

RCR - Cyclotron Trust Second Centre Experience in Proton Beam Therapy

Terms and Conditions (2025-26)

1. **About the RCR-Cyclotron Trust Second Centre Experience in Proton Beam Therapy** - The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) established the 'RCR–Cyclotron Trust Second Centre Experience in Proton Beam Therapy' to provide opportunities for a limited number of residents in Clinical Oncology to spend several months in a proton beam therapy centre as part of their clinical training. The purpose of the Second Centre Experience is to enable successful applicants to achieve a greater understanding of the role of proton beam therapy in the wider spectrum of advanced radiotherapy.

The Second Centre Experience (for residents outside of the London and North West deanery) are made possible by a generous financial donation from the former Cyclotron Trust, for which the RCR would like to express its gratitude. Further information about the Second Centre Experience can be found on the RCR [website](#).
2. **Purpose of the Second Centre Experience** - The visits will contribute towards achieving the highest possible standard for a modern, world-class radiotherapy service in the UK. A key component of this is clearly to develop the knowledge and expertise of future Clinical Oncologists regarding Proton Therapy.

The aim of the 2025-2026 Second Centre Experience is to promote a greater understanding of the potential role of proton beam therapy and to increase awareness of potential clinical applications of proton therapy (clinical trials and evaluative commissioning in proton therapy) to enable better informed discussions and thus consideration of its indication for individual patients across the UK.
3. **Eligibility** - the Second Centre Experiences are open to residents in the Clinical Oncology specialty training who are members/Fellows of the RCR in good standing and resident in the United Kingdom. It is anticipated that applicants will be members at the time of application but may have become Fellows by the time of the rotation.
4. **Duration of Second Centre Experience** - expected to be for six months at either The Christie NHS Foundation Trust or University College London Hospitals (UCLH). Duration of visit to the Clatterbridge NHS Foundation Trust for proton therapy in ocular tumours will be for up to 4 weeks.
5. **Bursary** – bursary of up to a maximum of £5,000 per person (maximum total bursaries awarded per annum of £10000). This is intended to subsidise the costs of travel and accommodation during the period of the Second Centre Experience. It is not intended to cover daily living expenses, or any additional costs incurred during the Second Centre Experience. Residents from the London/KSS and Northwest deanery are not eligible for the bursary as the PBT centres are part of their training deanery.

The final decision on the funding provided as bursary for travel and accommodation lies entirely at the discretion of the Cyclotron Trust funding panel. All aspects of the claim must be strictly in accordance with the [RCR Travel and Expenses policy](#) that is in force at the time the award is granted.
6. **Number of Second Centre Experience places** – There will be four places at The Christie and two at UCLH per calendar year. Second Centre Experiences **must** commence within 18 months of a successful application unless there are exceptional or unavoidable circumstances. Where the Second Centre Experience is not made within this period, the offer may be withdrawn; however the applicant will be entitled to re-apply within a further round.

7. **Feedback** – a written feedback report on the Second Centre Experience and the outcomes must be made to the RCR within the required timeframe.
8. **Information** - the RCR will record a list of recipients (with links to their written feedback, when available) on its website to inform the wider Fellowship about the Second Centre Experience.

Advertisement and application process

9. The RCR will advertise for applications for the Second Centre Experience on its website and through the Clinical Oncology member eBulletin, and via other relevant communications channels as deemed appropriate. The advertisement will also be circulated by email to all CO Officers, Heads of Service, Heads of Training, members of the CO Strategic Training Board, CO Professional Practice Board, and CO Faculty Board.
10. Those wishing to apply for a Second Centre Experience will be asked to submit the following to the RCR:
 - a) A brief CV and application form.
 - b) A budget plan, indicating estimated travel and accommodation costs (if applying for bursary for travel and accommodation)
 - c) One reference from educational or clinical supervisor or head of department.
11. Applications should be sent by email to the [Professional Practice and Quality Improvement](#) team. If applicants do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt within three working days, they must contact the RCR to check that their application has been received.
12. A deadline for receipt of applications will be agreed for each round of applications. This will be determined to allow the selection committee sufficient time to assess all applications and the CO STB to receive and consider the recommendations of the selection committee at its next available meeting.
The deadline for the 2025-2026 scheme is **11:59pm, Sunday 30th November**.

Assessment and selection process

13. The assessment and selection process will be overseen by the selection committee.
14. All applications will be considered by the selection committee, chaired by Dr Shermaine Pan and will include representatives from Cyclotron Trust, Specialty Training Board, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and UCLH.
15. The selection committee will assess each application against the agreed criteria and return their completed scoresheets to the Professional Practice and Quality Improvement team by the agreed deadline. A meeting of the selection committee will then take place to interview shortlisted candidates and agree the final outcome.
16. The selection committee's recommendations will be reported to the CO STB at their next available meeting.

Award of Second Centre Experience and reporting

17. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application, whether successful or not, as soon as possible after the subsequent CO STB meeting. Applicants will be informed by letter from the Medical Director Education and Training, Clinical Oncology. The decision of the CO STB is final and binding.
18. The successful applicant(s) must provide a final receipted expenses claim for reimbursement **after** the completion of the Second Centre Experience. The claim should be in line with the budget plan and up to the total sum agreed by the RCR. The RCR regrets that no monies can be paid in advance of the Second Centre Experience.
19. The successful applicant(s) must submit a written feedback report to the CO STB within two months of the end of the Second Centre Experience, together with their final claim for reimbursement. The report should confirm the activity undertaken and the benefits which accrued.
20. Recipients will be expected to share their learning more widely, such as attending meetings for the CO STB to present on and discuss their experiences.

31 October 2025