



Radiology at medical school

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Radiology is arguably the most innovative and technology driven specialty today. However, as a medical student, exposure to the specialty is relatively limited. I first stumbled upon radiology during my second year of study while attending a lecture on emergency radiology hosted by the Manchester Medical Society (MMS) Section of Imaging. I fell in love with the diagnostic problem solving involved and knew I wanted to find out more about the specialty.

Despite exposure to radiology being limited through medical school, there are a vast number of opportunities to get involved for anyone willing to do so. Most medical schools have radiology societies and if one doesn't exist, there's usually an opportunity to create one. In my third year I joined my local radiology society and have since held the position of both Vice President and currently as President. There are so many opportunities to get involved to whatever degree you'd like and I would highly encourage anyone considering the specialty to get in contact with their local radiology department. Radiologists are incredibly friendly people and always willing to help enthusiastic medical students! Through reaching out to my local department, I managed to organise a student selected clinical placement, an elective and an audit. These opportunities have allowed me to learn more about the day to day life of a radiologist and the responsibilities a radiologist has, the true nature of radiology work is very different to the stereotypical view of radiologists spending all day sitting in a dark room alone. As well as this, there are usually opportunities to tailor parts of your degree towards radiology. I have been lucky enough to complete a literature review and two pieces of novel research in radiology-related topics and had the privilege of having one of my projects funded by the Medical Research Council. I am currently completing an intercalated MSc in Medical Imaging Science and this has really allowed me to tailor my learning to radiology, I am enjoying the degree massively and know now that radiology will be my first choice specialty.

I have recently had the honour of being offered a position on the MMS Section of Imaging council as a student representative. I really feel I have come full circle – I am responsible for encouraging medical students to engage with a society that first opened my eyes to the wonders of radiology. I continue to work as both a student representative and as President of the undergraduate radiology society to promote increased radiology exposure to medical students as I truly believe it is underrepresented in the current medical school curricula. However, for those that are already interested in the specialty, the world is your oyster and opportunities are plenty so don't hesitate to get stuck in!