

Radiologist

The doctor who reads X-rays, scans and ultrasounds and tells other doctors what is wrong. Five years of residency and one of the highest incomes in medicine.

TYPICAL PAY

\$550,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$350k to \$750k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

11 to 13 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospital imaging departments,
private imaging clinics, reading ro...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Top marks in biology, chemistry, math and English. Physics helps, since imaging is physics applied to bodies.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
Any major works. Keep a GPA (grade point average) above 3.8, volunteer, do research. Write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school, the MD (doctor of medicine)** 3 to 4 years
Acceptance rates are 5% to 15%. Classes, then clinical rotations. Radiology electives matter a lot for the match.
- 4 Diagnostic radiology residency** 5 years
Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). X-ray, CT (computed tomography), MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), ultrasound, mammography and basic procedures.
- 5 Certification and licence** End of residency
Pass the Royal College exam to become FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada), then register with your provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons. Most add a 1-year fellowship.

Pros and cons

- + One of the highest incomes in Canadian medicine
- + Reading from home is realistic
- + Every organ, every disease, every age crosses your screen
- Long hours alone at a screen
- Volume pressure: hospitals always want scans read faster
- AI will keep changing the work over your career

Good to know

The first Nobel Prize in Physics

Wilhelm Röntgen discovered X-rays in 1895 and won the very first Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901. Within a year, hospitals in Canada were taking X-ray pictures.

Canada is short on scanners

Canada has fewer MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) and CT (computed tomography) machines per person than most wealthy countries, which is a big reason for long scan wait times. More scann...

Optional boosts

Interventional radiology. Neuroradiology. Breast imaging. Pediatric, musculoskeletal, body or chest imaging.

Where these numbers come from

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
CIHI: A profile of physicians in Canada, 2024 (payments)
CaRMS: the residency match
AFMC: Canadian medical schools

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/radiologist>



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