



Clinical Radiology

The Royal College of Radiologists

Radiology at medical school

Safa Siddiqi; medical student

Advances in radiology have revolutionised the diagnosis and management of many illnesses. However, for a medical student, exposure to radiology as a specialty and prospective career choice can be limited. Teaching received on aspects of radiology is often integrated within other specialties and it is easily overlooked by students. I didn't have any aspirations for radiology as a career until my third year clinical examinations. Whilst preparing for these exams, I found that I was drawn to the subject and actually enjoyed revising it! It combined my passion for human anatomy with a real life problem solving aspect.

In order to investigate the specialty, I began to speak to some excellent radiologists whose passion and enthusiasm for the job inspired me to seriously consider it as a field to specialise in. In the next few years of medical school I endeavoured to find out as much about radiology as I could. I joined the radiology society at my University which gave me access to fantastic lectures and also the opportunity to work on an audit within the department. I am fortunate enough this year to be elected as the president of the society, which has not only honed my organisational and managerial skills but also allowed me to work with a variety of radiologists who were in different stages of their careers. They provided me with a comprehensive insight into what it actually means to be a radiologist and the rigours, as well as rewards of the job. Whilst undertaking an intercalated BSc I chose to focus my research project on a topic within radiology which gave me the opportunity to study, in depth, a topic I was interested about. I've found that although clinical teaching in radiology can be limited and varies between placements, there is a whole host of activities to get involved with as a student. Radiologists, on the whole, are very friendly and encouraging of students to get involved in some form of research or experience in the department, it's just a case of contacting them!

Radiology is truly a cutting-edge field of medicine. As a medical student it is an exciting specialty and one which is continually evolving and being developed. I am very much looking forward to pursuing radiology as a career in the future.