

My Story

I qualified as a radiographer in Aug 2002 and gained valuable experience by working throughout the general department and also by doing on-calls. Working on my own unsupervised meant having to think on my feet and increased my confidence vastly.

After twelve months of qualifying, I was fortunate enough to begin training in CT. At that time, I trained on a dual slice scanner however, within the following twelve months, a 16 slice scanner was installed and I received training on that also. I was then immediately enrolled on the cannulation course as this was a desirable element of working in CT and not only enabled me to enhance and develop my role but also meant providing a more efficient service for the patients'. Once again, participating in CT on-call gave me valuable experience and increased my confidence in this modality.

As well as going to a variety of in-house CPD lectures, I was also given the opportunity to undertake two post-graduate modules at Birmingham City University. These were Forensic Radiography and CT Applications. Again, these courses not only increased my skills and knowledge but also enabled me to cascade that training down to other colleagues and students within the department.

Two years after qualifying, I was approached to become a Master Trainer for the new fluoroscopy room that was being installed. Following extensive training of the new equipment, it was my role to then train the radiology department on how to use the equipment. This was a challenging role but very enjoyable and gave me a role of responsibility.

I continued my role of working in CT and rotating through the general department but then in Sept 06 I was asked to be one of the Master Trainers for the installation of CRIS and PACS. Again, this was a challenging role with responsibility but one I happily agreed to. This time the role included not only training the radiology department but also the clinicians throughout the hospital. For several months after the introduction of CRIS and PACS, I helped with the administration side and was there as a member of staff to approach if colleagues were having problems with the system.

Cross-sectional imaging is where my interest lies and after expressing that interest I very quickly began training in MRI. I also went on an external MRI course which greatly enhanced my training in this field. This developed my role as a cross-sectional radiographer and meant that the majority of my working time was divided between the two modalities of CT and MRI.

Recently, an opportunity has arose for a CT site lead position within the trust and I have been very fortunate to have been offered that position. Again my role has now developed to a more managerial position with increased responsibility however, it is also one that I know I will be supported through by the department and the trust.

To summarise, I feel that my role as a radiographer has developed and progressed greatly in the six years that I have been qualified. There are several factors which I feel have enabled this to happen:

1. I was given the opportunity to train early in cross-sectional imaging.
2. I received high quality training within the modalities I have worked in and that has been maintained on any new equipment/technology within the trust.
3. I have been encouraged to take part in courses that will develop my role in line with CPD.
4. I have had the opportunity to train in modalities where I have expressed an interest.
5. I have been continually supported by my colleagues and managers within the trust, enabling me to develop my role.

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