



These questions and answers are associated with the CASE accreditor training webinar from 18 March 2021.

**1. What can a student scan after completing a BSc programme?**

- Whatever they have been deemed competent in within their programme.
- There may be choice within the programme or it could be basic obstetrics, gynaecology and abdominal ultrasound.
- The scope of practice will be determined by their programme.
- It should also be remembered that a career level 5 sonographer would not be able to undertake Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme (FASP) examinations without supervision.
- The [sonography career framework](#) has further information that might be useful for accreditors.

**2. As we have not achieved statutory regulation, do you think there will be a desire to run BSc programmes in ultrasound?**

- There are some potential programmes in the pipeline.
- Also there is still a need for sonographers & BSc programmes would help with the sonography workforce crisis.
- The [PSA report](#) states:
  - 1.7 Having considered the evidence available, we have concluded that there is currently not a clear case for immediate statutory regulation of sonographers as a separate profession in England. Statutory regulation is already mitigating risks due to the fact that the majority of those practising as sonographers are already regulated in other professional roles. Additionally, all diagnostic and screening services are required to be registered with the CQC in England.
  - 1.8 Remaining risks could be managed more effectively by strengthening clinical governance and encouraging the relatively low number of unregulated practitioners to join the Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers, although public protection would be strengthened if the register applied for accreditation or transferred practitioners to an existing Accredited Register.
  - 1.9 However, we consider that statutory regulation would need to be considered in future, if the changes to routes entry to the profession and to the practice of sonography identified in our report materialise. This includes any significant increase in the number entering the role through the under-graduate route and increased vulnerability and complexity of patients undergoing ultrasound procedures.

**3. Is there an issue with clinical placements for BSc programme development?**

- Innovative approaches are required
- Solutions can be found collectively

**4. Will the Register of Clinical Technologists (RCT) register, as a PSA accredited register, impact on the likelihood of BSc programme development increasing or more departments employing overseas qualified sonographers?**

- The Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers, administered by the College of Radiographers, closed on 30 April 2021. Sonographers could transfer to the RCT, which is a PSA accredited register. This is a difficult question to answer, as the RCT register is a voluntary register.
- The RCT do have a fitness to practise process, which might encourage employers to recruit non-statutorily registered sonographers.
- To get onto the register references are required to demonstrate that a sonographer can work at the level required in the UK. This can be challenging if departments do not employ people without being on a register.
- BSc students will have UK employer references, which might help to support their application onto the RCT register

**5. Should there be a dedicated team for BSc programme accreditations?**

- This was the initial plan and was working well.
- There are now two people with experience of direct entry programme accreditations and a mentor available to ask questions.
- As more BSc programmes come on-board there will be an increasing number of accreditors who have shadowed or co-accredited to build up the expertise.
- There are also checklists for documentation requirements and considerations for accreditors on the CASE website.
  - [Document requirements](#) (for programme teams)
  - [Document review checklist](#) (for accreditors)