

CoRIPS Research Award 109

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An investigation into breast imaging as part of the undergraduate (UG) education of diagnostic radiography students in the UK

£3,305.33 awarded

Anecdotal evidence suggests variation in content of UG radiography courses relating to mammography/breast imaging across the UK. In addition the duration of clinical placements in breast units ranges from no time to only a few weeks throughout the 3 year course. This is at odds to other specialisms which are perhaps viewed more favourably as a result. UG student radiographers know very little about breast imaging and newly qualified radiographers emerge ignorant to opportunities associated with progression into this specialist area. Approximately half the consultant radiographers practicing in the UK work in breast imaging with several avenues for advanced practice available (SoR, 2014).

This may result in a negative perception of mammography as a career option and is cause for concern. It may have implications for recruitment and succession planning (SCoR & NHSBSP, 2011).

This study aims to investigate any variations in the UG breast imaging curriculum across the UK, identify any reasons associated with this such as availability of expert teaching, local bias or interpretation of frameworks.

Initially, a questionnaire will be sent to all UK universities providing UG Diagnostic Radiography training/education. The questionnaire will determine the amount of theoretical teaching involving breast imaging and practice experience in breast imaging departments. It will also ascertain local circumstances which may influence this.

The questionnaire data will be analysed and follow up telephone interviews will be carried out with course leaders to explore issues in more depth.

It is hoped that recommendations can be made for future education in this field.