



Faculty of Radiologists Specialist Training Programme in Radiation Oncology Out of Programme Experience (OOPE)

Training in Radiation Oncology can be fulfilled through the 5 year (whole time equivalent (WTE)) training programme in Ireland leading to successful awarding of CSCST after satisfactory completion of the final annual assessment.

Generally OOPE should only be considered during the 5th year of training (ie. post FFR RCSI) given the structured format in years 1-4 for exam preparation. In exceptional circumstances OOPE in other years can be considered.

The Faculty may recognise up to a maximum of 12 months OOPE as credit towards total training time. This may be sought to pursue the following:

- A specialist training opportunity (clinical fellowship) in Ireland or abroad approved by the Faculty

Maximum training credit of 12 months could be gained for a clinical fellowship which had at least an 80% clinical component. A full time research post with no clinical component could be awarded a maximum of 3 months of training time credit.

In order for this experience to be recognised for credit the OOPE is subject to the same rigorous assessment and oversight processes as trainees within the national training programme. In this regard, the onus is on the trainee to provide all supporting documentation to the satisfaction of the Faculty.

A clear requirement and justification for OOPE will need to be demonstrated by the applicant. If the OOPE is not accepted for credit towards total training time the applicant may be required to fulfil the training time at a later date in order to meet eligibility for CSCST. All applications need to be made prospectively. The Faculty will not award retrospective training time credit for any experience gained in a post not recognised for training.

Requests for out of programme experience will be considered by the Radiation Oncology Committee and sent for review at the Fellowship Advisory Committee (FAC). Both committees meet approximately 5 times per academic year, all relevant documentation needs to be complete and available prior to the FAC meeting in order to facilitate a decision.

OOPE is not guaranteed. The decision to allow a trainee to go on OOPE is based on relevance of clinical experience, training rotation numbers and service requirements among other considerations.

Procedure for Application for OOPE

- OOPE Form A and Form B are available on the Faculty Website under SpR Information <https://www.radiology.ie/training/spr-information1>
- OOPE Form A to be completed and submitted to the Faculty for the attention of the Radiation Oncology Committee at least 1 year in advance of the trainee's planned departure date
- A detailed letter must accompany Form A outlining the full details of the planned OOPE and indicating how much training time credit is being sought.
- The Faculty will advise the trainee of the decision by FAC in writing in a timely manner
- Following completion of the OOPE, OOPE Form B must be completed and submitted with a supervisors report, a copy of the curriculum and an updated CV.