NB: the title of any such award will not include the title Assistant Practitioner. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the SCoR.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The

following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

Written work/assignments test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition, they allow students to demonstrate their ability to carry out basic literature searches, communicate their ideas effectively in writing and support their arguments with appropriate referencing. Written pieces vary in their length depending upon the module.

Written Examinations in different formats test apprentices' knowledge and (as appropriate), their ability to apply that knowledge appropriately to professional practice. Examinations may consist of essay, short answer and/or multiple choice questions.

Reflective assignments enable the apprentice to develop their skills of reflective learning and practice; these are fundamental skills used by all healthcare professionals as part of their continuing professional development

Oral presentations assess apprentices' subject knowledge and understanding. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development.

Clinical assessment is undertaken during clinical practice using the Practice Experience modules.

End Point Assessment as well as containing in-programme training and assessment, the apprenticeship has an end-point assessment (EPA). All apprentices must undertake this independent assessment, which is a synoptic assessment of the knowledge, skills and behaviours that have been learnt throughout the apprenticeship. The purpose of the assessment is to make sure the apprentice meets the standard set by employers and are fully competent in the occupation. It is taken by apprentices at the very end of the on-programme phase of training when their employer (and in some cases their training provider) is satisfied that they have met the "gateway" criteria. The University will confirm at an Award Board which students have met the gateway criteria.

Apprenticeship standard (Assistant Practitioner (Health)):

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/assistant-practitioner-health-v1-1>

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

Clinical competence is assessed as pass/fail within each of the modules. All clinical assessments must be passed to enable successful completion of the programme.

11. Accreditation

This programme is accredited by the Society and College of Radiographers.

College of Radiographers (SCoR) Education and Career Framework for the Radiography Workforce (2013)

The programme design is consistent with outcomes for autonomous practice and guidance set out in the 'Indicative Curriculum for Practitioners' by the SCoR.

12. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

13. Other Learning Opportunities

Apprentices will be encouraged to submit their research work for publication in Synergy: Imaging and Therapy Practice, to gain experience in writing for publication.

Such opportunities occur outside the normal timetabled programme thus a commitment of time will be required from the apprentice. A contribution from the School towards the costs incurred by the student in these ventures may be available and will be considered on an individual basis.

The Tripartite process may identify additional opportunities for development which will be discussed as part of

the tripartite review process.

14. Additional Costs

Student membership of the Society and College of Radiographers is required in both years of the programme: at the time of writing [academic year 2024-25] costs £24 per year and is paid directly each year to the membership section of the Society.

Tuition fees are paid by employers but you may incur costs not covered by the mandatory components of the apprenticeship e.g. library fines, print costs and costs associated with graduation.

Certification for non-mandatory awards may require students to pay a fee.

Activity	Estimated Cost
Student membership of the Society and College of Radiographers (£24 x 2 years)	£48
Total estimated additional costs	£48

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

15. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Radiography) apprenticeship

Final Award and Award Titles	FdSc Assistant Practitioner (Radiography)
Intermediate Award(s)	none
Last modified	July 2025
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions**, **variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

- Attendance (see below)
- Progression - Apprentices are required to pass the required coursework for all programme modules. Condonement and compensation of failure in any year is not permitted.

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Fitness to Practise:

Students registered on the programme are subject to the University Fitness to Practise regulation (Keele University Regulation B5) <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationb5/>

Guidance: An apprentice whose behaviour gives cause for concern regarding professional conduct or suitability will in the first instance, be advised of the implications of their behaviour and offered the opportunity to address the concerns raised in conjunction with the employer. They will be advised that should there be no change in their behaviour, they will be referred to the School Health and Conduct Committee.

Where behaviour that gives cause for concern regarding professional conduct or suitability is repeated, the student may be issued with a School written warning and may then be referred to the School Health and Conduct Committee.

Where an apprentice behaviour gives cause for grave concern regarding professional conduct or suitability the student will be referred directly to the School Health and Conduct Committee.

The School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy has a duty to ensure that apprentices registered on the programme are fit to practise, in order to protect present or future patients, clients or service users and to comply with the requirements of professional / regulatory bodies. Students registered on the programme must comply with the requirements of the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Students must make known at the first opportunity, any issues which impact upon their ability to study effectively.

Guidance: It is the student's obligation to disclose any circumstances that may affect either their capacity to study effectively or their professional conduct and / or suitability. Failure to make such a declaration may constitute an issue of fitness to practise and may limit the grounds a student may invoke to support an appeal. Examples of the types of issues that it may be appropriate to disclose include temporary or permanent changes in health status, adverse personal circumstances or changes in Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) status (these examples are not exhaustive). Where a student may be unsure as to whether disclosure is appropriate they must seek advice from their academic mentor, year head or the programme director. Any such advisory discussions will be treated in confidence and it will then be the apprentices responsibility to disclose information should they be so advised.

The School Health and Conduct Committee will monitor issues regarding student health and conduct that cause concern regarding a student's fitness to practise in line with the Faculty of Health Fitness to Practise policy and Keele University Fitness to Practise Regulation B5. See: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationb5/>

Additional requirement 2: Entry Requirements

Apprenticeship applicants will require the support of their employer prior to commencing the application process. Selection will take place through an application and shortlisting process led by the employing organisations. Applicants will have demonstrated satisfactory occupational health clearance, good character through reference(s), and a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service as part of the application process with the employing organisation. These may be required to be checked by the University's Occupational Health Department and, if required, the School's Health and Conduct Committee.

Acceptance on the programme is dependent on satisfactory medical screening.

Acceptance on the programme is dependent on satisfactory review of any criminal convictions via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced disclosure.

On commencement of the programme all undergraduates must complete consent and disclosure documentation. These must then be updated annually or sooner if there are changes to an individual student status.

Guidance: Any undergraduate who is found to have an undisclosed health condition, which may prejudice their ability to perform radiography effectively, may be required to leave the programme.

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/supportingyou/>. Similarly, any student who is found to have an undisclosed criminal conviction may be asked to leave the programme, even though the conviction is considered to be "spent".

All undergraduate radiography students are obliged to comply with the Society of Radiographers (2013) Code of Professional Conduct, <https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/code-professional-conduct>

Students must also comply with the Health and Care Professions Council's Guidance on conduct and ethics for students (2016) and work towards graduate attributes described in the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency(2013). <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-proficiency/>.

Students must also comply with any supplementary guidance documents produced by regulatory and / or professional bodies. Failure to abide by SoR and / or HCPC rules and guidance may, following an investigation (see previous section), result in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

Guidance: As Student Members of the SoR, students have responsibilities with regard to their conduct and behaviour. A copy of current documents, and / or electronic access to them, will be provided to each student on commencement of the programme.

All apprentices must comply with the School requirements with regard to immunisation. Failure to comply with this regulation will preclude the student from undertaking the practice experience modules of the programme. Such action will preclude satisfactory completion of the programme. In these circumstances, the apprentice will be required to withdraw from the programme.

All students must comply with School requirements in respect of ethical procedures and approval for activities related to the research project. Failure to comply with this regulation may constitute an issue of fitness to practise.

Additional requirement 3: Progression

Assessment exemptions are not normally [1] permitted.

Apprentices must complete and sign consent and disclosure documentation at the beginning of each academic year in order to participate in the practical skills components of the programme. Apprentices who do not complete this documentation will not be able to participate in the practical skills components of the programme. This will preclude students from undertaking practice experience modules and will result in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

Guidance: Students are advised that failure to disclose / update information in this consent and disclosure documentation will be considered a breach of professional responsibility. Consequently, disciplinary and / or Fitness to Practise procedures may be invoked and the student may be required to withdraw from the programme (see also additional requirement 1).

In order to progress, students are required to pass the required assessment for all modules, thus being awarded the full amount of required credits per academic year. Condonement or compensation of failure in any year is not normally permitted. Practice experience assessments cannot be condoned or compensated.

Guidance: In the case of failure of an underpinning module, the Programme Director, Practice Education Lead and the Academic Mentor will consider each individual case and recommend an appropriate course of action to ensure, as far as possible, safe practice in the practice setting. This action may delay the student's progress on the programme and may result in a delay in graduation.

Students will normally be allowed one reassessment attempt, following initial failure of an assessment, across all levels of the programme. Failure, on reassessment, normally results in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

Students who fail the practice experience assessment at the first attempt will be given the opportunity to repeat the assessment in the same location or in a different location in the same specialist area (following a period of remediation and induction), which will facilitate meeting of the learning outcomes.

All required practice experience (clinical placement) hours must be completed prior to assessment marks being finalised for each academic year; the course of action to be followed will be decided by academic staff and the clinical educator concerned.

In the event of failure of a practice experience assessment, the required time needed to successfully achieve the outstanding intended learning outcomes will be negotiated and agreed between the Practice Education Lead (or their appointed designate) and the practice educator.

Guidance Note: In the event of substantial levels of authorised absence from practice experience a review of the students' achievement of the module Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and number of practice experience hours accrued will be undertaken by the Programme Director and / or Practice Education Lead. If the student has been unable to achieve all the module ILOs and / or there is a significant shortfall of accrued practice

experience hours, appropriate remedial action will be recommended by the Programme Director and / or Practice Education Lead.

With regard to both campus and practice experience assessment, retrospective evidence will not normally be considered in respect of any student appeal against an academic decision (see also additional requirement 3).

Submission of health-related extenuating circumstances for consideration at three or more consecutive examinations boards will normally require the student to be referred for assessment to the Occupational Health Service.

Guidance: In these circumstances the school would recommend a referral to the Occupational Health Service in order for them to:

Explore with the apprentice whether any underlying health issues exist and to provide guidance to the school about how these may be effectively managed.

Determine what (if any) support measures and / or reasonable adjustments the school should put in place to maximise the student's academic performance.

Students taking a leave of absence will not normally be permitted to extend this leave of absence beyond one full academic year.

Guidance: This time limit is designed to ensure appropriate currency in student learning / professional competence thus supporting the maintenance of appropriate clinical standards and patient / colleague safety.

The maximum time frame for completion of studies will not normally exceed 5 academic years.

Guidance: This time limit is designed to ensure appropriate currency in student learning / professional competence thus supporting the maintenance of appropriate clinical standards and patient / colleague safety.

Additional requirement 4: Awards

Programme awards are made under Keele University Regulation C3:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationc3/>

Students who have successfully completed all assessments and practise based learning will be awarded a Foundation Degree Science Assistant Practitioner (Radiography)

Additional requirement 5: Attendance

Attendance at ALL components of the FdSc programme is mandated. Designated module leaders may issue permission in writing for attendance in specified cases to be waived; this will not be applicable for practice, practical and tutorial attendance. As radiography is a professional programme, and students are expected to demonstrate appropriately responsible behaviour at all times. Students who do not comply with this attendance regulation may be subject to University disciplinary procedures and / or Health and Conduct / Fitness to Practise procedures.

Guidance: Attendance will be monitored and students with a poor attendance record without good cause will normally be subject to disciplinary procedures. Students with a poor attendance record may be required to withdraw from the programme. Absences may be authorised (at the discretion of the Programme Director) where students comply fully with the procedure for reporting sickness and non-attendance.

Students who fail to comply with this attendance regulation may be acting outside their scope of practice and so be in breach of the SoR Code of Professional Conduct (2013) <http://www.sor.org.uk> and the Health and Care Professions Council

[Standards on conduct, performance and ethics for students \(2016\)](http://www.hcpcuk.org/assets/documents/10002C16Guidanceonconductandethicsforstudents.pdf)

<http://www.hcpcuk.org/assets/documents/10002C16Guidanceonconductandethicsforstudents.pdf>

In such circumstances, the School may implement University disciplinary procedures and / or Health and Conduct / Fitness to Practise procedures. The School may then be unable to recommend the student to apply for entry onto the register of the Health and Care Professions Council, thus they would be ineligible to practice as a radiographer.

Additional requirement 6: Practice Experience Placements

The School will provide comprehensive requirements and guidelines for practice experience blocks to which apprentices must adhere. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in disciplinary action including action under the University Fitness to Practise regulation.

Where an apprentice's professional conduct and / or suitability is deemed not to meet professional standards, the Programme Team may deem it inappropriate / unacceptable for the student to participate in the practice

experience placements. Subsequently, the student may be required to withdraw from the programme.

A apprentice demonstrating unprofessional / dangerous / unsafe behaviour in the practice setting will be withdrawn from the practice experience placement and may, following an investigation, be required to withdraw from the programme (see Fitness to Practise Regulation information).

Guidance: Apprentices are also referred to the Placement handbook for further information.

Additional requirement 7: Submission of Assessment

Apprentices must comply with the submission requirements documented in the current FdSc Assistant Practitioner student handbook.

Additional requirement 8: Miscellaneous

All Apprentices must comply with School Health and Safety Guidelines contained within the FdSc Assistant Practitioner student handbook.

Apprentices must comply with the dress code required by practice experience settings. These guidelines are intended to explain to students the rationale for the expectations placed upon them and clarify our expectations that students will adhere to the policies of their host organisation. The Health and Care Professions Council (2016) expects healthcare students to behave and dress in a way that promotes a professional image and inspires public confidence.

Apprentices must comply with the dress code required for practical classes. Jewellery may not be worn during practical classes or in practice experience settings except for a wedding ring (without raised gems) and one pair of stud earrings.

Guidance: If a student raises a faith-related issue with regard to clothing / jewellery regulations the School will contact a relevant religious authority for guidance.

Additional requirement 9: Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory on this programme. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. Students must also sign up to the online DBS update service once the DBS certificate has been received.

Any student who has not completed the DBS application and sign up process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Admissions Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in November (for September start programmes) or the first working day in March (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

Additional requirement 10: Occupational Health

An Occupational Health assessment confirming fitness to commence the programme is mandatory on this programme.

Any student who has not completed all aspects of the Occupational Health process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Occupational Health Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in January (for September start programmes) or the first working day in May (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 07 July 2025

What's Changed

Updated information relating to DBS and Occupational Health requirements added to the programme-specific regulations annex

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	DONNA HOLDCROFT	05 March 2025	
1	2024/25	DONNA HOLDCROFT	31 May 2024	
2	2023/24	DONNA HOLDCROFT	14 September 2023	The End Point Assessment (EPA) was revised nationally from non-integrated to an integrated, and is now required to be reflected in the overall credits for the programme. The EPA is required to be 40 credits from the final 120 credits level 5 credits for the overall programme and a programme redesign has been necessary to accommodate this.
1	2023/24	DESIREE O'LEARY	02 February 2023	
1	2022/23	DESIREE O'LEARY	09 August 2022	