CoRIPS research award 020:
Utilising PDAs to support and enhance the clinical learning experience for the benefit of student therapeutic radiographers and practice educators.

Higher Education Institutions and professional bodies advocate the use of technologies to support and enhance student learning. The aim of this project was to explore the use of handheld computers (PDAs) in the delivery of learning resources and assessment/evaluation tools in the clinical learning environment.

Initial evaluation questionnaires were followed up with focus groups and face- to- face interviews with students and practice educators.

Preliminary findings showed that students engaged with the learning packages. The students' proposed new topics for the development of further learning resources to help them link academic learning and clinical practice. It was also suggested that such learning packages would be important for preparation of the student for clinical assessments. The development of a mobile version of the web-based software, InPractice, was more problematic. The budget for software development was very limited and students experienced a number of connectivity issues which was reflected in negative evaluations. Further work is being undertaken to address these initial difficulties.