1. Patient interaction
Radiologists occupy a central role in both screening and symptomatic breast services with many opportunities for patient contact along the pathway. The radiologist is the first clinician the patient will see if they come through the screening programme. In some screening centres, the radiologist has a key role in breaking bad news.

2. Integral MDT role
As part of the MDT, the breast radiologist’s role is to determine the nature of breast lesion, local & distant disease involvement guiding treatment. Breast radiologists also get excellent clinical feedback as the MDT meeting enables direct correlation of image finding with histology.

You will work closely with cancer nurse specialists, surgeons, pathologists, oncologists and geneticists. Within the radiology department you will also have a close working relationship between consultant colleagues, radiographers and advanced practitioners. Excellent utilisation of skills mix means better management of workload.

3. Interventional work
If you like to use your hands then breast radiology is for you. A breast radiologist will normally require to use mammography, ultrasound and/or MRI to diagnose and treat breast related disease and also to take a breast tissue sample for pathological diagnosis if required. Breast tissues sampling can be performed either using stereotactic, ultrasound or MRI guidance.

Breast radiologists can also treat some benign diseases such as breast cysts, breast abscesses and papillomas by using ultrasound to perform aspiration and excisions.

4. National screening programme

5. Emerging technology
Many new emerging technologies are being developed and introduced in breast radiology to improve screening and detection of breast cancer. These include digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT) and contrast-enhanced spectral mammography (CESM).

6. Job opportunities

7. Annual scientific meetings
Annual national and international scientific meetings allow opportunities to keep up to date with the latest advances in breast radiology and to meet other breast radiologists.