



**Jordan
Sproule**

**Diagnostic
Radiographer**

What does your job entail?

One of the best and most interesting things about being a radiographer is that there is so much variety. A general radiographer can rotate through areas such as plain film x-rays of both inpatients and outpatients to screening during orthopaedic surgeries. We also perform fluoroscopy examinations and portable chest x-rays in intensive care units. We rotate through a busy A&E Department, offering a 24 hour service. In such a career there are lots of areas for progression, radiographers can specialise in MRI, CT, Interventional Radiology, Ultrasound, Reporting and more. Aside from using radiography equipment, my job also requires a level of attentiveness to our sick and vulnerable patients which is challenging, yet rewarding.

How did you get into this line of work?

During secondary school I attended an open day at my local hospital and through speaking to radiographers I gained an insight into their role on a daily basis. I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in line with health care and radiography was and still is the perfect fit. The combination of patient care, contributing to diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of pathologies and use of different specialist diagnostic imaging enticed me, as each day proposes a new challenge.

Outline your career to date

Starting my first job in the same month that I graduated from university was both daunting and exciting. I have worked in RVH for around 18 months, working as a Band 5 radiographer. Since then I have gained a wealth of experience. I play a crucial role in a multidisciplinary team, working closely alongside doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. I thoroughly enjoy working in a fast paced, highly technological environment whilst providing a patient centred service. I have a particular interest in working in A&E, I have obtained skills which allow me to remain composed in order to maintain the highest standard of care while under pressure and working within strict time frames. Performing highly anticipated medical imaging in life and death situations has instilled an ability to withstand stress in difficult circumstances.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

After achieving the entry requirements for the course which is BBB at A level in the appropriate subjects and passing the Health Professions Admissions Test I gained a place at Ulster University to study 'Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging –BSc-Hons'. I studied there for three years, during this time I spent a total of 40 weeks on clinical placement in different hospitals across Northern Ireland. In my opinion this is where I truly got a sense of what it is like to work as a radiographer and gained valuable experience helping to cement the theory I had been taught in class.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Qualities I believe are important to work as a Radiographer are;

- Excellent communication skills – both verbal and written
- Good time management
- Openness and honesty
- Kindness and patience
- Strong work ethic
- Team player

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I had to take 6 weeks off University to have ligament reconstruction surgery in my right knee following a football injury during 2nd year. This led to hobbling around university in crutches and a knee brace for the rest of term.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

My greatest inspirations are not celebrities or famous people, but my family. My parents who encouraged me to work hard from a young age and gave me the platform to achieve my goals. Having two older brothers to share their life lessons has helped prepare me for adult life. I am extremely grateful to them all for the support they have provided through exams, first days and tough days at work.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

In hindsight I would share some words of encouragement with my 16 year old self. I would tell myself to eradicate any self-doubt that I have in regard to my studies, to appreciate the encouragement and assistance provided by my parents and teachers, and to continue to work hard in order to achieve my goals.