

## Introduction

The Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT) was founded in Moshi with the material, financial and human resource support of the governments of Tanzania and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1981. TATCOT is a supra-regional training centre providing courses in the field of orthopaedic technology in Africa and enrolls students from all English speaking African countries as well as other interested countries.

TATCOT is located in Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) which is an institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation of the Evangelic Lutheran Church of Tanzania and is a consultant and referral medical centre for the Northern Zone of Tanzania.

The courses offered at TATCOT are accredited and recognised by both the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

TATCOT comprises well-equipped training facilities with sufficient classrooms and training workshops for its programmes. It has access to an extensive and well established Orthopaedic Department within the hospital. This access guarantees a truly practically and clinically oriented training and education for the students enrolled in the different programmes.

TATCOT is situated only 4 km from Moshi town centre, 55 km from Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), 600 km from JK Nyerere International Airport, Dar es Salaam and 430 km from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya. There are many reliable connections from these airports by taxi or by bus.

## Diploma in Orthopaedic Technology

The Diploma Course in Orthopaedic Technology was established in 1981 through joint co-operation and partnership between the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT), the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), the Agency for Technical Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The academic supervision of the three years Diploma Course in Orthopaedic Technology offered by TATCOT is carried out by the Muhimbili College of Health Sciences (MUCHS) of the University of Dar es Salaam. The University of Dar es Salaam confers a Diploma in Orthopaedic Technology upon successful completion of the course.

The Diploma Course in Orthopaedic Technology comprises theoretical, laboratory and clinical practice. The clinical practice includes the clinical examination and evaluation of individual patients in order to prescribe and deliver the appropriate prosthesis or orthosis to each individual patient.

The broad objectives of the diploma course in Orthopaedic Technology are to provide the graduate with:

- A clear concept of the role and responsibilities of Orthopaedic Technologists towards patients, colleagues and the clinical team;
- A good level of theoretical knowledge and practical competency to safely and efficiently carry out their professional duties in providing the most common prosthetic and orthotic devices to people with neuromuscular disorders;
- A knowledge of the application of locally available materials and the adaptation of technology to suit different social and environmental conditions;
- The ability to operate and maintain the tools, machines and equipment used in a prosthetics/orthotics or technical orthopaedics department;
- An understanding of the principles of workshop management and supervision of staff.

The duration of the course for the Diploma in Orthopaedic Technology is three years commencing in October each year. The teaching year comprises 42 weeks of study with approximately 35 teaching hours in each week. During the course the student will undertake both theoretical subjects and practical and clinical training.



## Course outline

During the course the student will undertake both theoretical subjects and practical and clinical training.

<b>Compulsory subjects per year</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
Anatomy and physiology	✓	✓	
Technology	✓	✓	
Biomechanics	✓	✓	✓
Mechanics	✓	✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	
Technical Drawing	✓		
General Health Education	✓		
General Mechanical Skills	✓		
Pathology		✓	✓
Mechanical Operations		✓	
Functional Anatomy			✓
Clinics			✓
Workshop Management			✓
Clinical Practice			✓

## Entry qualifications

The course has a capacity to admit a maximum of 15 students each year.

To qualify for admission to the course, the applicants must possess:

An Ordinary Level Form IV Certificate or equivalent with at least three Credit passes in any of the following science subjects:

- Physics
- Biology
- Mathematics
- Chemistry

Engineering subjects offered at technical secondary school are also acceptable as a third credit.

Age: 18 years and above

Sex: Both Male and Female candidates are eligible to join the course.

Health: Candidates must possess a medical certificate indicating that he/she is mentally and physically fit to undertake the course

Language: Medium of communication is English. Candidates must exhibit competence in spoken and written English.

## Accommodation

TATCOT has three student hostels within the campus with sleeping accommodation, kitchens and toilet facilities for up to 70 students.

## Course fees

Fees*/year US\$	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
School tuition	5,500	5,500	5,500
Books and Stationery	160	-	-
Uniforms	125	125	125
Hostel rent	1,000	1,000	1,000
Catering utensils	38	-	-
Resident Permit	120	-	120
Education excursion	132	132	132
Medical insurance	250	250	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,325</b>	<b>7,007</b>	<b>7,127</b>

\*Fees for Tanzanian students can be found on the webpage: [www.tatcot.org](http://www.tatcot.org)

The course fees should be paid in US\$ or equivalent directly to the Bank and Account Number indicated on the letter of admission to the course. The yearly course fees should be paid in total before the beginning of the course, or in 2 instalments by special arrangement.

The monthly allowances or stipend for students during the period of the course will depend on their parents or sponsoring agencies. However, it is suggested that the foreign student's monthly allowances should be sufficient to cover food, pocket money and other daily expenses.

## Other courses

- BSc in Prosthetics and Orthotics (4 years)
- Certificate in Lower Limb Orthotic Technology (1 year)
- Certificate in Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology (1 year)
- Certificate in Wheelchair Technology (1 year)

## Applications

Application dates:

- Applications should be submitted to the Principal, TATCOT by the 31<sup>st</sup> January of the year of entry
- Candidates must confirm their place to the Principal in writing not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Late applications will normally be considered for the following academic year.

## Sponsorship

Several organisations offer study grants to TATCOT programmes. Those intending to join the course should process their requests for grants in their own countries through the appropriate institutions, for example the Ministry of Health.

The following organisations are recommended as possible sponsors:

- 500 Miles UK
- Cambodian Trust
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung GmbH (Capacity Building International, Germany) (InWEnt)
- Menschen für Menschen
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Norwegian Association of the Disabled (NAD)
- Norwegian Association of the Red Cross (NORCROS)
- SINTEF-Norway
- Motivation UK

Prospective students should consult country offices of the above organisations. For a full list of other sponsors please see our website [www.tatcot.org](http://www.tatcot.org).



Diploma Course

in

# Orthopaedic Technology

TATCOT, Moshi, Tanzania



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**tatcot**  
Tanzania Training Centre  
for Orthopaedic Technologists