# NHSE funding to support the career development and upskilling of the imaging and radiography workforce 2025/26 ROUND 2

## Information for South East NHS Trusts and Imaging Networks on how to access this funding, including the application process.

For any queries about this funding or details within this document, please contact the **NHS England South East Cancer and Diagnostic Programme,** part of the **Workforce, Training & Education directorate**, england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Key Messages**

**We have funding to support Career Development & Upskilling training grants for the Imaging workforce in 2024/25 and are therefore progressing with Round 2 applications.**

This document details the 2025/26 offer for the **development of the imaging and radiography workforce** via an NHSE training grant.

**This funding**

* Is to support the development of the breadth of the imaging workforce
* Can be used across all four pillars of practice
* is being offered to all NHS Trusts within SE Imaging Network geographies. This includes Trusts within Dorset ICS [SE3 Imaging Network] and Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust [part of SE1 Imaging Network]

**Deadline for funding applications**

* The application window will open on 9 June 2025 and will close at **9am on 11 July 2025**
* Applications will only be accepted via the online application form (link available below).

**Please note:**

* If approved, funding will be paid directly to employer organisations via the NHSE Education Funding Agreement Schedule.
* Funding must be spent and fully utilised by 31 March 2026. All chosen courses and education must start by 31 March 2026 also. If funding is available, further application rounds will be held in June/July and October 2025. This is to be confirmed and is subject to change.
* Outcomes for applications submitted in Round 1 (March/April) are in the process of being communicated. There is no need to resubmit earlier applications

For any queries please email england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Frequently Asked Questions**

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| **Question** | **Response** |
| **Eligibility** |
| Who can submit an application? | We are unable to accept applications from learners or prospective learners themselves. All applications must be submitted on behalf of a named or prospective learner, e.g. by a line manager, education lead, apprenticeship lead etc. |
| Can I submit a funding application if I don’t have a confirmed name for my learner or they have yet to be accepted onto an accredited programme? | Yes, applications can be submitted details are still to be confirmed. If the application approved in principle, funding would not be paid to the organisation until these details are confirmed. |
| When can I apply for this training grant to support my learner (s)? | Round 2 will open on 9 June 2025 and close on 11 July 2025. If funding remains available, a further application round will be held in October 2025.We are unable to accept applications outside of these application rounds. All applications must be submitted via the online application form [link below] |
| Which professional groups can utilise this funding? | * Diagnostic Radiographers
* Therapeutic Radiographers
* Sonographers
* Mammographers
* Radiology Nurses
* Medical Physicists
* Clinical Technologists
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| Can this funding be used to support learners in their Year 2 and Year 3 of a programme [if applicable]  | No, this funding is to support the learner in their first year of programme only.  |
| When must the learner have started on their programme? | Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 |
| Can this funding be used for courses which don’t finish in 2025/26? | Yes. A large number of training programmes last longer than 12 months. The important date to note is that the learner must have started on programme before 31 March 2026.  |
| Can I use the funding to support more than one learner? | No, the training grant is a nationally agreed amount that to support an individual learner only |
| Can I change the name of the funded learner who will be benefitting from the funding once this application has been approved? | No, if the original learner is no longer able to take up the place on programme, the application will be withdrawn and closed. You will be able to apply for a new grant in the next application round if funding is available.  |
| Can I use this for Sonographer learners completing a PgC? | Cancer & Diagnostics Imaging Career Upskilling funding is **not** **available** to support trainees who have been granted a Sonography/Ultrasound PG Dip/Cert commissioned place (tuition fees and salary support) by the NHSE SE Education Commissioning Team. If you are unsure, please contact you Trust’s clinical education team who will be able to confirm this with you.  |
| Can I use this funding for an ACP MSc? | **No**, funding cannot be used for an Advancing Clinical Practice MSc, where it is accredited by NHSE. You can find a full list of accredited programmes [here](https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/programme-accreditation/accredited-programmes/).  |

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| **Funding and financial management** |
| What do I need consider? | Before any funding can be formally paid, assurance will be required that the organisation is happy to receive the funding and that this can be fully spent and utilised by 31 March 2026. Please link with your relevant finance lead to discuss and agree this, ideally before an application is submitted.  |
| Has funding been formally confirmed for these training grants? | Yes, formal national confirmation of funding for this training grant has been received  |
| What is the funding period? | 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 |
| What is the funding available for this training grant? | A training grant totalling £10,612. [**Please note: this amount is based on 2024/25 funding model, and therefore may be subject to change for 2025/26.**If your application is successful, this will be paid in full within 2025/26.  |
| How will this funding be paid? | The funding will be paid to the employing organisation of the learner via the NHSE Education Funding Agreement Schedule.  |
| Can this funding be used to support ‘overhead’ costs  | No, in line with other NHSE education payments we are unable to provide funding for any overhead additional costs. This position should not have a negative impact on the salary of the learner or on the quality of the training and supervision they receive. |
| Can funding be used next financial year if we cannot spend it this year? | No, all funding provided by NHSE needs to be managed in the year of issue, no deferral will be agreed. NHSE is not able to carry forward any commitments into the next financial year and any remaining balances would have to be withdrawn and lost to your organisation. There are no exceptions allowable and no agreements to defer can be made by anyone representing NHSE.  |
| **Utilisation of funding** |
| What is the aim of this funding? | These training grants are to support employers in meeting challenges in the Imaging workforce by offering additional funded support to facilitate upskilling and career development of their existing workforce at all levels, across the breadth of the four pillars of practice. |
| What **can** funding be used for? | Training grants should be used by employers to support and facilitate their learners completing the agreed upskilling programme. The funding can be used flexibly and is intended to help the department with further training costs associated with supporting and supervising learners. This could include:* Training expenses
* Salary support for clinical supervision and mentorship
* Travel and subsistence expenses
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| What **can’t** the funding be used for? | The funding cannot be used for the following:* Kit & equipment
* Capital expenses
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| **Employer requirements of accepting this funding** |
| Reporting  | All reporting requirements, including updates against learner status, will be met. |
| Financial | All funding will be managed appropriately in line with individual organisation’s financial management and assurance processes. |
| Access to training | Managers will support their staff to access training and release them to attend  |

**Overview**

In 2025/26, NHS England will provide funding to regions to support further development,

education and training of the imaging and radiography workforce. It is a HCPC registration

requirement for radiographers to keep their skills and knowledge up to date and engage

with continuing professional development throughout their career. The College of

Radiographers (2022) Education and Career Framework (ECF) highlights the importance of

developing the radiography workforce to support improved outcomes for patients and

robust service delivery.

This funding is aimed at **registered practitioners working at all practice levels** and will

support them to undertake education and training activities to develop their knowledge,

skills and attributes in alignment with professional career and capability frameworks. This

type of development may also be known as ‘upskilling’ and offers flexibility through all four

core pillars of practice, enabling it to be used to support regional service needs and

delivery.

It is expected that the practitioner will be **professionally registered** with an appropriate regulatory body i.e., Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), (Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC), Register of Clinical Technologists (RCT) etc.

**Aims**

The funding provision has three overarching aims:

1. To support radiographers and other practitioners working within imaging, to access training and development opportunities identified at the point of their annual personal appraisal or during their preceptorship period.
2. To aid retention of radiographers and other practitioners working within imaging, by providing them access to education and training opportunities that support their professional development and career aspirations.
3. To support regions to deliver vital services within imaging by providing the training required for radiographers and other practitioners, to broaden their skillset and/ or work at an increased level of practice

The four pillars of practice are clinical expertise, leadership and management,

education, and research and development. All pillars are integral to professional practice

and should be embedded where possible, at all levels of the workforce. The ECF states that

‘it is the entwined combination of these four pillars at all levels that will deliver excellence for

patients’. This offer will enable and facilitate a variety of training and education opportunities

covering all pillars of practice, therefore encouraging the holistic development of

practitioners.

**The funding offer**

* The funding being offered to organisations through this investment within the NHSE WT&E SE footprint is a training grant of **£10,612** maximum per individual.[**Please note: this is based on the 2024/25 funding model and therefore may be subject to change for 2025/26].**
* The training grant must be used to support the development of individuals to work at an increased level of practice.
* The education and training accessed via this funding should be delivered at education

**levels 6 or 7**

* The funding can be used to support
	+ an **individual training grant**; whereby an individual is a registered clinician
	+ Fund training for a **group of professionals**; whereby regions commission bespoke training for a group of professionals to meet an identified need/priority. An example of this may be to utilise funding to commission a bespoke training package that will support a larger group of radiographers to upskill within a specific modality i.e., CT or MRI
* Applications should ideally include a full Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma however consideration should be given to other training and educational opportunities that may not accrue academic credits.

**Other information**

Consideration should be given to the future career aspirations of the individual radiographer who may aspire to move to an advanced level of practice in the future. If this is the case, then it would be advisory for them to undertake all postgraduate education at level 7; this would allow it to potentially be incorporated within an MSc programme via APL (accreditation of prior learning) or similar processes.

The area of study would be expected to be relevant to the scope of practice of an enhanced level practitioner and will form at least one of the four core pillars of practice; *clinical practice, education, leadership & management, research & development.*

Following completion of the identified training, the participant will be expected to demonstrate capability and integration of their new skills into local service provision. Participants may also be able to evidence career progression, for example by subsequent development into a role that is considered to encompass an enhanced level skillset.

The training grant can be used to cover:

* education course fees;
* travel, subsistence & associated training costs;
* a training grant to support the individual’s development which could for example include provision for salary support and supervision/mentorship.

**Funding utilisation examples**

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| **Pillar** | **Examples** |
| **Clinical Practice** | PgC/PgD * CT
* MRI
* Interventional/Fluoroscopy
* Ultrasound
* Nuclear medicine
* Dexa
* Clinical reporting = MSK, CT Head, MRI
* Mammography
* CT Colonography (CTC)
* Clinical technologist upskilling
 |
| **Education** | Providing further education and training for people already working in PE roles and for those who aspire to work as a PE in the future. As suggested in the [SoR Educational and Career Framework (2022),](https://www.sor.org/learning-advice/professional-body-guidance-and-publications/documents-and-publications/policy-guidance-document-library/education-and-career-framework-fourth) this should ideally be accredited and delivered at level 7 i.e. PGCE or similar where appropriate |
| **Leadership & Management** | Funding programme fees for an appropriate level leadership programme i.e., for a radiographer working at an enhanced level of practice it would be appropriate to select the Rosalind Franklin Programme via The NHS leadership Academy. |
| Funding an approved credit bearing educational module/programme (preferably at level 7) that focuses on an appropriate aspect of leadership relevant to that specific practitioner i.e., a consultant radiographer may require dedicated coaching/mentoring skills in order to align to capability 6.1-6.4, in the multi-professional consultant level capability and impact framework. The funding could pay for the education fees and support any additional supervision and training resources that are required. |
| Designing and delivering in region, a bespoke programme of education and training around leadership to support a larger cohort of radiographers working at a similar level of practice i.e., band 6 radiographers in first management/leadership role. This could be a collaborative project using expertise and resources from local HEI’s, Imaging Training Academies and/or private providers. Please see the reading resources section for further details of the knowledge, skills and behaviours plus the occupational standards and frameworks that outline the leadership pillar for enhanced, advanced and consultant levels of practice.  |
| **Research & Development** | To support an elective placement or internship within a clinical research setting. |
| To provide funding for an advanced or consultant level practitioner to undertake an appropriate accredited module in the area of research i.e., this could either be a singular research methods module for an enhanced or advanced level practitioner or to provide funding to support doctoral level study for an advanced or consultant level practitioner. Please refer to the ‘Useful Resources’ section where you find links to the appropriate frameworks and standards that outline the expectations around research at an enhanced, advanced and consultant level of practice |
| To support a practitioner to undertake a research project and share their findings nationally and/or internationally through a conference platform presentation or via a journal/professional publication. |
| To support the development of a regional forum dedicated to increasing and improving the awareness and dissemination of research within the radiography and imaging workforce. |
| To support and provide practitioner/s with the time, education, knowledge, and resources to undertake a dedicated service improvement research project. The findings of which should be disseminated appropriately at either a local, regional, or national level. |

**Useful Resources**

1. [Enhanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/enhanced-clinical-practitioner-v1-1)
2. [Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice](https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2025/05/Multi-professional-framework-for-advanced-practice-in-England-%E2%80%93-Edition-2025.pdf)
3. [Multi-professional Consultant-level Practice Capability and Impact Framework](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Sept%202020%20HEE%20Consultant%20Practice%20Capability%20and%20Impact%20Framework.pdf)
4. [NHS Leadership Academy - available programmes](https://www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk/programmes/)
5. [The Kings Fund - Development and Leadership programme](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/leadership-development)
6. [College of Radiographers Research Strategy 2021-2026](https://www.collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/getattachment/Research-grants-and-funding/cor-research-strategy/cor-research-strategy-2021-26.pdf?lang=en-GB)
7. [Allied Health Professions Research and Innovation Strategy for England](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/allied-health-professions/enable-workforce/allied-health-professions%E2%80%99-research-innovation-strategy-england)

**How to access this funding**

**Due to the number of applications received in Round 1, we are only inviting applications from certain Trusts** across all professions for Round 2:

* **For Therapeutic & Diagnostic Radiographers, Radiology Nurses, Medical Physicists, Clinical Technologists:** If you are from one of the Trusts listed in Table 1 below, please complete and submit [Imaging Career Development and Upskilling Application Form](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/healtheducationyh/2025-26-round-2-nhse-se-cancer-diagnostics-funding-application-)

**Table 1**

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| **DRads****ThRads****Mammographers****Sonographers****Radiology Nursing****Medical Physics****Clinical Technologists**  | * Ashford & St. Peter’s Hospitals
* East Sussex Healthcare
* Frimley Health
* Queen Victoria Hospital
* Royal Surrey County Hospital
* Surrey & Sussex Healthcare
* University Hospitals Sussex
* Dartford & Gravesham
* East Kent Hospitals University
* Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells
* Medway Foundation
 |

* If **you** are a **Therapeutic Radiographer** working in one of the Trusts listed in Table 2, please complete and submit the [Imaging Career Development and Upskilling Application Form](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/healtheducationyh/2025-26-round-2-nhse-se-cancer-diagnostics-funding-application-). **You will be placed on a waiting list and should funding be available after Round 2 closes, we will review your application.**

**Table 2**

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| **ThRads only**  | * Buckinghamshire Healthcare
* Milton Keynes University Hospitals
* Oxford University Hospitals
* Royal Berkshire
* Dorset County Hospitals
* Hampshire Hospitals
* Isle of Wight
* Portsmouth Hospitals University
* Southern Health
* University Hospitals Southampton
* University Hospitals Dorset
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The application window will open **9 June and will close at 9am on 11 July 2025**.

It is possible that a third application round will run later in the year, subject to available funding but at this stage we aren’t able to confirm this.

**Please note**: applications must not be submitted by individual learners themselves; all applications must be submitted on behalf of the named learner e.g. by a line manager/head of department/education lead etc.

All applications will be reviewed by the NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme team [WT&E]. It is possible that a second application round will run later in the year, subject to available funding but at this stage we aren’t able to confirm this.

If for any reason the learner needs to withdraw from or is unable to complete their Programme, funding will need to be returned to NHSE.

Payments will be made via the NHSE Education Contract schedule to the employing Trust and will not be made until a learners name and further details relating to their Programme has been provided.

**Expectations of organisations upon application of funding**

* If approved, all investment will be subject to reporting requirements (outlined below).
* If approved, that all funding is managed appropriately in line with individual organisation’s financial management and assurance processes.

**Reporting and monitoring investment**

NHSE SE are required to provide full details of the use of this funding to the national NHSE Cancer and Diagnostics programme so that investment can be appropriately reported. Where funding has been used to support an individual, the national Programme team may keep a database of participant details (to include role, Trust, HEI/training provider).

Organisations receiving this funding will be required to provide twice-yearly updates [Oct 2025 and April 2026] relating to the status of each individual learner; guidance and templates will be provided later in the year.

**Key documents**

**NHS Long Term Workforce Plan**

The [NHS England Long Term Workforce Plan](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-v1.2.pdf) was published in 2023, outlining the case for change for all NHS workforce to deliver more patient care than ever before. This plan focuses on three priority areas of Train, Retain and Reform, which aims to make sustainable progress on core priorities for patients.

**Who to contact if you have any queries on this offer?**

The NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme – england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net