
Downloaded from: http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/3576/

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria’s institutional repository ‘Insight’ must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria’s institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available here) for educational and not-for-profit activities provided that

• the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form

• a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work

• the content is not changed in any way

• all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

• sell any part of an item

• refer to any part of an item without citation

• amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator’s reputation

• remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found here. Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.
Title: Addressing the UK’s sonographer shortage through new initiatives higher education: Evaluating the perspectives of ultrasound unit managers

Authorship

1. Lorelei Waring, MSc., Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.*

2. Dr. Paul K. Miller, Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.

3. Amanda Marland, MSc., Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.

4. Shelley Smart, MSc., Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.

*Corresponding author. Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, Bowerham Road, Lancaster, Lancashire, UK. LA1 3JD. Email: lorelei.waring@cumbria.ac.uk. Tel: +44 1524 385487

Keywords

Grounded theory; Medical education; Medical sociology; Qualitative research; Sonography; Ultrasound
Abstract

**Background:** Over the last decade, progressively fewer available posts in UK sonography have been filled.\(^5,6\) As such, interventions in higher education (HE) to attract new blood have become a matter of increasing interest for medical imaging research.\(^2,3\) While this corpus of literature has produced a range of actionable findings to date, the views of employers in clinical ultrasound around how the issue might be addressed in HE have remained largely unresearched.

**Methods:** Three models of ultrasound education were proposed to N=20 ultrasound department leads in public (n=17) and private (n=3) units: (1) The direct entry undergraduate model (DEUM); (2) the direct entry postgraduate model (DEPM); and (3) the 3+1 postgraduate model (31PM). Participants were encouraged to express a preference, reasons for their preference, and which components of each model were desirable/undesirable. Using a Straussian model of Grounded Theory,\(^1,4\) the extended accounts provided were analysed.

**Results:** Of the participants, n=9 indicated a sole preference for the DEPM, while n=3 indicated a sole preference for the 31PM. However, n=8 found variable strengths/weaknesses in each. Qualitative concerns thematised as: (1) The feed of undergraduate entry programmes into extant pay banding. (2) A lack of life, communication and time management skills synonymous with younger graduates. (3) Sustaining the current quality of sonographers without a prior background in plain radiography. (4) Condensing ultrasound learning into too brief a period.

**Conclusions:** There is no simple solution in HE to the sonographer shortage. Unit managers’ perspectives add depth to our understanding of what might be required.
References.


2. Society and College of Radiographers. Developing and growing the sonographer workforce: Education and training needs. SCoR; 2009.


