



South Eastern Health  
and Social Care Trust



Mark Beattie

Radiography  
Practice Educator

## Introduce yourself

My name is Mark Beattie. I am the Radiography Practice Educator at the Ulster Hospital.

## What does your job entail?

I am the Radiography Practice Educator at the Ulster Hospital. My role involves managing, supervising, and supporting diagnostic radiography students from Ulster University during their clinical placements. I guide students in performing radiographic examinations on ward patients, trauma patients, and outpatients, emphasizing achieving the highest image quality with the lowest radiation dose. I also prepare practical and theoretical tutorials to reinforce their university-acquired knowledge. Additionally, I review students' written work, conduct assessments, and collaborate with the university to communicate students' progress during placements. In cases where students face challenges, I work closely with the university to develop strategies and support mechanisms to help them meet placement outcomes.

## How did you get into this line of work?

After school, I wasn't sure about my desired field of study. However, I knew I didn't want a desk job. Given that Biology was my favourite subject and I wanted to apply my knowledge of Biology and human anatomy, Radiography caught my attention when I was exploring university prospectuses. It seemed like a perfect fit for me.

## Outline your career to date

I began my journey as a basic grade radiographer at the Ulster Hospital in 2006. During my initial years, I relished the experience as a junior staff member, learning the dynamics of teamwork among radiographers, honing effective communication with patients, and adapting to the daily challenges we encountered. Subsequently, I pursued training to become an ultrasonographer, a step that significantly expanded my skills within a multi-disciplinary team. This training equipped me with the ability to identify and diagnose common pathologies through ultrasound scans. In 2014, I took on the role of Radiography Practice Educator, marking a pivotal point in my career.

## Tell us about your qualifications and training?

I graduated with a BSc Honors in Radiography from UU in 2006, followed by the completion of a PGD in Medical Ultrasound in 2010. In 2015, I undertook a standalone module titled 'Enhancing Teaching and Learning in the Practice Setting.' This qualification paved the way for me to attain Practice Educator Accreditation with the Society of Radiographers.

## What qualities are required for your job, personal and professional?

Good communication skills are essential, you must be a good team player, you should be organised to help stay on top of a busy worklist. Radiographers should have a good eye for attention to detail.

## What is the best advice you have ever received?

Have confidence in your abilities.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending time with my wife and children. I am a keen cyclist/mountain biker.

## Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I walked/cycled further last month than I drove in my car.

## Who has inspired you most in your life?

My colleagues. I think that we have a great team. It amazes me what can be achieved through good teamwork.

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

Don't take life too seriously.