

Waring, Lorelei, Bolton, Gareth ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5453-4257> ,
Smart, Shelley, Sloane, Charles ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5343-7626>
and Miller, Paul K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5611-1354> (2019) A
two-year evaluation of a direct-entry postgraduate ultrasound programme:
mapping the student experience. In: United Kingdom Imaging and Oncology
Congress (UKIO), 10-12 June 2019, ACC, Liverpool. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/4402/>

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.

A Two-Year Evaluation of a Direct-Entry Postgraduate Ultrasound Programme: Mapping the Student Experience

Lorelei Waring, Gareth Bolton, Shelley Smart, Charles Sloane and Paul K Miller

University of Cumbria, UK

Abstract

Background: A progressive shortage of qualified clinicians within the UK's public ultrasound departments has been documented for some time (Migration Advisory Committee, 2013), as have the organisational, physical and psychological consequences for departmental managers and working sonographers themselves (Miller *et al.*, 2018; Waring *et al.*, 2018; Bolton and Cox, 2015). Extant strategies to enhance recruitment from traditional graduate cohorts (typically diagnostic radiography) have, to date, barely kept pace with wastage.

Consequently, new direct-entry programmes have been necessitated (Society and College of Radiographers, 2013). This presentation reports findings from an evaluation of one of the UK's first postgraduate direct entry programmes, with a particular focus on student experience within the first cohort.

Methods: A thematic analysis informed by a Straussian model of Grounded Theory was employed (Sloane and Miller, 2017); semi-structured interviews with N=5 participating students with a variety of graduate backgrounds were conducted at the end of the first and the second year of the programme.

Results: Five Global themes emerged: (a) The perceived and real benefits of prior undergraduate anatomical/biological education; (b) The perceived and real benefits of prior clinical experience in any field; (c) The demands of a placement-oriented programme and the

importance of a clinical coordinator; (d) Balancing academic achievement with clinical objectives, and; (e) Concerns regarding HCPC registration.

Conclusions: It was clear that many of the academic and practical worries articulated by participating students at the end of their first year had evaporated by the end of the second. Equally, adaptations were rapidly made to the demands of placement work where it was a new experience. Managing clinical objectives and lack of HCPC registration, however, remained concerns to the end.

Keywords: education; grounded theory; postgraduate study; sonography; ultrasound;

References

Bolton, G.C. and Cox, D.L. (2015) 'Survey of UK sonographers on the prevention of work related muscular-skeletal disorder (WRMSD)', *Journal of Clinical Ultrasound*, 43(3), pp. 145-152. doi: 10.1002/jcu.22216.

Migration Advisory Committee (2013) *Skilled Shortage Sensible: Full review of the recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland, a sunset clause and the creative occupations*. London: Migration Advisory Committee. Available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257241/mac-report.pdf

Miller, P.K., Waring, L., Bolton, G.C. and Sloane, C. (2018) 'Personnel flux and workplace anxiety: Personal and interpersonal consequences of understaffing in UK ultrasound departments', *Radiography*, . doi: 10.1016/j.radi.2018.07.005.

Sloane, C. and Miller, P.K. (2017) 'Informing radiography curriculum development: The views of UK radiology service managers concerning the 'fitness for purpose' of recent diagnostic radiography graduates', *Radiography*, 23(S1), pp. S16-S22. doi: 10.1016/j.radi.2017.05.013.

Society and College of Radiographers (2013) *Direct Entry Undergraduate Ultrasound Programmes (with competency to practise): a briefing from the Society and College of Radiographers*. London: SCoR. Available at: <https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library/direct-entry-undergraduate-ultrasound-programmes-competency-practise-briefing-society-and-college>.

Waring, L., Miller, P.K., Sloane, C. and Bolton, G.C. (2018) 'Charting the practical dimensions of understaffing from a managerial perspective: the everyday shape of the UK's sonographer shortage', *Ultrasound*, 26(4), pp. 206-213. doi: 10.1177/1742271X18772606.