

Upton, Amanda ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-2533-9154> and Miller, Paul K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5611-1354> (2024) An exploratory qualitative investigation of course-fee funding for students on a full-time MSc pathway in Medical Ultrasound. In: UK Imaging and Oncology Congress 2024 (UKIO 2024): Vision and values: Putting people first, 10-12 June 2024, Liverpool ACC, UK. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/7579/>

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.

An exploratory qualitative investigation of course-fee funding for students on a full-time MSc pathway in Medical Ultrasound

Amanda Upton and Paul K. Miller

Institute of Health, University of Cumbria, UK

UK Imaging and Oncology Congress, Liverpool ACC, 10th to 12th June 2024.

Abstract

Background: Students reading for a full-time MSc in Medical Imaging (Ultrasound) are graduates from a variety of demographic backgrounds, many with family commitments. Unlike other UK healthcare courses, students are not entitled to a bursary nor assistance with course-related costs. In previous years, a lack of financial support has been cited by prospective students as the chief reason for not accepting an offer of a place on the course. Course fees for students in the cohort beginning January 2023 were fully-financed by a key external agency to improve recruitment and retention on this pathway. This study explored the financial challenges experienced, and whether such funding enabled students to accept their place on the programme.

Method: Semi-structured online interviews were undertaken with full-time medical ultrasound students (n=7) prior to starting clinical placement. Reflexive thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2019) identified three global themes which describe participants' experiences.

Results: Three themes emerged from the data analysis. These were: (a) Enabling students to study: Full course-fee funding made it financially feasible for some participants to accept their place on the programme. Additionally, it reduced the necessity for students to undertake paid part-time work, allowing more time to focus on their learning; (b) Study-life balance: Reduced part-time working helped to support family-life and student mental health; (c) Ongoing financial challenges: Despite the positive outcomes of course-fee funding, students experienced continuing difficulties associated with increasing living costs.

Conclusion: The intervention has had positive outcomes on enabling students to study and supporting students in their family-life and mental health.

References

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2019) "Reflecting on reflexive thematic analysis," *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*, 11(4), pp. 589–597.