

What is a radiographer?

Radiographers operate x-ray and other imaging equipment to produce radiographs (x-rays or other images), which are used in the diagnosis and subsequent management of a disease or injury in a patient.

What does a radiographer do?

A radiographer may perform the following tasks:

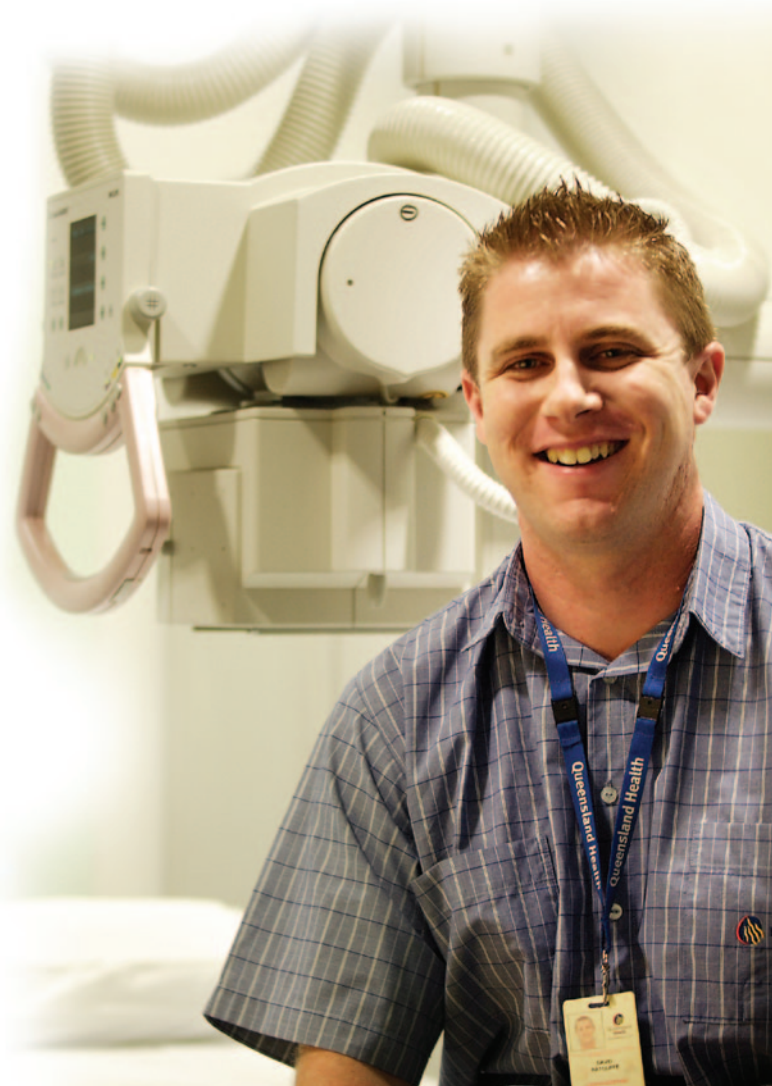
- receive and interpret requests from medical practitioners for X-ray examinations to be performed on patients
- determine the appropriate imaging techniques which will provide diagnostic information for the doctor
- calculate details of procedures such as length and intensity of exposure to radiation and settings of recording equipment
- explain procedures to patients, make sure they receive the correct preparation for the procedure and make sure that any concern about radiation processes is minimised
- make sure of the patient's welfare during the examination, including radiation safety
- develop the X-ray films /process and archive digital images
- operate special equipment such as fluoroscopy equipment (which gives a moving image of the part being examined), angiography equipment (which images blood vessels) and computed tomography (CT) equipment (which gives cross-sectional images of the body).

The actual duties of a radiographer can vary and may include radiography (taking radiographs), inter-operative imaging (taking images during operations), mobile radiography (taking a mobile unit to ward patients who are too ill to come to the X-ray department) and working in the emergency department or private clinics. They work as part of a team with other health professionals, medical staff and nursing staff. Hours of work may involve weekend or shift work.

'I couldn't work a standard 9-5 job. Radiography is exciting. Everyday you see something different, and being involved in the early aspects of diagnosis you really feel like you're helping people start down their track to recovery.' David Ratcliffe, Radiographer

Is this you?

- interest and ability in science
- able to work accurately
- able to work as part of a team
- eye for detail
- enjoy helping people.



Where can a radiographer work in Queensland Health?

Radiographers in Queensland Health work in our hospitals, providing services in emergency departments, ward and operating theatre environments and in custom-built departments with access to state of art technology.

Queensland Health provides employment opportunities and experience in the following areas of practice:

- ultrasonography
- CT Scanning
- MRI
- rural relief service in sole or remote areas
- BreastScreen program.

Can a radiographer specialise?

Radiographers may specialise as a sonographer who operates ultrasound machines and related equipment to produce images for medical diagnostic purposes. Other areas of specialisation include: CT scanning, nuclear medicine, breast imaging (mammographer), angiography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

How do you become a radiographer?

To become a radiographer you have to study science at university with a major in medical imaging. Prerequisite subjects, or assumed knowledge in one or more of English, mathematics B and physics are normally required. Contact the university for more information as requirements may change.

Degree course

Queensland University of Technology

- Gardens Point Campus: Bachelor of Applied Science – Medical Radiation Technology (Medical Imaging Technology), three years full-time.

Plus an additional subsequent year of supervised clinical practice.

Registration

Radiographers must complete a year of clinical practice in an accredited radiology practice before receiving full accreditation. On successful completion of the year, the graduate is eligible for membership to the Australian Institute of Radiography, and must also apply for a Radiation Use Licence and registration with the Medical Radiations Technologist's Board Queensland.

What scholarships are available?

There are a variety of scholarships and financial assistance available. Check out the respective tertiary institutes' website for details. Also available is the Queensland Health Rural Scholarships Scheme.

Interested in other allied health careers?

Visit the Queensland Health Work For Us website www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus for more **Careers in health** fact sheets – allied health series:

- Occupational therapist
- Dietitian
- Physiotherapist
- Psychologist
- Pharmacist
- Social worker
- Speech pathologist
- Podiatrist.

Where can I find out more info?

Queensland University of Technology Faculty of Science

Phone: (07) 3864 2152

Email: sci-enquiries@qut.edu.au

Website: www.sci.qut.edu.au/

Medical Radiation Technologists Board of QLD

Website: www.mrtboard.qld.gov.au

Australian Institute of Radiography

Website: www.air.asn.au

The QTAC website has a list of universities and tertiary institutions with links to universities and courses offered. Go to www.qtac.edu.au and select Institutions.

To find out more about the exciting career opportunities Queensland Health can offer you go to www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus

Do great things every day

