



# YOUNG

## Interview with Claire Thomas, ESTRO education administration coordinator

### *What is your name and where are you from?*

My name is Claire Thomas and I am from Edinburgh in Scotland, UK, but now I am living in Oudenaarde, Belgium.

### *What is your job / what are your responsibilities at the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) and how long have you worked with ESTRO?*

I am an ESTRO education administration coordinator. I am the link between the ESTRO project managers for ESTRO online and live courses, and the participants who book the courses. I configure the pricing for payment on the website and I publish the website content. I am also the person you can email with course enquiries/requests; the address is [education@estro.org](mailto:education@estro.org). I am also to be found at the annual congress behind the registration desk. Just look for a small blonde with a Scottish accent!

### *What is your education/background?*

I did a master's degree in Japanese with computing science as a minor. My Japanese studies involved an exciting exchange year at a university in Tokyo, where I was thrown into a sociology class with the Japanese students, I swam with the university swim club and I spent most evenings in winter on the ski slopes.

### *Where did you work before ESTRO?*

I worked in Takasaki, Japan, in the town hall in the international relations department, as a coordinator for international relations. I was asked to give a speech at a Rotary Club meeting, and after the meeting, I was asked if I was interested in working for a Japanese company in the UK in the information technology (IT) admin department, where I would develop the IT setup for the Japanese staff and help the Japanese staff with their everyday lives in Scotland. After that, I worked for WL Gore in the information systems project team. I was responsible for the rollout of a common image for Gore Europe. I came to Belgium during my Easter holiday to race with my national cycling team, because I was preparing to represent my country in the cycling road race at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi. There I met Ronny, who was also in the cycling world; he is now my husband and I moved to Belgium after a few years of long-distance love. I then studied Dutch locally and found part-time work in the area in a supermarket whilst I was looking for a job specific to my skills. I was offered my current job at ESTRO five years ago.

### *How did you end up working for ESTRO?*

I was looking for an English-speaking role in a non-profit organisation and saw the advert for ESTRO. During a few interviews, I became impressed by ESTRO's values and felt I would fit into the profile they were looking for.

### *What are the exciting new developments/projects/ that you are looking forward to at ESTRO?*

The new offering of on-demand training courses, which will be trialled in 2023.



**Claire Thomas**  
ESTRO Education Administration Co-ordinator

