

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



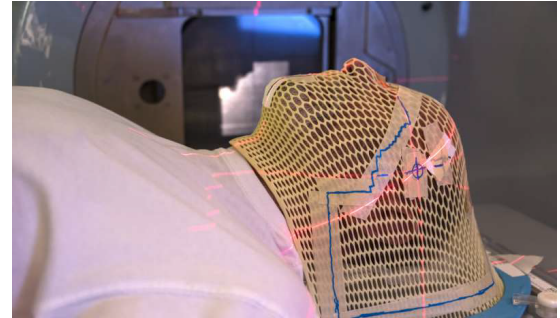
Therapeutic Radiographer

Area of HCS: Allied health professions

Pay scale: £24k - £44k

AMAZING FACT 1 Not all cancers can be treated by chemotherapy or radiation. In some cancers you receive both and in others you receive one or the other!

As a Therapeutic Radiographer you will work directly with patients every day. The patients you see will mainly be cancer patients and your role will use X-rays and ionising radiation to help treat their tumors. Great care & accuracy is needed to ensure the right dose of radiation is given to a patient.

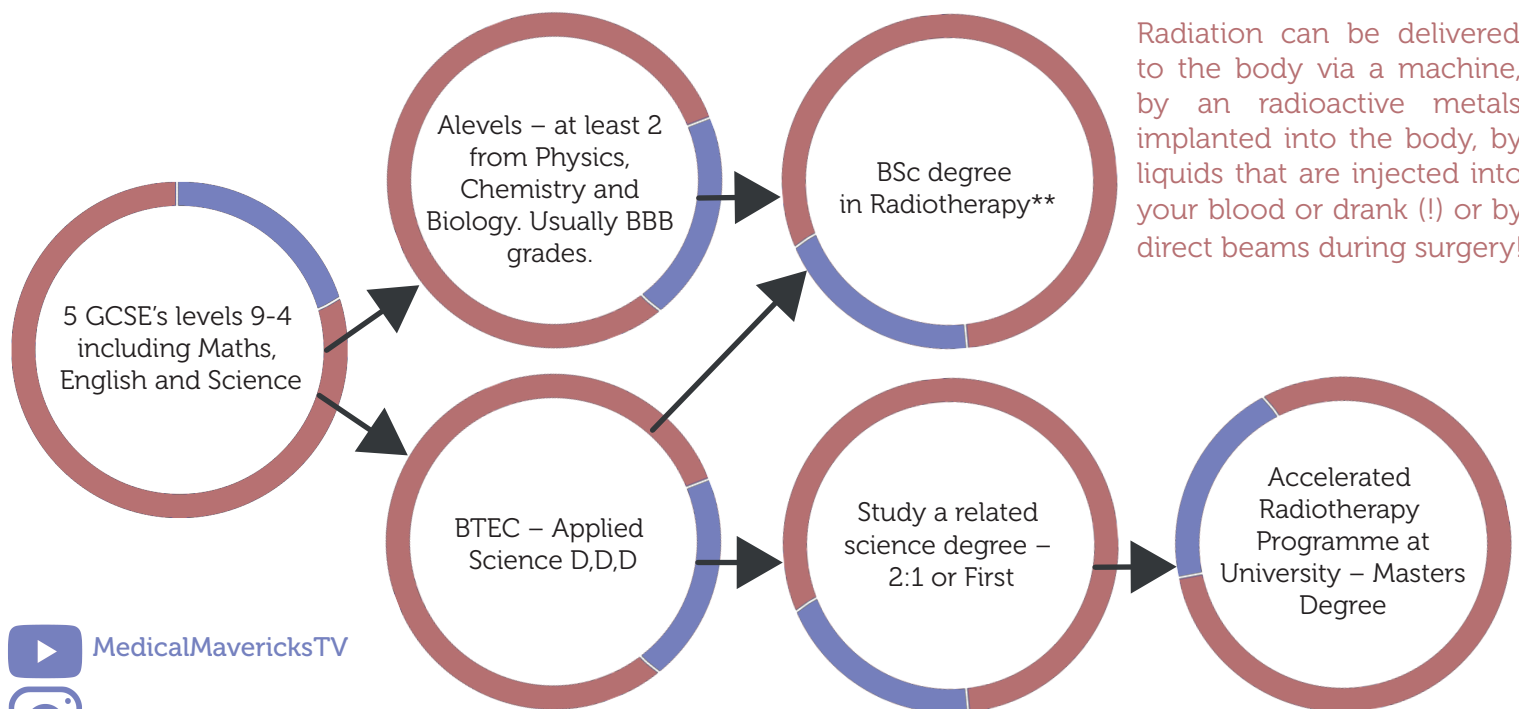


The X-Rays and radiation you use to treat cancers work by damaging the DNA of cancer cells. The damaged DNA means the cells do not have the right information to duplicate and create more cancer cells and eventually die.

It is essential that the surrounding healthy tissues receive as little radiation as possible as their DNA can also be damaged, which can result in healthy tissue death.

The treatment you give can have 4 outcomes. It can be used to try and cure the cancer completely, to improve the effectiveness of chemotherapy, to reduce the chances of it coming back after surgery or to help reduce symptoms if the cancer is incurable.

What to do to get into this career...



AMAZING FACT 2

Radiation can be delivered to the body via a machine, by an radioactive metals implanted into the body, by liquids that are injected into your blood or drank (!) or by direct beams during surgery!