Radiotherapy Physicist

Maan Najem, Royal Marsden Hospital

After an MSc in Medical Physics at Surrey I went on to do my PhD. I studied the effect of removing the flattening filter from the head of medical linear accelerators on beam characteristics and treatment outcome using Monte Carlo simulation with emphasis on photo-neutron production. I chose this project as it was a hot topic at that time.

I did my PhD through a scholarship from Damascus University. The scholarship also required me to work as a lecturer and radiotherapy physicist in Syria for at least 8 years. However, due to the Syrian crisis, I was not able to go back to my country so I decided to work as a radiotherapy physicist at the Royal Marsden to gain clinical experience.

After passing my PhD I worked under an honorary contract at the Royal Marsden so that I could develop the skills necessary for a clinical radiotherapy physicist. This allowed the physics staff to recognise my skills, especially my research and programming skills, and offer me a permanent position.

"Explore all options available by taking voluntary roles at different companies for few weeks which can help you to increase your knowledge and experience as well as expand your networks."