

Training

To become a medical imaging/radiation technologist you must complete a Bachelor degree specialising in medical imaging. This takes three years or four years for B MedImag (Hons).

These institutions offer these qualifications:

- Universal College of Learning (UCOL)
- Ara Institute of Canterbury
- University of Auckland
- Unitec (Auckland)

Here is an example of entry requirements (UCOL), but check details on institution websites.

University Entrance including three subjects at L3 or above made up of 14 credits each in 3 approved subjects in:

- English or an approved Literacy subject,
- Science or Mathematics
- One other subject from the approved subjects (Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics preferred).

Post-graduate study is required to practise mammography, computed tomography (CT), ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). This is carried out at the University of Auckland.

Personal Qualities

Medical imaging technologists need to:

- be good at communicating clearly
- have an eye for detail
- be organised
- be technically capable
- be patient and calm
- be accurate and precise



Information collated by NZIRH
Where to go for more information:

- www.careers.govt.nz
- www.kiaorahauora.co.nz
- www.nzimrt.co.nz/
- www.mrtboard.org.nz/

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Medical Imaging Technologist



Medical imaging involves...

Investigation and diagnosis of disease or internal damage of the body through radiographs using ionising radiation (x-rays and gamma rays).

Medical imaging technologists can become more specialised through further study in mammography, angiography, nuclear medicine, computed tomography (CT), ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). This leads to a job as a diagnostic imaging general technologist, magnetic resonance imager, nuclear medicine technologist or sonographer. All of these must be registered with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board.

There can be confusion between medical imaging technologists and medical radiation therapists. Although medical radiation therapy uses radiation and therapists must also be registered with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board, they take a different course of study and work on therapy rather than diagnosis. Medical radiation therapists do a Bachelor of Radiation Therapy at University of Otago (Wellington).

What do they do?

Various technologies are used for diagnosis and investigation.

- X-ray to examine bones, cavities and foreign objects
- Fluoroscopy to produce real-time images to investigate the digestive system
- CT (computed tomography) to produce a 3D image which can be displayed as cross sections
- MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) to make a 2D or 3D map of various tissue types in the body
- Ultrasound to examine the heart and blood vessels, check for kidney stones or check the progress of an unborn baby
- Angiography is also used to investigate blood vessels and the heart
- Nuclear medicine uses radioactive substances to pinpoint specific parts of the body

Where do medical imaging technologists work?

Medical imaging technologists work in:

- public hospitals
- private practices
- medical laboratories
- dental practices



In New Zealand, this is a growing field and there is a strong demand for people to do this type of work and a good chance of getting a job.