

THE COLLEGE OF
RADIOGRAPHERS

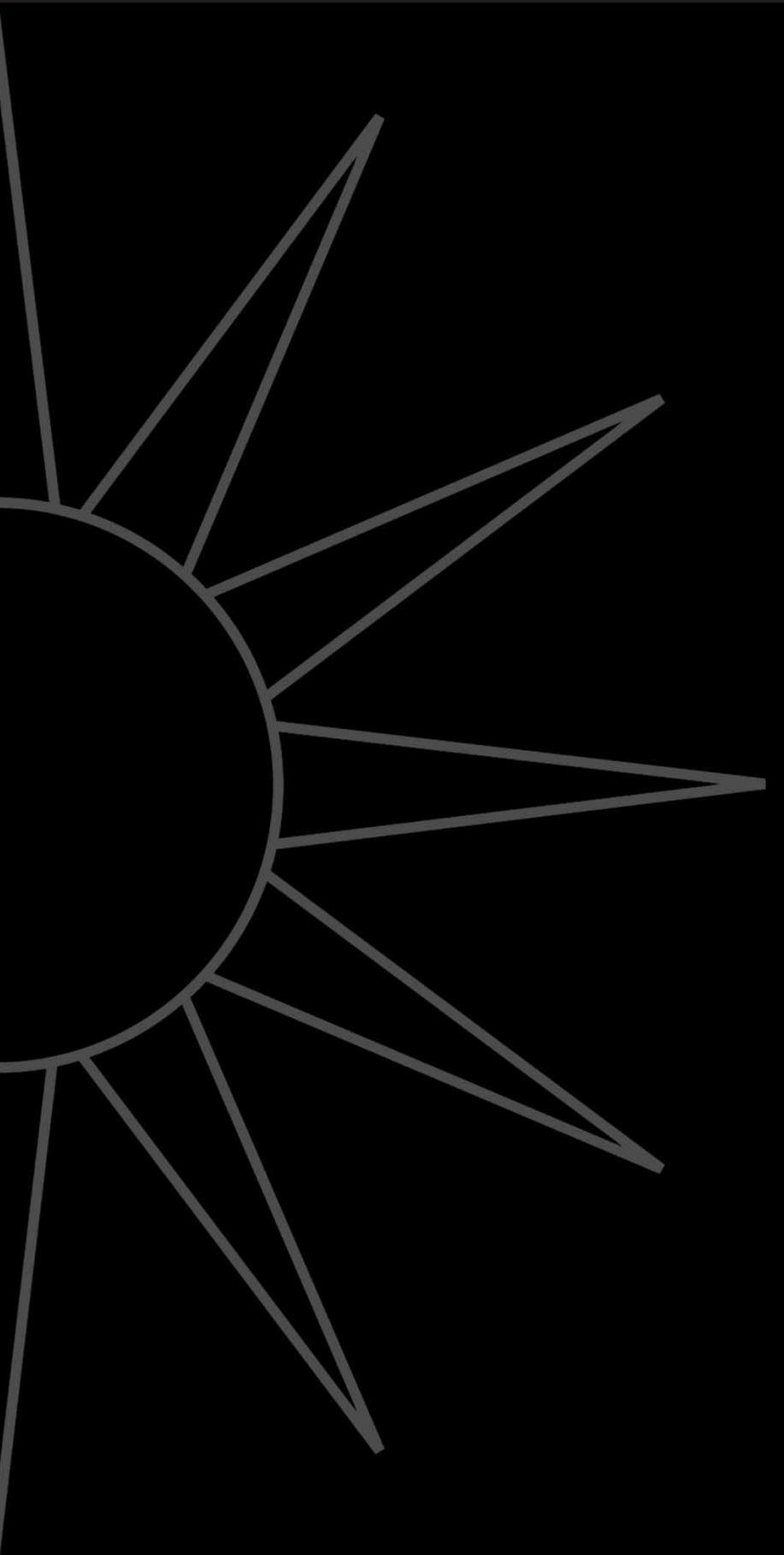


RADIOGRAPHY

**The Approval and
Accreditation of
Education
Programmes and
Professional Practice
in Radiography:
Policy and Principles**

THE SOCIETY OF
RADIOGRAPHERS





R A D I O G R A P H Y

**The Approval and Accreditation of
Education Programmes and Professional
Practice in Radiography: Policy and Principles**

College of Radiographers' Responsible Officer:
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Introduction

The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) has responsibility for leading and managing the profession and strengthening the contribution of radiographers and the radiographic workforce within existing and emerging health care teams.

As part of this, the Society and College of Radiographers already accredits the professional level workforce in radiography through validation and approval of both pre- and post- registration education programmes and through accreditation of the individual as they enter membership of the professional body.

It now intends to broaden and streamline this work to provide a comprehensive framework within which education, professional development and learning departments may gain professional body recognition and approval, leading to accreditation of individuals and departments.

Rationale

The introduction of the career progression framework to the radiography profession, coupled with changes to career development structures within the NHS, has led to the need for individuals in membership of the Society of Radiographers to be accredited as assistant practitioners, practitioners, advanced practitioners, or consultant practitioners, according to their level of practice.

The scope of practice for radiographers has been outlined in the published document, The Scope of Practice 2003, and is described as that which the radiographer is educated, competent and authorised to perform.

The same principles relating to the scope of practice apply equally to those support workers engaged in clinical imaging and radiotherapy. These are described within the career progression framework document Education and Professional Development: Moving Ahead (2003).

Policy and objectives

The policy of the Society and College of Radiographers in the recognition of education, professional practice and environments that promote learning and development is outlined in the following objectives:

Development of a unified approvals process

The modernisation agenda for the NHS is resulting in changes to service delivery, the configuration of the workforce and the underpinning education and training to support this process of modernisation.

The SCoR accreditation framework enables the recognition of awards at all levels, from across the spectrum of radiographic practice, and from all providers of such awards. The framework also enables accreditation of short credit bearing courses including those that incorporate specific competences, as well as those that are of a more general nature.

The approvals process will endorse study days, conferences and other activities that include appropriate learning outcomes related to continuing professional and personal development of individuals.

Development of a register of those recognised by the Society and College of Radiographers

The establishment of a register is most easily achieved by entering on to a register those practitioners who have attained relevant qualifications and awards approved by the College of Radiographers as fit for this purpose.

The College's approvals process for education leading to recognised awards will, therefore, be streamlined and enhanced to include a range of other educational activities. In doing this, the College also recognises that individuals develop through portfolios of activities and informal or work-based learning. It is the College's intention to recognise development of this nature for accreditation purposes, where appropriate.

Currently, those practitioners recognised as practising as radiographers, or within the scope of practice of radiography, are required to register with the Health Professions Council. The establishment and maintenance by SCoR of a voluntary register for assistant practitioners ensures that those using ionising radiation for imaging or treatment are identified and conduct their practice under the supervision of a registered health care practitioner.

Development of a single, unambiguous accreditation system for practitioners

In order for individuals to receive accreditation by SCoR, it will be necessary for them to demonstrate knowledge, skills and achievement at the relevant levels as identified in the Society and College of Radiographers' frameworks for career progression and education Ref: Curriculum Framework (2003) Education and Professional Development: Moving Ahead (2003). Evidence to support an application for accreditation may include: possession of relevant qualifications and awards; portfolios of evidence; published research and testimonials. Individuals may apply for accreditation in regard to their level of practice, area of specialist practice, or for activities related to the Society and College of Radiographers, eg assessors, expert witnesses and Society of Radiographers' representatives.

Development of a mechanism to monitor and record CPD activity

Continuing accreditation at all levels of practice requires engagement in further development through the process of continuing personal and professional development. It is incumbent on the College of Radiographers, therefore, to approve relevant and appropriate continuing professional development (CPD) activities, and to monitor individuals' development as a result of engagement with these. The development and introduction of an interactive web-based system will offer individuals the opportunity to record their CPD activity and submit their portfolio for assessment as meeting the professional body requirement for CPD; and, in due course, the statutory requirements.

Development of a process that that approves and accredits clinical and educational departments

It is the intention of the Society and College to encourage departments of clinical imaging and radiotherapy & Oncology to become coherent and supportive learning environments, with clear policies and procedures in place to both demonstrate adoption of the complete career progression framework, and the opportunity and support for all staff to develop their careers and engage in life-long learning. To this end, the SCoR intends to approve and accredit departments as effective learning departments that support the individual in personal, practice and professional development.

Principles of approvals and accreditation

Approval and Accreditation will be based on the application of, and adherence to, published criteria and standards of practice. Processes for approvals and accreditation will follow the timescales and processes outlined in guidance notes and associated handbooks relevant to the nature and level of the proposal under consideration. Processes are designed to be:

- Consistent
- Fair
- Transparent
- Timely
- Reflect fitness for award, purpose and practice; and, where appropriate,
- Integrate with existing quality assurance processes

To achieve this, it is necessary that the processes outlined in guidance notes are followed, particularly in regard to submissions for approval of new programmes and courses of study. Due regard should be paid to the natural length of these processes, particularly where other statutory and professional bodies are involved.

Criteria and standards

Criteria have been or are being developed relevant to the information and documentation required in support of applications and proposals for accreditation and approval.

All programmes seeking accreditation and approval should reflect the current Scope of Practice as approved and recognised by the Society and College of Radiographers.

Additionally, it is expected that all formal programmes of study should conform or relate to the Curriculum Framework developed by the Society and College of Radiographers to support, in part, the development of programmes related to professional practice.

The SCoR was also involved in the development of Occupational Standards to support practice in Clinical Imaging (including Breast Screening) and Radiotherapy and Oncology. Where Occupational Standards exist that are relevant to the practice of individuals, then it is expected that programmes of study and development should deliver learning outcomes to reflect those standards.

Finally, for undergraduate programmes leading to eligibility for registration, the requirements of the following should additionally be observed:

Society & College of Radiographers: *Statements for Professional Conduct*

Health Professions Council: *Standards of Proficiency, Standards of Education & Training and Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics*

Quality Assurance Agency: *Benchmark statements relevant to Radiography*

Management of the process - Approvals and Accreditation Board

The Approvals & Accreditation Board has been established to advise in the development and monitoring of the processes described. The Board will consider all aspects of validation and accreditation and ensure that the following aims are achieved within the accreditation framework:

- Commonality and consistency of approach and standards
- Consideration of the whole spectrum of activity
- Establish appropriate links with the HPC for issues related to maintained competence to practise
- Accreditation of practitioners from all disciplines and at all levels of practice.
- Adoption of appropriate mechanisms for approvals and accreditation in all home countries and regions, working in an integrated way with the normal quality assurance processes that operate in each country.

Members of the Board are appointed by the Council of the Society of Radiographers and the Board is accountable to the Council through the College Board of Trustees.

Terms of Reference

- To establish processes and procedures that enable the objectives outlined in this document to be achieved efficiently
- To approve and implement operating procedures and policies consistent with achieving the objectives effectively
- To establish time limited and objective driven working groups as necessary to ensure efficient discharge of all duties
- To provide advice and guidance to Council of the Society of Radiographers and the College Board of Trustees on all matters related to the SCoR Approvals and Accreditation Policy and its Objectives
- To develop and implement training of SCoR representatives involved in approval and accreditation of courses, individuals and departments
- To make recommendations to the College Board of Trustees on all matters related to approving and accrediting courses, individuals and departments
- To advise on resource requirements as these become apparent
- To provide periodic reports of its activities to the College Board of Trustees (CBoT) and through CBoT to the Council of the Society of Radiographers.

Further advice and guidance

Further, more detailed guidance in the implementation of this policy will be published periodically and made available on the SoR website. Specific guidance can be obtained by contacting the Professional and Education department at the Society and College of Radiographers.

References & Bibliography

SOCIETY AND COLLEGE OF RADIOGRAPHERS

Scope of Practice

Policy document outlining scope of practice for radiographers (March 2003)

Education and Professional Development: Moving Ahead

Policy document outlining career progression (November 2003)

Curriculum Framework

The structure that specifies content that can be used to build relevant radiography curricula (June 2003)

Statements of Professional Conduct

Professional ethical code (March 2002)

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

Standards of Proficiency, Radiographers and Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (July 2003) www.hpcuk.org

QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

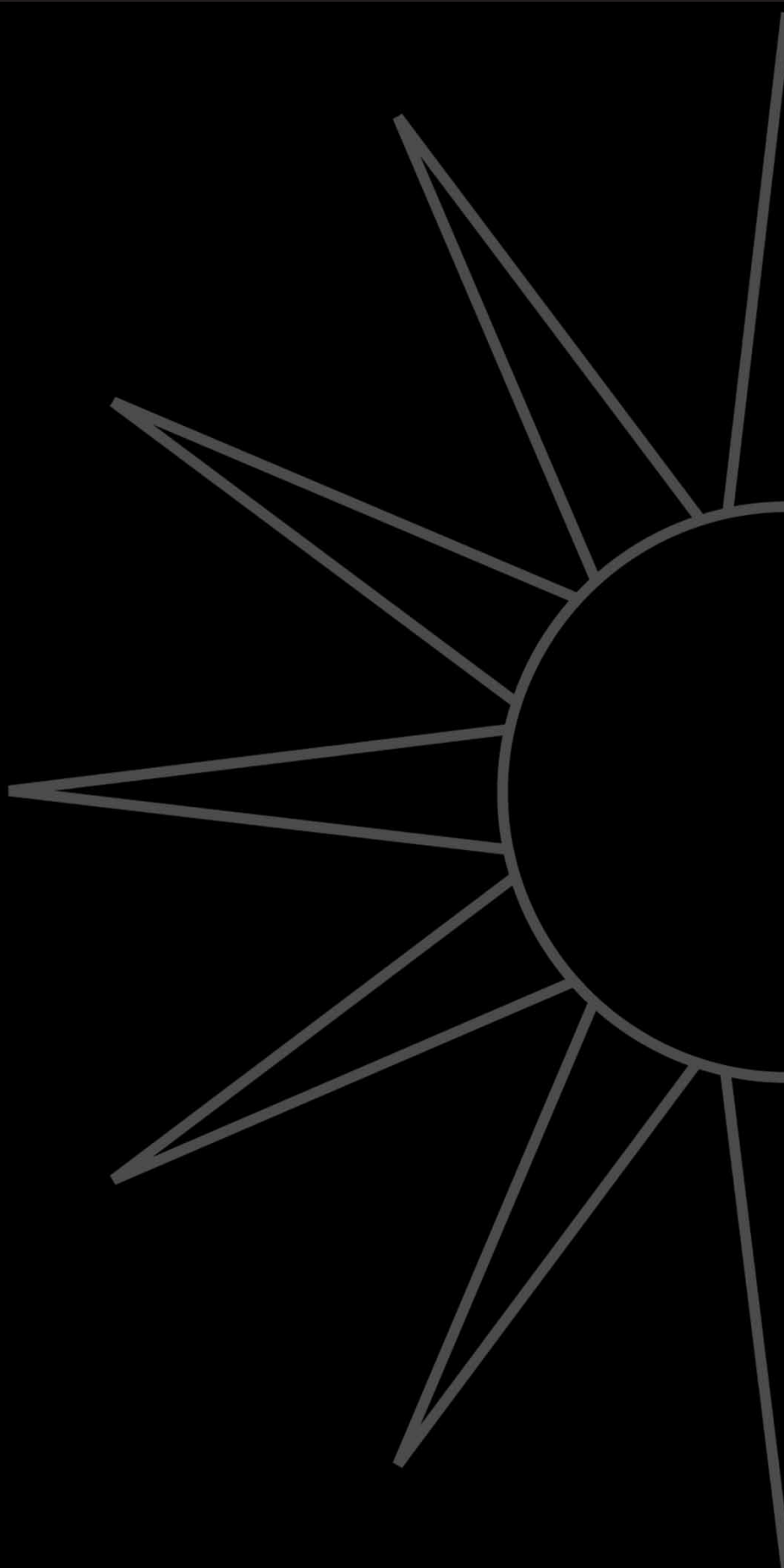
Benchmark statements: Health care programmes Phase 1- Radiography

www.qaa.ac.uk

OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

The Occupational Standards relating to: Clinical Imaging (including breast screening), Radiotherapy & Oncology and the NVQ Level 3 programme in Care – Diagnostic & Therapeutic Support can be viewed and downloaded from the Skills for Health website www.skillsforhealth.org.uk







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