

Practice Educator Accreditation Scheme Guidance: Students Qualifying as Radiographers (or other practitioner in clinical imaging or oncology)

Pursuing accredited status, as an educator, is something you may wish to begin thinking about. During your preceptorship period you will be considering how best to develop your professional role and reflect on your own practice, as well as further contributing to your CPD portfolio. Supporting the learning of others is a significant step in your own professional development.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should I become accredited as a Practice Educator?
2. What can I do to prepare for taking on learners?
3. For how long is accreditation valid?

1. Why should I become accredited as a Practice Educator?

There are three key benefits to becoming accredited as a Practice Educator, which you may wish to consider during your preceptorship year:

⌘ *Professional and national recognition of the Practice Educator's role*

The role of the Practice Educator is fundamental to the continuous development of the clinical imaging and oncology workforce. In helping to provide education for learners, the Practice Educator provides a service that is fundamental to the effective development of the future workforce. It is, therefore, essential that the Practice Educator is providing high quality education and supervision and is in turn valued for this contribution.

The Practice Educator Accreditation Scheme will offer you national recognition and add value to your role.

Once you have achieved accredited status it will be valid in any region of the UK during the five-year timeframe.

⌘ *Evidence to demonstrate your involvement in Continuing Professional Development (CPD)*

In July 2006 it became a requirement of registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) that health care professionals undertake and keep a record of CPD, '*Your guide to our standards for continuing professional development (HPC 2006)*'.

The Practice Educator Accreditation Scheme is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your involvement in CPD. Accreditation will demonstrate a high level of evidence of learning and application in the workplace and if you opt to undertake the programme route to accreditation then you may obtain an additional academic credit (depending on the particular scheme at the HEI) to add to your portfolio. Please refer to the section **CPD and Practice Education** for more guidance about this process.

⌘ ***Contribute to the maintenance and improvement in standards of patient care***

You will be directly helping to ensure that standards of patient care are at a high level by demonstrating that you are a Practice Educator who is committed to taking learners and can reflect upon and evaluate your role.

2. What can I do to prepare for taking on learners?

During your preceptorship period, it is a good idea to talk to some of the Practice Educators in your Trust to find out more about their knowledge and experience of educating others. The advantage of becoming an accredited as Practice Educator is that you will be able to demonstrate that you are reflective and evaluative in your professional capacity.

It is also worth checking with your local HEI to see whether they offer any study days or induction programmes on preparing to become a Practice Educator. If you have not accessed this document via the Society of Radiographers' website, visit it at: www.sor.org to find out more about the Practice Educator Accreditation Scheme and which of the routes to accredited status might best suit you.

3. For how long is accreditation valid?

Accreditation lasts for a period of five years. Your entry on to the database will be submitted to the College of Radiographers by your participating HEI.