

## Medicap Physics Education in Plovdiv

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Medicine is priority social sphere where the achievements in Physics find application. The recognition of Medical Physics as profession in 2012 in two professional directions – Physics and Engineering, and Healthcare – underlines the deep relationships between the two fields. Moreover, it retrieves also the growing need of highly educated Medical Physicists.

Specialized Medical Physics Education in Bulgaria was introduced in 1990 with the Master's course in Medical Physics and Radioecology at the University of Shumen. In 1995 the first Bachelor's course in Medical Physics was initiated at the University of Sofia.

In 1997 in the frame of the EC project TEMPUS S-JEP 09826 EC in Plovdiv was established Master's course in Medical Radiation Physics and Technique. An Interuniversity Center for Education in Medical Radiation Physics and Technique was created in cooperation between the King College – London, the University of Florence – Italy, the University of Dublin – Ireland and three local universities – the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", the Medical University – Plovdiv and the Technical University Sofia, Branch Plovdiv. During the first 5 years the teaching was delivered only in English. All Bulgarian lecturers have got education abroad. 20 books covering all educational modules were published in English. In 1999 the MSc course got 5 years accreditation from the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), UK, and was approved from EFOMP. Several countries have used our experience for organizing their MSc courses in Medical Physics. Between them are: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Malaysia, Sudan, Indies, Jamaica, and others. Nowadays the MSc program adapted to the new accreditation requirements is active at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The Bachelor's course in Medical Physics at the University of Plovdiv began in 2009. Recently two modules in Medical Imaging have been introduced. They will be delivered at the Medical University – Plovdiv. Both, Master's and Bachelor's programs have solid cores of specialized modules and offer large number of elective disciplines.

The graduated students work mainly at the hospital departments for Medical Imaging, Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine. Some of them are specialists in radiation protection and dosimetry at radiochemical and radioecological laboratories. Many are working at companies producing, repairing or selling medical equipment, at companies for legal labor medicine or medical informatics. There is need of such specialists at the regional health inspectorates, at civil defense departments, at the Ministries of Health-Care, Environment and Water, Disaster and Troubles. Several our former students are continuing their career at different medical universities (Plovdiv, Varna, Sofia, Pleven).