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## Why train in HEE-North East



Clinical Oncology  
Live and Train North East



## Living in the North East

### **The place**

The north east is a great and varied place to live and work.

Newcastle is well known as a lively and friendly city, but less well known are the beaches, the open countryside and hills of the Pennines and Cheviots on the doorstep. Travel links are fantastic- only 3 hours by East coast main line train service to London, or an hour and a half to Edinburgh. In under a couple of hours you can be in the Lake District or an hour's link via Newcastle international Airport to any part of the world! House prices are reasonable, commuting is comparatively easy and quality of life is high.

Middlesbrough is on the edge of the North York Moors with attractive coastline and surfing near by. It is an hour from Newcastle, York and Leeds.

### **The people**

Geordies and Teesiders are famous for being friendly, and the reputation is well justified. Oncology is a "people specialty"- the teams you will work with are friendly, helpful and welcoming.





### The departments

- You will train in the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne and James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough, giving a wide range of experience. Both departments are friendly with a great team spirit, and have state of the art radiotherapy equipment. You will share an oncall rota with your medical oncology colleagues and have direct consultant support as part of the oncall team.
- Both centres offer stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (SABR) and Newcastle offers stereotactic brain radiotherapy.
- The departments have academic links with the University of Newcastle. These links and the Sir Bobby Robson research unit in NCCC, together with a well established research network give research opportunities. National trials have been led by clinicians in the department.

- The Northern Centre for Cancer Care is part of the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS hospitals trust, which received an outstanding rating from the CQC in 2016. The Newcastle Hospitals trust has regional and supra-regional services: it is a paediatric centre, has a teenage and young adult unit, a transplant unit and a cardiothoracic unit. It was one of only 3 trusts in England in financially in the black in 2016 reflecting high quality management and leadership.

- James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough won the Health Service Journal award for Efficiency in Medical Technology in 2013 for the work on SABR, is one of the top centres in the country for use of Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT) and the oncology ward is Macmillan accredited
- Hospitals in the region frequently score in the top 10 in the Macmillan patient experience



### Health education North East

HEE-North East frequently scores highest in the GMC trainee survey. Health Education North East supports trainees and trainers to provide high quality education.

### The Training programme

- You will rotate around site specialty teams every 4 months, typically spending approximately 18 months of the 5 years training in Middlesbrough and the remainder in Newcastle.
- For part 1 training, our trainees receive study leave to attend the Leeds and Christie courses, offering peer support and networking, and we have in house physics teaching which receives consistently good feedback.
- We have protected monthly registrar training days focusing on clinical training.
- An annual regional academic day for registrars, which gives opportunities to present research and share inspiration.
- We have FRCR part 2 teaching aimed specifically at examination preparation.
- The RCR ORF trainer award 2018 was awarded to one of our TPDs, Alex Bradshaw, in recognition of quality of training.
- The training programme is successful in providing trainees with the skills to be successful in the FRCR examinations and in preparing them for life as a clinical oncologist.

### What our trainees say

*“It is a well structured, well supported training programme with approachable consultants. Towards exam time the whole department, including dosimetrists, is willing to help you prepare.”*

-Dr Najibah Mahtab ST6 (successful in attaining FRCR II first attempt)

*“Clinical oncology is the secret specialty that offers so much. Everything that you ever learnt as a doctor is being applied-anatomy, physiology, pathology ...and every branch of general medicine! You will acquire an exciting new operational skill - radiotherapy too in 5 years.”*

-Dr Xue Yan Jiang ST5 (successful in attaining FRCR I first attempt)

*“Passed my Part1 FRCR first attempt thanks to excellent teaching and support available for first year trainees. Starting as a new SpR in oncology is a big transition, but you have lots of support and training opportunities from a friendly and approachable team .”*

-Dr Jayshree Veeratterapillay ST4 (successful in attaining FRCR I first attempt)



*Stereotactic brain radiotherapy team*