



Approval and accreditation of programmes delivered outside the United Kingdom

The College of Radiographers is sometimes asked to approve programmes for delivery outside the United Kingdom. These fall into three broad categories:

1. Programmes that have been approved for the education and training of radiographers in the United Kingdom, where such programmes accept overseas students who come to the UK for the academic component of the programme, but undertake the clinical component in their home country.
2. Programmes that have been approved for the education and training of radiographers in the UK, but are to be delivered in an overseas country under franchise, and to the same standards as in the UK.
3. Programmes developed and delivered by an institution in an overseas country seeking approval and accreditation by the College of Radiographers as an indication of the quality of the programme. This applies mainly to countries where the practice of radiography is similar to that of the UK, often where the university is the sole provider in that country and is looking to the College of Radiographers to provide external quality assurance. The College is also able to offer advice and guidance to other radiography programmes offered overseas but, where such programmes differ in standards from UK based programmes, approval will not be possible.

The College of Radiographers is pleased to respond positively to requests such as those outlined above as this enables it to support the quality of radiography education and training provision internationally and so help improve standards worldwide.

The role of the College of Radiographers

The role of the College of Radiographers is to ensure that the programmes properly prepare graduates for professional practice, are at the correct academic level and that sufficient resources including appropriately trained staff are in place to deliver the programme.

A further primary concern is to ensure that appropriate quality assurance procedures are in place, especially when all, or part, of the programme is delivered remote from the approved education provider and/or awarding body.

Where approval is sought (rather than advice and guidance only) and at an early stage, measures will be taken to establish that the practice of radiography is similar to that in the UK and that it is appropriate for the education and training to comply with standards in the UK. This could be through advice given by experienced practitioners who have practised in both the country seeking approval and the UK, or through links with a University in the UK.

Advice and guidance is available throughout the developmental process from the College of Radiographers.

Position regarding Registration with the Health Professions Council

It is made clear to the institution submitting requests for approval that approval and accreditation by the College of Radiographers does not mean that it is approved by the Health Professions Council, which is the Statutory Regulatory Body in the United Kingdom and with which radiographers need to register to practise in the UK. The HPC would consider an application for registration from a graduate from such a programme in the same way it assesses all overseas applicants.

Retrospective Approval

It is not the normal practice of the College of Radiographers to grant retrospective approval to an education programme. It may, however, approve transitional arrangements whereby students in training at the time when approval is given can “bridge” to the newly approved programme which may require them to undertake additional elements of education and training.

Period of Approval

Approval is normally for a period of 5 years. However, the College of Radiographers may approve for a shorter period or place a condition that an interim report is required from the University.

Expenses and Fees

The Education provider seeking approval or advice and guidance is responsible for all expenses incurred by AAB representatives and an accompanying Professional Officer. A fee will be charged to cover the cost of approval and accreditation and will be notified at the time of the initial request.

Eligibility for Membership of the Society of Radiographers

Graduates from one of these programmes would be eligible for overseas membership of the Society of Radiographers, whilst practicing outside of the UK. Benefits of overseas membership include publications, website access and the members' rate for conferences but would not include professional indemnity insurance or trade union and industrial relations services. Full membership benefits are available to these graduates if they become resident in the UK.

Students on approved overseas programmes may also be offered membership at an overseas student membership rate (rate yet to be determined).

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