

If you are applying for a place on our **BSc (Hons) Radiotherapy and Oncology** degree programme we ask that you undertake a visit to a radiotherapy department in order to work shadow the therapeutic radiographers.

Purpose of your Work Experience/Clinical Visit

All applicants must show evidence, in their UCAS personal statement and in any subsequent interviews, of an understanding of the scope of clinical practice and the work of a therapeutic radiographer. Most universities prefer a minimum of one day observational experience in a radiotherapy department. The visit allows you to summarise the realistic expectations and commitment required of the programme including the learning undertaken in clinical placements. While experience in a paid or voluntary capacity working with the general public, children or elderly people will strengthen an application there is no substitute for spending time observing and talking to radiographers and student radiographers in the clinical environment.

Paperwork

Two downloadable forms are available on our website to assist you in making the most of your clinical experience:

Download the '**Clinical Visit Form**' and take it with you to the radiotherapy department. Give this form to the radiographers and ask them to complete it at the end of your visit. The staff will either send this directly to the University or give it back to you for you to forward to the admissions tutor. The address is at the bottom of the form.

The '**Applicant's Reflection Form**' is for your use only. This helps you to clarify your thoughts on your observational experience and can help with writing your personal statement and/or preparation for an interview.

Organising your Work Experience/Clinical visit

To organise your visit, email or telephone a radiotherapy department and ask to speak to the Clinical Coordinator/Practice Educator who should be able to assist in arranging the visit. A copy of our affiliated hospitals and staff contacts is available on the second page of this information.

On the day of your visit

On the day of your visit to the hospital please take some form of photo ID with you. You should also either take some money to buy lunch and refreshments or take a packed lunch. The department's staff will ensure you have suitable breaks as part of the day. Hospitals and clinics tend to be warm; therefore it is a good idea to wear clothing in layers that can be taken off if you get hot. You will need to dress in a smart manner; no jeans or trainers as these are inappropriate for the environment. However, as you will be on your feet for most of the day you should wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes. A white lab coat is normally given to you to wear for the duration of your visit. If you have long hair, this must be neatly tied back, and jewellery should be kept to a minimum. Please do not wear strong-smelling perfumes/aftershave as this can make some patients feel nauseous. Make sure your personal hygiene is of a high standard.

Expectations/Professionalism

A member of staff will supervise you at all times and your role is purely to OBSERVE them working. Please remember that the patients you meet are undergoing treatment that may be very stressful for them, and you should be respectful of their needs and their dignity, particularly when patients are in a state of undress. During the course of your work experience, you may see, hear or have access to areas of a confidential nature. All information concerning patients and staff must be treated as STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL at all times. You must comply with these regulations. Be aware that whilst in the clinical environment your mobile phone must be switched off.

You must comply with any relevant health and safety procedures. These will be explained to you on the day (e.g. regarding handwashing, infection control etc.) so listen carefully to the staff member looking after you as this will ensure your health and safety.

Please be aware that hospitals are non-smoking environments and all main entrances to the hospitals are also smoke free areas. You will be advised about the local fire procedure when you arrive in the department you are visiting. However, in the event of a fire the majority of departments will have a fire alarm which will ring continuously. Follow the instructions of staff if it goes off.

If you have any problems organising your visit please contact me and I will do my best to assist you:

Lynne Gordon - Admissions Lead for Radiotherapy,

Email: radiotherapy@herts.ac.uk Telephone 01707 285088

Hospital site contacts for radiotherapy, with regard to clinical visits for
prospective student applicants

Location	Visit Co-ordinator and contact details
Churchill Hospital, Oxford	David Sinck and Sarah Ruane (Practice Educators) Email: radiotherapyeducation@ouh.nhs.uk
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading	Azma Siddiqui (Practice Educator) Email: azmasiddiqui@nhs.net
Northampton General Hospital	Paula Strickland (Education lead) Email: paula.strickland@ngh.nhs.uk
Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Trust (Mount Vernon Hospital), Rickmansworth	Urvina Shah/ Angela Williams/ Samina Hussain (Clinical Placement Facilitators) Email: urvina.shah@nhs.net / angela.read@nhs.net / saminahussain1@nhs.net
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (Charing Cross Hospital), North London	Sindy Singh (Clinical Coordinator) Email: sindy.singh1@nhs.net
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Trust	Janice Robertson (Clinical Coordinator) Email: janice.robertson3@nhs.net
Addenbrookes Hospital (Cambridge University Hospitals)	Laressa Priddy / Jessica Manser (Clinical Coordinator) Email: laressa.priddy@addenbrookes.nhs.uk / jessica.manser@addenbrookes.nhs.uk