

## Training

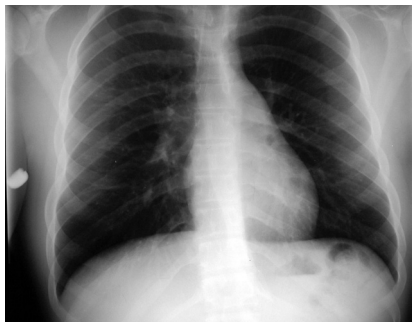
The Bachelor of Radiation Therapy is a three year degree offered by University of Otago. It involves theory and practical training. The programme is based in Wellington but in the second and third year of study, clinical training is done in either Wellington or other places around New Zealand. Places are limited to 30 students per year.

Entry requirements:

- You must have completed or be completing NCEA Level 3 English or Te Reo Māori or Te Reo Rangatira or Classics or History or Geography or Art History; and Mathematics or Statistics or Calculus; and Physics or Biology, with a minimum of 16 credits per subject.
- Attend a Radiation Therapy Admissions interview

*Check the University of Otago website for more detail.*

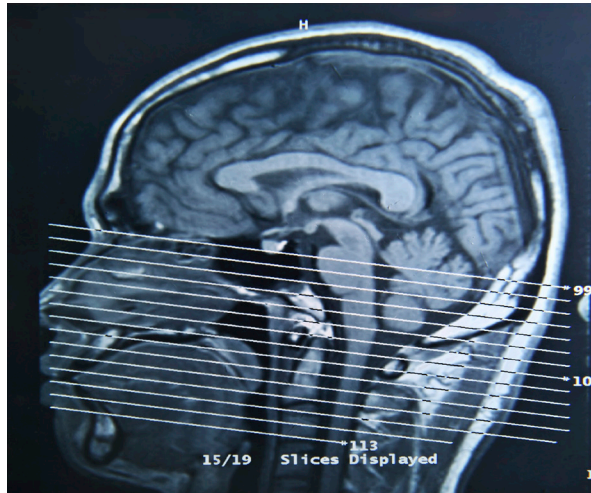
Radiation therapist is listed amongst the health careers where there is a skill shortage in New Zealand.



## Personal Qualities

Radiation therapists need to:

- be very precise and accurate
- be an excellent communicator
- be empathetic
- very well organised
- safety conscious



Information collated by NZIRH  
Where to go for more information:

- <https://nzimrt.co.nz>
- [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)
- [www.kiaorahauora.org.nz](http://www.kiaorahauora.org.nz)
- [www.mrtboard.org.nz](http://www.mrtboard.org.nz)

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## Radiation therapist



## ***Radiation therapy***

Radiation therapy involves ...

using radiation equipment to treat diseases, mostly cancers.

Radiation therapists are involved in

- diagnostic xrays and scans
- planning and delivering radiation therapy on patients
- supporting radiation oncologists (cancer specialists)
- education

Radiation therapy is listed as one of the health careers in New Zealand where there is a skill shortage. Although radiation therapy involves medical imaging, radiation therapist and medical imaging technician are different jobs with different training programmes.

Here is a video to watch:

Becoming a Radiation Therapist - What is it really like? (University of Otago)

<https://youtu.be/EraKInPYZfc>

## ***What do they do?***

Radiation therapists may do some or all of the following:

- plan and deliver treatment with radiation oncologists
- take x-rays or computed tomography (CT) scans to locate the treatment area
- take patients' measurements for planning radiation treatment
- calculate the amount and length of radiation treatment
- make devices to keep the body still during treatment
- get patients and equipment ready for treatment
- deliver radiation treatment with high energy x-ray machines
- educate patients about how radiation therapy works and its side effects.



## ***Where do radiation therapists work?***

Most radiation therapists work in public hospitals where radiation treatment is given in:

- Auckland
- Hamilton
- Palmerston North
- Wellington
- Christchurch
- Dunedin

There are private cancer treatment centres in Auckland, Tauranga and Christchurch.

Radiation therapists usually work during business hours but may be on call.

## ***Pros and cons***

- the satisfaction gained from helping people
- working with people
- the job is challenging
- working with seriously or possibly terminally ill people who may be distressed