

BMUS)))

Direct Entry Undergraduate to Professional Practicing Sonographer

A Successful Journey

Presented by : Natalie Willis



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NHS Trust



Natalie Willis

Sonographer

**Worcestershire Acute
NHS Trust**

Pg Dip Medical Ultrasound
Pg Cert Medical ultrasound
BSc (Hons) in Medical Ultrasound (1st Class)

Background



Served for 12 years in the Royal Army Medical Corps

- Combat Medic (CMT)**
- Pharmacy Technician**

Community Pharmacy after service

Birmingham City University Undergraduate course:

- ☐ 3 years BSc – Obs, Gynae & General Abdo
- ☐ 1 year Pg Cert & Preceptorship – Mandatory (**MOST IMPORTANT!**)
- ☐ 1 year Pg Dip – Optional
- ☐ MSc

Direct entry gives strong foundations in:

- Anatomy
- Pathology
- Ultrasound physics
- Communication
- Professionalism
- Extensive clinical placement and experience



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Bridging the gap between Graduation and Band 7

PG Cert:

- **Leadership Module with defended poster**
- **Preceptorship portfolio:**
 - Reflective practice
 - Clinical confidence
 - Evidence-based practice
 - Leadership development
 - CPD
 - FASP
- **Professional Registration**
 - Register of Clinical Technologists (RCT)

Preceptorship:

- **Dedicated Mentor**
- **Regular mentorship meetings**
- **Peer review and feedback (BMUS template)**
- **Competency sign off (No re-assessment)**
- **Structured supervision evidencing transition to solo scanning**

The Harmony of PG Cert in Medical Ultrasound and Preceptorship

Two pathways, one purpose – developing confident, autonomous, and compassionate sonographers



Myths and Perceived Challenges

- ❖ You won't gain employment if you are not HCPC registered
- ❖ You don't get Audited on the voluntary register
- ❖ You go straight to the band 7 pay scale on completion of the undergraduate course

Where am I in clinical practice currently?

- **Pg Dip Completed with two clinical modules**
DVT (lower limb)
Testes
- **Practice Based Educator (PBE) for Ultrasound**
Pg Cert Clinical Education
- **Junior level Leadership Modules**

Question for the audience:

**Can Undergraduate Sonographers safely become
autonomous Band 7 Practitioners?**

Any Questions

