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THE COLLEGE OF
RADIOGRAPHERS

The Valerie Carr Award: Therapeutic Radiography Bursary (UK)

The College of Radiographers' access to pre-registration therapeutic radiography education and training support programme

QUICK OVERVIEW

Value:	The bursary pays tuition fees for the course duration for UK residents (where recipients are NOT eligible to have their tuition fees paid by the government). Where recipients ARE eligible to have their tuition fees paid by the government, the bursary is worth £6k per year.
Available to:	Up to five eligible individuals each year who are seeking to enrol on a programme of undergraduate or postgraduate pre-registration study leading to an honours degree in therapeutic radiography
Eligible programmes:	Full-time or part-time courses in the UK approved by the College of Radiographers and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Application:	Apply directly to the College of Radiographers
Deadline:	2pm 30 September
	If you think you are eligible and are interested in applying for an award, we would love to hear from you. If you have any questions, please contact bursary@sor.org

Guidance

Statement of purpose

The College of Radiographers is aware of the financial challenges that can stand in the way of some who aspire to train as therapeutic radiographers limiting their individual potential and affecting their career opportunities.

The College has been able, due to a generous legacy, to establish a programme that supports individuals to study and graduate in pre-registration therapeutic radiography in the UK.

This discretionary bursary award provides an opportunity to widen participation and further the College's diversity, equality and inclusion strategy. We are offering up to five therapeutic radiography bursaries each year. We aim to support individuals who would otherwise not be able to access educational opportunity to further their career in therapeutic radiography by completing a programme of undergraduate or postgraduate pre-registration study leading to an honours degree in therapeutic radiography.

On completion, graduates must be eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC so that they may work in the UK as a therapeutic radiographer.

Objectives

- To establish a programme for attracting and awarding bursaries to up to five new applicants every year.
- To facilitate the College's commitment to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and help to address barriers to further education, increase career opportunities and enable career progression.
- To provide funding support to individuals who meet one of four 'life experience' criteria (see eligibility criteria).
- To provide an open, fair and equitable evaluation process.
- To increase the therapeutic radiographer workforce to improve patient care.
- To align the programme with the College's values of equality, integrity and advocacy.

Equality, diversity and inclusion statement

The College is committed to encouraging applications from, and respecting, all people regardless of race, ethnic origin, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, paternity, religion, belief, sex or sexual orientation. In addition, we hope these bursary awards will form part of our work in addressing social, economic, and systemic barriers which affect access to educational opportunities and professional development within radiography.

As part of this commitment, the College will aim to:

- Promote the bursary as widely as possible to increase its reach to currently under-represented groups and communities in therapeutic radiography;
- Guard against making assumptions and acting on harmful stereotypes about the characteristics of individuals; and
- Make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants.

Policy

The College will seek applications for bursary-style funding support from eligible individuals seeking to enrol on a programme of undergraduate or postgraduate pre-registration study leading to an honours degree in therapeutic radiography.

Funding is restricted to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria (see next section).

If Valerie Carr Award recipients are NOT eligible to have their tuition fees paid by the government (eg UK residents on English programmes), the bursary covers the full fees for a therapeutic radiography programme for the normal course duration (2, 3 or 4 years).

If Valerie Carr Award recipients ARE eligible to have their tuition fees paid by the government (eg most Scottish residents on Scottish programmes), an educational support bursary of £6k per year is provided, intended to balance the grant those studying therapeutic radiography at English universities receive from the NHS Learning Support Fund.

Priority will be given to applications from individuals who, would not otherwise be able to join, or are experiencing financial barriers preventing them from accessing, the therapeutic radiography programme.

First-time applicants may apply for a bursary ahead of application to join an undergraduate or postgraduate pre-registration therapeutic radiography degree programme at a higher education institution approved by both the College and the HCPC.

An application will only be accepted from the individual intending to study therapeutic radiography themselves. Applications will not be accepted from other representatives (eg employer) on behalf of an individual.

The deadline for bursary application submission each year is 30 September. The deadline will be strictly observed.

Applications will be evaluated by a panel appointed by the College board of trustees. The assessment panel will comprise the Chair of the College board of trustees, a trustee with education responsibility, a trustee who is a therapeutic radiographer, a diversity champion and a senior member of staff. The assessment panel will present their recommendations to the College board of trustees for approval. The decision of the trustees in respect of any application is final. The award of a bursary and the value of the award are at the discretion of the College board of trustees.

Completed application forms will be anonymised before being seen by members of the assessment panel.

We will not conduct any face-to-face interviews with applicants.

If the application is successful, candidates will be notified by email and sent a letter of confirmation. If the application is unsuccessful, candidates will be notified by email.

Bursaries made to first-time applicants will be conditional upon application and acceptance onto the therapeutic radiography programme.

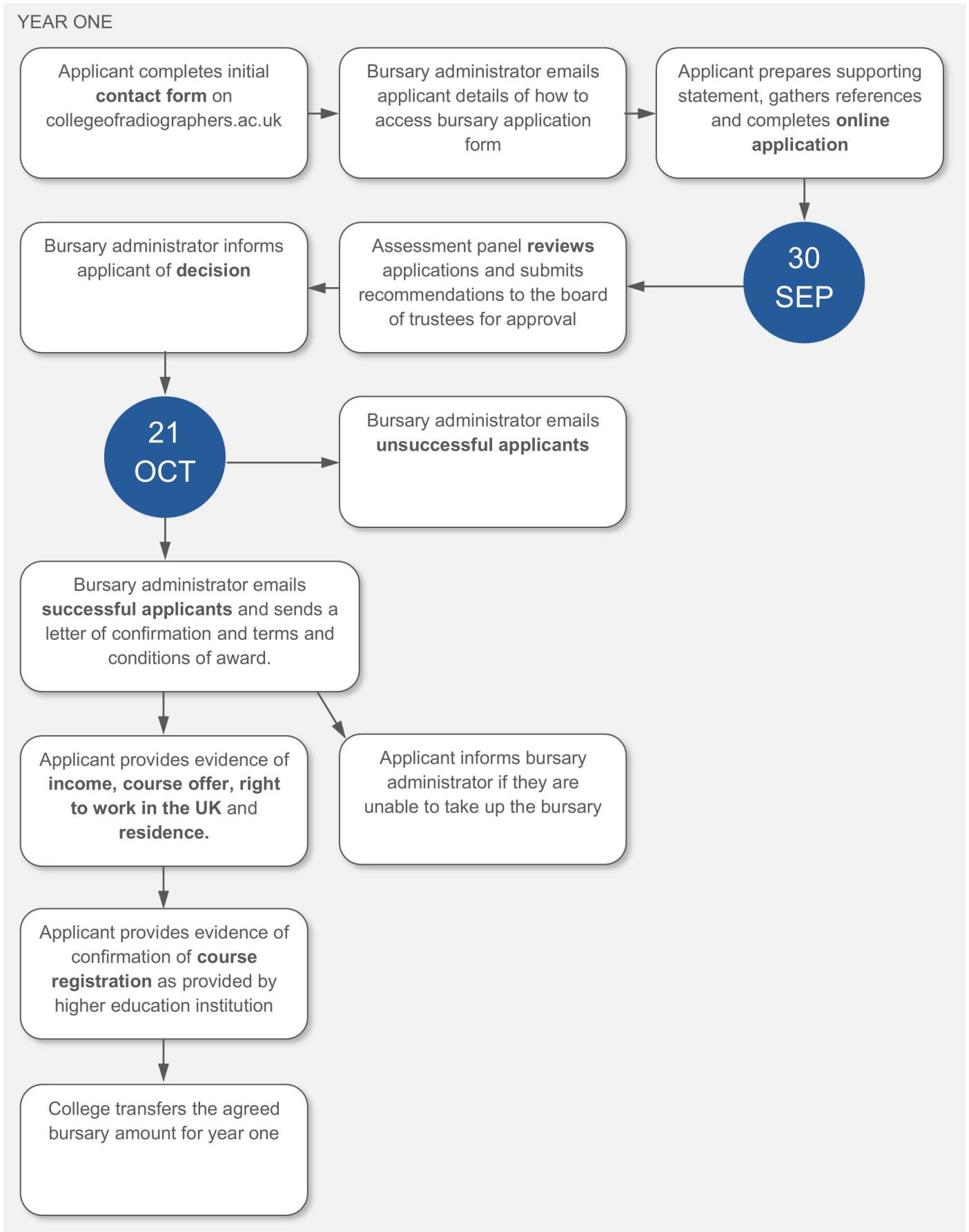
Bursaries, once agreed, will be paid in each year of the therapeutic radiography programme, provided the applicant remains on the course. A bursary will be made in principle for the complete course (no more than three years in total), but access to funding after year one is dependent on successful completion of each academic year. For this reason, education provider confirmation verifying the recipient's fitness to continue into the next academic year will be required at the end of each academic year to secure support for the following year.

Eligibility and assessment criteria checklist

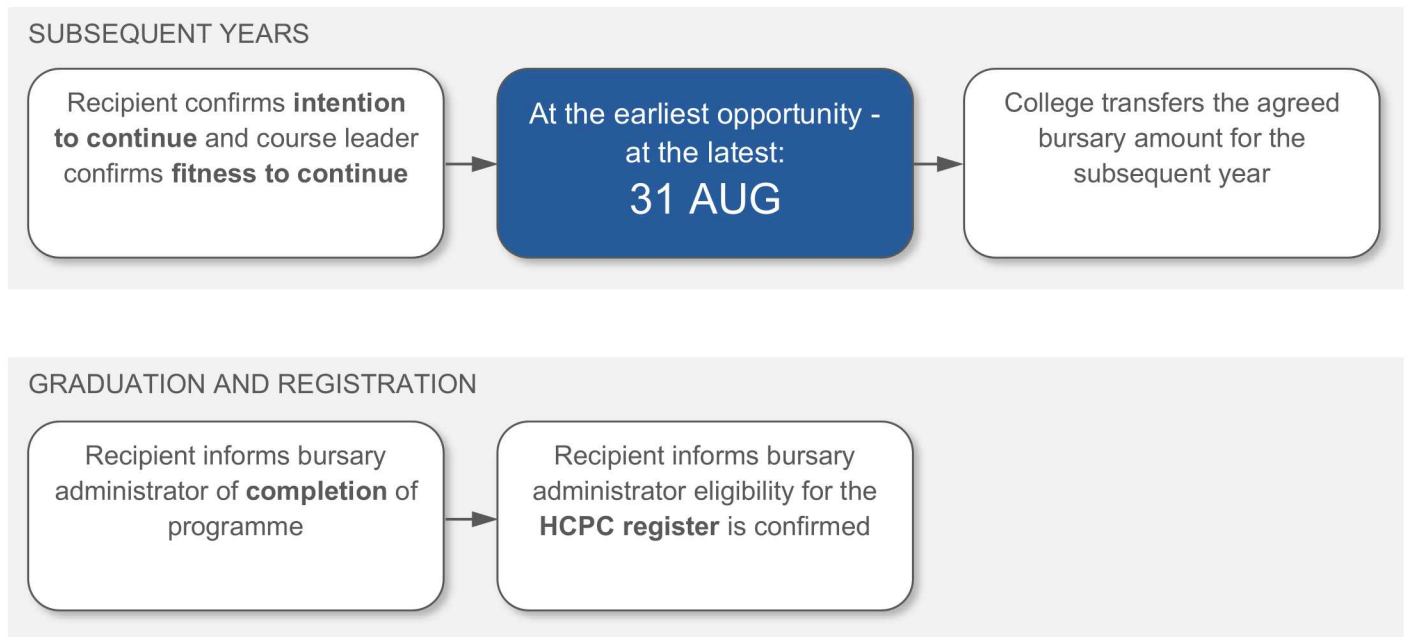
The bursary awards are open to individual applicants who meet the person eligibility criteria intending to enrol on a programme that meets the programme eligibility criteria. The panel will use the assessment criteria to rank applications and to make recommendations to the College board of trustees.

	PERSON ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meets one of the following four 'life experience' criteria: 1. For whom the course will be a second degree; OR 2. Is working as a support worker in radiotherapy/cancer services; OR 3. Has worked in health or social care and has volunteered or raised funds for a cancer charity/healthcare provider; OR 4. Was in social care at any point during childhood and has volunteered or raised funds for a cancer charity/healthcare provider.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has a right to work in the UK and is resident in the UK.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is not following an apprenticeship route.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is not receiving a student loan (or other sponsorship) to cover the course fees for the programme in which they are enrolled. (England only)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Their circumstances prevent them from being able, without support, to join the course.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is aged 18 or over at the intended start date of the programme.
	PROGRAMME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is an undergraduate or postgraduate pre-registration programme in therapeutic radiography at a named higher education institution in the UK.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is approved by the College of Radiographers and the HCPC.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is part-time or full-time.
	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
★	Priority will be given to applications from individuals who would not otherwise be able to afford to join a therapeutic radiography programme.
★	Does the applicant live in rented or temporary accommodation?
★	Does the applicant have any adults and/or children wholly or mainly financially dependent upon them?
★	If the applicant is an assistant practitioner, are they accredited by the College of Radiographers?
★	Does the applicant currently work in a support capacity in radiotherapy/cancer services?
★	Does the applicant have examples of recent and relevant education and/or training in radiotherapy/cancer services?

Process diagram: Year one



Process diagram: Subsequent years



Supporting statement and reference requirements

You will be asked to upload three documents as part of your online application. So, you should prepare the following documents in advance of starting your online application:

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Your supporting statement should cover the following points:

- Why do you want to undertake this study?
- How do you meet one of the four 'life experience' eligibility criteria?
- Please describe how your circumstances prevent you from being able, without support, to undertake this study.
- What difference would this bursary make to your ability to complete this course?
- What difference would this bursary make to your life and career?
- International students should explain how their visa status will allow them to study their chosen programme in the UK.
- Are you from a currently under-represented community/marginalized group? (optional question)

(500-word limit. Format: Microsoft Word, PDF or JPG.)

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): We do not use AI to shortlist candidates and we are vigilant to AI-generated applications; our inclusive assessment process aims to objectively assess each application based on the eligibility criteria and above bullet points. We appreciate that tools like AI can assist you in writing your supporting statement. However, it's essential you personalise this information and address each of the above points. While AI can help streamline the writing process, these tools cannot fully grasp the context of the bursary application process, nor can they accurately reflect your situation and experience. This can result in an application that lacks relevance and does not address the key points. It may come across as generic, lacking in substance, and fail to distinguish the candidate from other applicants.

TWO REFERENCES

Please supply two independent references (ie not family members). One should be from an academic referee and the second may be your employer or another independent referee. Both references must not be from the same organisation.

Examples of academic referees in this context include: teachers; tutors / lecturers; professionals; practice educators or equivalent; or other providers of education / training. If you are unsure whether your referee would be considered an academic referee in this context, please contact bursary@sor.org.

References should be submitted on letterhead wherever possible. In particular, references from work, university academics and school teachers must be on their workplace letterhead.

As standard policy, all applicants' references will be verified. So, please tell your referee to expect contact from the College of Radiographers.

Each referee's signed supporting statement should include:

- Applicant name;
- Referee name;
- Referee place of work;
- Referee job title;
- Referee address and contact details;
- How do you know the applicant?
- Why do you feel the applicant is a suitable candidate for the award?
- [For employer referees] How are you supporting the applicant in undertaking the therapeutic radiography programme if they are continuing to work while studying?

(500-word limit each. Format: PDF or JPG)