

NBIA Breast Radiology Fellowship – Frequently Asked Questions

Educational Supervisors & Fellows

1. Job planning
 - NBIA recommends that a minimum of 60% of the Fellow's time to be spent in breast radiology and the remaining 40% to be used for service provision either in general or breast radiology depending on what both the Fellow and the Host Trust agree on.
 - SPA time for research/audit/study – one session (4 hours) per week or pro-rata
2. Guidance on general (non-breast) service commitment from fellows
 - Not all host sites allow independent reporting especially in general radiology if the Fellow does not have a full FRCR; this is a decision made at local Trust level and the NBIA cannot influence it. Fellows advised to follow local guidance.
 - We encourage all Fellows to complete their FRCR, although this is not a compulsory element of the Fellowship.
3. Curriculum
 - Fellowship curriculum is available on the NBIA website. As part of the host site application and selection process the NBIA ensures that each host site has the capacity for the Fellow to realistically achieve these competencies. If there are any difficulties, please let the NBIA team who will be happy to help/facilitate where they can.
 - Logbook including number of procedures will be useful to prove competency in various aspects of breast imaging/intervention especially should the evidence be required for future employment or CESR applications. Therefore, all Fellows are strongly advised to maintain these. Fellows need to be aware of patient confidentiality and not to include individual patient details in any of the e-portfolio evidence.
 - MRI guided biopsy –is optional element of the curriculum which is currently not offered at all host sites; however, we may be able to facilitate observation of this at an alternative site if the fellow wishes. Please contact us if you wish to do so.
4. Guidance for Supervisors
 - Kaizen and Appraisals

All Fellows will have access to Kaizen via RCR. As part of Kaizen the Fellows will need to three assessments, at the beginning, middle and end of their Fellowship. This should help in monitoring Fellows progress in an electronic record form.

In addition, all Fellows are required to undertake an annual appraisal process through their host Trust as a part of GMC revalidation process. Normally this is undertaken after completion of a year in post.

Any overseas Fellow with no prior UK GMC appraisal can be erroneously flagged up as being overdue an annual appraisal (for the past 12 months). Local revalidation/appraisal team will be able to advise how best to deal with this but in Manchester we addressed this issue by doing a very brief basic appraisal at the beginning of Fellowship (to stop the system from flagging up) followed by a full appraisal at the end of a year.

5. Study Leave entitlement and Study Blocks

- Fellows are entitled to 10 days study leave (study leave will need to be taken to attend the designated study blocks).
- Study Blocks are provided free of charge to Fellows. Dates will be confirmed by the NBIA team. Fellows are expected to attend and take advantage of the dedicated teaching provision offered. They also provide an excellent networking platform.
- Fellows have a dedicated budget of £1000 each which is transferred from the NBIA to individual host site at the time of the Fellow commencing in the post. To book study leave Fellows should follow the local process for their host site.
 - Recommended courses and conferences:
 - BSBR Annual Scientific Meeting
 - Cambridge Breast Conference
 - Symposium Mammographicum
 - UKIO
 - EUSOBI
 - RCR Annual Meeting
 - UK Interdisciplinary Breast Cancer Symposium

6. Presentations and Posters

- The NBIA encourages all Fellows to produce at least one or two posters/presentations during their Fellowship. It is important to look at the dates for the conferences mentioned above and be aware of the deadlines for abstract submission which could be months in advance.
NBIA will also help in showcasing Fellow's achievements by acknowledging any accepted/published work to the NBIA website.
- If Fellow has specific interest in delivery of teaching, it would be best to discuss this with their Educational Supervisor at the outset. If needed the NBIA will also be able to facilitate this.

7. Communications

- NBIA welcomes any promotional testimonials, blogs, vlogs, articles from the Fellows or suggestion of any other collaborative ventures/ideas.

8. Miscellaneous

Should Fellows attend the Breast Specialist Courses at Nottingham?

No, the content of this course is covered within our first study block so would be a duplication.

Is there anything else in addition to Kaizen and the Trust appraisal?

No, Kaizen captures educational progression and annual Trust appraisal fulfils GMC revalidation requirement in order to continue to practice in the UK.

Stereo-guided procedures are performed by Advanced Practitioners at my host site, should we still perform this skill?

Yes, all fellows are encouraged to learn these and record numbers in their logbook. Although the procedure numbers are just for guidance and not prescriptive, they would be useful in the future to prove competence for independent practice if required; Fellows should aim to achieve a level where they can not only perform these independently but are also able to provide training/supervision for other learners

Can NBIA assist with the CESR process?

Some of the NBIA Fellows are on Tier 2 visas, issued by the host Trusts whilst the others are on Tier 5 visas, issued through the MTI scheme. This is based on their FRCR completion and/or other factors.

For Tier 2 fellows wishing to pursue CESR, the NBIA will be able to assist by putting them in touch with previous applicants.

The RCR MTI scheme for Tier 5 visa supports an 'earn, learn and return' policy rather than it being a long-term employment/settlement route via CESR process. However, a MTI fellow can still choose to pursue CESR if they wish to. This may in some cases necessitate the fellow to return to their home country following completion of their Fellowship/ Tier 5 visa and then return to the UK under Tier 2 visa if they manage to secure further employment.

Any fellow wishing to take on a substantive consultant post in the UK would need to have completed the CESR process. Please note that does not apply for locum consultant appointments.

Whilst the NBIA cannot directly assist you CESR applications, we can put you in contact with colleagues who will offer advice and support. Please contact Paula/Jayne if you would like to discuss this further.

Should trainees have indemnity insurance?

Host trusts will have indemnity insurance as standard. However, we do encourage all Fellows to seek MDU or MPS cover for additional peace of mind.