Join the organisation promoting radiography... representing radiographers

STUDENT MEMBER GUIDE
Welcome

Welcome to the SoR student member guide

Congratulations on choosing to study radiography! It’s such an incredibly exciting profession to join. Radiography is advancing at a rapid pace with new and thrilling technologies and innovations being developed all the time. Radiography has an aspirational career framework with opportunities to progress into previously uncharted territories and has the capability ‘to boldly go where no one has gone before’!

We are the only professional body representing radiographers in the UK. We are proud of our heritage, and our achievements, and work tirelessly to provide our members with a wide range of excellent benefits and services, support, guidance and representation.

One of our biggest priorities is supporting students through their studies and subsequent professional career. As well as bringing you the latest radiography news, we have many benefits of membership and services such as £5 million professional indemnity insurance, professional magazines and journals, a dedicated website, electronic portfolio and access to an enormous amount of documents which will help with those dreaded assignments!

We hope that, as a student, you will take full advantage of all that we offer. This student member guide will give you a taster but how can we ‘tell all’ in a short book? We can’t, so visit our website www.sor.org for more detail and up to date news and information.

On behalf of the Society of Radiographers, I wish you every success this academic year. I look forward to meeting you and enabling you to become actively involved with your profession. You are the future of our profession! We look forward to many years of your involvement and support.

Good luck with your programme!

Sean Kelly, Member and Public Relations Manager
Who are we?

The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) is the professional, educational and trade union body for radiographers and other clinical staff working in diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy. We take an active role in promoting the development of the profession. This means taking part in consultations, giving advice and liaising with individuals and organisations on a national and international level. We shape the healthcare agenda and lead opinion on a wide range of professional issues, setting the standards that become the policies adopted and acclaimed by governments and health professionals worldwide.

The Society and College are separate legal entities but work together seamlessly to provide an outstanding range of services. In the same way, the dual functions of professional body and trades union are conducted together and with unified objectives. This makes a very strong organisation.

13 great benefits

Just £4 a month for SoR student membership gives your career a head start

1 Website www.sor.org
‘One stop shop’ for everything

You may already have accessed the public side of our website for careers or general information. However, as a member with full access much more is available! There’s a section dedicated to students and a wide range of briefings, advice and guidance material, resources to support practice, career planning advice, learning resources, on-line job advertisements and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) support amongst a whole host of other information.

Visit it often to make sure you don’t miss anything. It’s regularly updated and is the place to look for anything to do with radiography in the UK.

2 Monthly magazines
Read all about it!

We have two leading professional monthly
magazines, ‘Synergy – Imaging and Therapy Practice’ and ‘Synergy News’, which are emailed directly to you via StudentTalk, our monthly e-zine for students.

‘Synergy – Imaging and Therapy Practice’ provides in-depth coverage of the latest professional and educational topics and features a range of practical CPD exercises.

‘Synergy News’ is a lively news digest of what is happening in radiography at local, national and international levels. It publishes news and details of events relevant to the profession along with current issues affecting radiographers.

‘Radiography’ is our peer reviewed journal for imaging and oncology and is published quarterly. Its articles are original work and subject to rigorous review by experts in the field.

3 Complimentary full membership on graduating

Stay with us and save

If you stay in student membership throughout the duration of your course, on graduating you will receive 6 months free full membership saving you £124.50 at current rates!

4 Protect yourself

£5 million annual Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) cover for SoR Student members

One of the significant benefits of joining the SoR is the valuable Professional Indemnity Insurance provided to all qualified and student members. The cover applies to members resident in the United Kingdom and operates throughout the world with the exception of USA and Canada.

So what is PII?

It’s an insurance policy providing protection in the event of legal action being taken against an individual who has caused damage or loss arising from malpractice.
You are covered for claims made against you arising out of your professional activities, whilst working under the supervision of a qualified radiographer. Indemnity insurance and certificates for clinical placements (including electives and overseas placements) that are part of the University’s approved education programme are provided. You are covered up to £5 million for any one accident or a series of accidents per year. Only SoR provides PII as a benefit which specifically covers the entire radiography scope of practice.

**Why do you need PII as a student?**

We’re all legally responsible for our actions and their consequences. If harm or damage is caused in the practice of your profession to another person, they can seek compensation.

5 **Free professional advice**

**Ask away!**

We have a dedicated team of Professional, Regional and National Officers who are able to provide you with professional advice, guidance and support. All are easily accessible and have a wide range of expert knowledge, experience and skills in a huge array of different and specialised areas or fields.

6 **Access research**

**Great for helping you with assignments**

Downloadable resources from the website include a full range of publications, research and information papers. Our digital document library is easy to use and access with an excellent search engine which assists you in searching for the specific guidance you require. If we’ve written anything, you’ll find it there. No other website has the same comprehensive collection of radiography publications so where better to start those assignments?

The most important document for all students is the Code of Conduct and Ethics (http://doc-lib.sor.org/code-conduct-and-ethics). This outlines the principles required of a professional working in radiography.
Create your own portfolio

Your own electronic CPD portfolio online
‘CPD Now’ allows you to record and give evidence of your professional development, knowledge and skills and experience from university and clinical placements and beyond. Don’t sit there getting stressed about what to include, we have loads of useful tips and advice along with great ideas to make your portfolio impressive. So easy to use. So invaluable in developing something impressive and unique.

Experiencing real financial hardship?
We provide thousands of pounds a year to members and their families who need financial support
Our Benevolent Fund exists to help all our members in times of distress. Application forms can be downloaded from our website and submitted for consideration. Examples of where help may be considered include those students with health problems, affecting their ability to complete their course and those with chronic disability or deteriorating conditions needing aids and equipment to support completion of their studies.

Latest radiography news, features and jobs
Don’t be the last one in the know!
Our website is continually updated and provides you with news as and when it happens. There are many interesting features and jobs are advertised all the time – the course will finish much quicker than you think so it’s always good to be prepared! The member-only section of the SoR website has many downloadable resources to keep you informed.
Read StudentTalk

Dedicated to you and about you

StudentTalk is our e-zine, published monthly and emailed right to your inbox. Whether you are looking for news on student bursaries or current issues affecting student rights, tips on preparing for exams or advice on how to survive ‘that interview’, look no further! We provide up to date stories which stimulate and motivate you into thinking about things you may not have thought of such as undertaking a placement in Uganda, doing voluntary work in Jamaica or presenting a paper in Durban … yes these have all been done by radiography students so why not you? Pick up StudentTalk monthly and get yourself informed!

Access to specialist reading collection

Visit the British Institute of Radiology (BIR) Library with your membership

The BIR is one of the oldest associations of professionals in our field. It provides a specialist, national resource for clinical imaging and oncology professionals. It has a reference library and a specialised postgraduate collection, dealing with current research alongside historical material in its collection. The library houses the SCoR collection of books and documents and is available to all SCoR members to use. The library is highly valuable as you progress further into your course and undertake assignments and your dissertation so make sure you check it out early.

Guarding your health

Committed to working towards a safe and healthy environment for you

You have the same rights as everyone else in the profession to good health and the highest state of physical, mental and social well-being. As a trades union we campaign on health and safety issues and have a network of representatives working at a local level to improve work place standards in radiography departments.
Protect your future

Active lobbying to look after your interests

We ensure that all student issues and concerns are heard at UK governmental level and in the four countries of the UK. We actively lobby on a whole range of issues including student finances, where we have a representative on the NHS Bursary Stakeholders Group.

We have a network of more than a thousand representatives that look after your interests in the workplace. They advise and provide representation to Society members about pay and conditions of service and provide support and advice if you are injured at work, or contract an employment-related illness.

Richard Evans
Chief Executive Officer SCoR

Thank you for your interest in the Society and College of Radiographers. I hope that you enjoy your studies in radiography and that you find the information in this booklet helpful. Membership of the Society and College will make a massive difference!

We know that people join this organisation for a range of different reasons. Some are looking for support for CPD and access to publications such as ‘Radiography and Synergy - Imaging and Therapy Practice’. Some are looking for support in the world of work and excellent value indemnity cover. Others are keen to keep up to date with policy and practice at the heart of the most dynamic of health care professions. And some join (believe it or not) simply because we are the professional body… it all matters if you are part of the radiography workforce, so it is essential to be a member.

I don’t think it really matters that there are so many views of the SCoR and what it means to be a member. We have learned a lot as a profession through not squeezing people into the shapes that we think are required. And we certainly do not like it when others try to do the squeezing to us! The SCoR has gained a reputation as one of the most innovative, influential and productive of health...
organisations. This has come through strength of commitment amongst our very diverse membership, commitment to excellent patient care, commitment to public service and commitment to our profession.

I hope that you will want to become part of SCoR and commit to radiography.

Come and see us!
We love to see students and encourage them to get actively involved in the profession

For each year of your training, between September and the beginning of November, one of our team will visit your university to tell you more about what the future of the radiography profession holds and advancements we can look forward to. We update you on how we can assist you through your training as well as assisting you into employment and full membership. It’s a great opportunity to pick our brains about what’s going on or tell us what you need as a student and the issues you’ve faced. The more we hear the more we can help!

Make sure you don’t miss us! Check your timetables to see when we’ll be with you. This is a great opportunity for us to meet ‘face to face’. We can answer your questions and tell you about developments within the profession. Tell us what you want. If we don’t hear from you, we can’t improve things for you.

15 Ways to get involved!
The success of student representation in the SoR depends, quite simply, on students getting involved. Your involvement is crucial to the future of your profession and you can contribute in a variety of ways:

1 Become a student rep
We need you!
Every university course has a student rep, usually one in each year. Why not become your course rep? We are building up our network of student reps who can communicate with our regional student officers to really get the voice of the students heard. If we don’t hear what you need or the issues you face, we don’t know how to help you. The more student reps we have feeding back to us the better the services and support we can provide to you.

2 Become a regional student officer
Your region needs you
The success of the SoR lies in the involvement of members and this is best achieved through the network of regions. Each region has a committee and they warmly welcome students to be actively involved. So why not become your region’s student officer?

In this role you will be invited to join the Student Working Party comprising SoR staff, regional student reps and student observers to Council. They review and improve benefits for students and enable active student engagement in the profession. SCoR works hard to listen to what students need. We actively respond to feedback and suggestions gained from this group and have made some significant differences in the past few years.

3 Become an observer to UK Council
This prestigious role is really something to think about!
Students can nominate themselves to become a Student Observer to Council at the Annual Delegate Conference (ADC). On accepting this role you can attend UK Council meetings to participate in the discussions and put forward the student perspective and voice. This is truly a unique and important role and can greatly influence decisions made for all students.

4 Write for StudentTalk
Let others know what you’re doing
So many of you do such exciting and interesting things throughout your training including volunteering, international placements, being present at national conferences and receiving awards. Consider telling
others about your experiences. We only need short pieces for our e-zine which our editor can help put together. Let’s motivate others into sharing their stories by highlighting yours.

5 Write for Synergy Imaging & Therapy Practice
Don’t let that assignment sit on the shelf gathering dust
During your course you will submit many written assignments. Students put a lot of time and effort into producing really good pieces of work only to leave them after receiving a pass grade. Why not see if they can be published in our Synergy & Imaging Therapy Practice journal? Many students are now submitting their work for publication which is fantastic to see and looks great as you build your CV. We can provide professional assistance in presenting your work for publication to reduce any anxiety you may have.

6 Respond to SoR surveys
The more responses, the better the outcome
We often send out electronic surveys asking your opinion on student related topics. These are for your benefit and often help us to identify what students want and need. Sometimes they are significantly important in gaining feedback that contributes to consultation papers set by the government, such as the recent NHS student bursary consultation. Please get involved and respond to these surveys, otherwise the student voice is not heard.

7 Attend SoR student conference
The student event of the year
We provide a great opportunity for you to network with other students from across the UK at our annual Student Conference. We usually have to limit places offered to each university but if you are invited, please come along. Expenses are paid, including travel and accommodation costs incurred. The programme always includes current topics affecting the profession, future development of the profession and key skills needed for employment. Students who have attended have commented about how motivating they found the event and how much they learnt.

8 Attend regional events
Check out what’s happening in your region
Our regional committees and national councils often arrange local student study days during the year, offering a range of ‘hot topics’, advice and guidance on CV writing and interview techniques, talks from past students on their experiences, career development, working overseas, etc. These events offer you excellent networking opportunities within your region or country. Who knows where these opportunities may lead in the future? Check out what’s on in your region and register yourself for upcoming events.
Attend SoR and national conferences

Keep your finger on the pulse
We have an extensive programme of seminars, workshops and conferences held across the UK covering a wide spectrum of professional topics such as forensic radiography and legal issues in radiotherapy. Substantially discounted rates for events run by SCoR are available to you. Consider attending.

In addition, we encourage you to attend and even participate in the annual United Kingdom Radiology Congress (UKRC) and the United Kingdom Radiotherapy and Oncology Congress (every two years). Students are entitled to discounted tickets with free exhibition entrance. What a great way to see the latest advances in the profession.

Both provide opportunities for students to present short papers. The Forder Memorial Award is presented for the best paper proffered by a student at the UKRC. The award is given in memory of a founder of the SoR and member of the first Council of the Society.

Details of upcoming events can be found on the ‘events’ section of the SoR website, so keep your eyes peeled to see when new adverts for events are posted.

Encourage friends to become SoR members

Students are the future of the profession
As a member, you will become very aware about what services and benefits we offer you. However, some of your peers and colleagues may not yet be members and we’d like you to pass this guide on to them to explain what we do and how we can help. The more members we have, the more information we can share, the more opportunities for networking we can create and the stronger our voice will be in representing the interests of our student members.
Join us on Facebook

The perfect way to connect
We know students like to communicate through social networking sites. So what a great way for radiography students to network and share positive experiences! We have a Facebook page designed specifically for our students and it’s proving to be very popular. Why not become a member and let others know what’s going on in your course?

Contribute to SoR website forums

Let others know your views
We have several forums on our website in which you can voice your opinion and read others’. Students are really welcomed to join in. The more you contribute, the livelier the debates will be.

Celebrate World Radiography Day

... in style!
On 11 November each year, we celebrate World Radiography Day. Why don’t you and your peers organise your own way to celebrate this event? We can provide resources such as stickers, posters and the ever-popular fluffy bugs to help you on your way. Be proud to be a student radiographer!

Join the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and networks

Meet like-minded people
We have several groups that focus on specialist areas of radiography. You are very welcome to join and play an active role. Currently, the SIGs include forensics, paediatrics, MRI, nuclear medicine, gastro-intestinal imaging, radiography education, radiotherapy, trauma imaging, reporting, independent practitioners, vascular and interventional radiography and breast screening.

Opportunities also exist for you to join, participate and play an active role in national networks facilitated by us such as the equality network, ‘Equalise’. This aims to challenge attitudes on equality and diversity in the workplace and help break down the barriers that continue to exist.

Follow us on Twitter

Follow our tweets at SCoRstudents

Student observers to UK Council 2012

Lyn Fotheringham from Scottish Council and Daniel Beazley of the London Region, share the role of student observers to UK Council. They were elected at this year’s Annual Delegates Conference (ADC). Speaking of his new role, Daniel said, “Going to my first ever Annual Delegates Conference as a student really opened my eyes as to how the Society of Radiographers make a difference to our profession.

“I quickly realised that every member there was enthusiastic about the motions and decisions brought to the conference and no one was afraid to make their voice heard. It was wonderful for me to be a part of that process and made me feel like I really am making a difference to my future and that of every radiographer or student radiographer in the country.

“The ADC really does bring out the passion you have for radiography and that is why I had no hesitation when asked if I would like to be
nominated as student observer to the UK Council. With the opportunity for me to now experience what happens to our profession behind the front lines of clinical sites. I hope that as a student ambassador for my university who visits local schools on career days to explain to kids about our vital healthcare profession, I will have gained even more knowledge that can enthuse the next generation of student radiographers."

The student observer role is an important one because it’s an opportunity for the student voice to be heard at the SoR’s UK Council. As students, it is important that you all make your voice heard by getting involved. Lyn and Daniel look forward to hearing from you, so please contact them by email:

Daniel Beazley: beazleyd@lsbu.ac.uk
Lyn Fotheringham: 09000679@qmu.ac.uk

Students are the future of our profession and your enthusiasm, drive and determination will steer your future career development.

Elaine Norton
My Year as a Student Observer to UK Council

When I attended the Annual Delegates Conference (ADC) as a first year student radiographer, I volunteered to become student observer to UK Council and was accepted.

Little did I imagine how the year would unfold: the knowledge I would acquire including infinite acronyms, the people I would meet, and the amount of papers and emails I would read.

I attended a training session, where the structure of the Society, the College and Council were explained, along with my role to council. It was at this training session that the roles and responsibilities of Council were explained. However, it wasn’t until I had attended a few Council meetings that things began to make sense.

Travelling to London to attend my first meeting was exciting. The walk from the Tube on that sunny day, past London Bridge, and through the narrow cobbled lanes I felt relaxed and was looking forward to the day ahead. Then as I walked through the doors of the boardroom, realising I knew no-one: first day fear.

I was the only person in the room that no-one knew and everyone else all knew each other. It was a great relief when the Chief Executive Officer, Richard Evans, came in – a face I recognised. Fortunately this fear was short lived, Council gave me and my fellow students (who over the year I shared the role of observer with) a warm and friendly welcome.

Throughout the year I attended meetings, and saw how Council affect and support my profession. I did not realise how much work UK Council do for radiographers including the time and effort they expend carrying out these tasks. And although, due to university commitments, I missed one of the highlights of the year – Radiographer of the Year Awards at the Houses of Parliament – I was honoured to attend the 90th Anniversary of the Society with special awards being presented to esteemed colleagues of radiology. This event opened my eyes to how much difference radiographers make to the NHS; it was a humbling experience.

When I started this journey I knew very little about my professional body and even less about UK Council. It has been a fascinating, illuminating and rewarding year – one which I will always cherish, not least because I learned so much, grew in confidence and met with so many friendly professionals from all over the UK. People that inspired me, who are passionate about radiography and make me proud to be part of this profession.

So, how as a first year student did I become so embroiled in it all? I asked a few questions, walked through open doors and was met with warm, welcoming and now familiar faces and smiles!

Nick Barlow
Diagnostic Radiographer, Castle Hill Hospital, Hull

I joined the SoR when I was in my first year of study. Shortly after, I was invited down to the SoR Student Conference in London. Incidentally, if any of you students out there get the chance to go to
one, please do! It’s terrific for showing you how you can get involved and all the benefits open to you, as well as the ones I’m going to talk about.

For those of you thinking of going into management or becoming superintendent radiographers, the Society’s Annual Delegate Conference (ADC) gives you the chance to have your say on issues that can change how radiographers operate across the country. When I attended and I got the chance to address and close the conference and although speaking in front of 500 or so people may seem pretty terrifying at first, it’s not nearly as bad as you think and really helps to build your confidence and presentation skills.

Besides attending conferences, I’m also involved in several meeting groups such as the Regional Committee, Executive Committee and Student Working Group. These meetings allow me to have a say on the latest developments within the Society and it really builds your presentation skills, giving you the confidence to express and argue your own ideas. For those of you who may be thinking that getting involved in these groups is incredibly difficult, let me tell you it isn’t - if they’ll let me in, they will welcome you with open arms!

The SoR doesn’t just help skills-wise, but also academically. Having free access to ‘Radiography’ journal provides plenty of references for your essay writing and the Society provides some excellent advice on things like exam preparation and technique on the SoR website.

The Society also offers help with travel insurance for elective placements abroad. I was sorting out a placement in Hong Kong, for example, and was struggling with the insurance. I contacted the SoR and they offered me some excellent advice on planning the transport and accommodation, whilst providing me with sufficient insurance to cover the placement.

From a continuing professional development (CPD) point of view, the SoR website has an excellent tool called CPD Now that members can use to arrange their CPD portfolio and organise their evidence. This certainly helps at interviews because if they ever ask for evidence of CPD (which is now a mandatory component of HPC registration) or of any extra-curricular activities, you will be well prepared.

There is also the chance to be nominated for prestigious awards such as the SoR Radiography Student of the Year Award. Not only is the award ceremony held at the House of Commons but the award is fantastic for your CV and CPD and will no doubt open many new exciting opportunities in your career.

All in all, the SoR membership has offered me some excellent opportunities over the past three years and the experiences I have gained are priceless! I’ve just graduated and started my new role but already I’m the Industrial Relations (IR) rep, the Yorkshire and North Trent (Y and NT) ADC Delegate Leader and will now be taking over the position of chairman of the Y and NT region which involves chairing all Executive Committee and Regional Representative meetings.

Join today

Complete and return the application form to us (together with the direct debit form found at the back of this guide) and we will contact you with details of your membership after we have processed your application. This should only take a couple of weeks.

If you’re a first year student you can receive free membership during your first year of training if you complete and return your application and direct debit forms to us. Do this before the end of semester one and you’ll receive a free gift of a 4GB memory stick, which is loaded with useful documents but still has heaps of space to save your university work on. You won’t need to pay until the free year ends and you can cancel your direct debit at any time.

Don’t panic about paying! We have a very secure payment system and never share your details with other organisations. In the unlikely event of a fraudulent withdrawal from your account, you are protected by the Direct Debit guarantee and entitled to an immediate refund from your bank or building society.

So what are you waiting for? Don’t miss out!