

## 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.

The Certificate courses in Lower Limb Orthotic Technology and Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology were established at the request of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

## Certificates in Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology & Lower Limb Orthotic Technology

The Certificate Courses in Lower Limb Orthotic Technology & Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology are conducted and supervised by TATCOT and the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare respectively. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and TATCOT award a Certificate upon successful completion of the course.

The Certificate Courses in Lower Limb Orthotic Technology & Lower Limb Prosthetic 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 lower limb orthosis or prosthesis to that patient.

The broad objectives of the Certificate Courses in Lower Limb Orthotic Technology & Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology are to provide the graduates with:

- A clear concept of the role and responsibilities of Lower Limb Orthotic Technologists or Lower Limb Prosthetic 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 lower limb orthotic devices or lower limb prosthetic devices to people with neuromuscular or skeletal deficiencies of the lower limb;
- 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 an orthotics, prosthetics or technical orthopaedics department

The duration of study for the Lower Limb Orthotic Technologists or Lower Limb Prosthetic Technologists Course is one year commencing in October each year. The teaching year comprises 42 weeks of study with approximately 35 teaching hours in each week.

## Course outline

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

The core subjects are as follows:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Mechanics and Biomechanics
- Clinics
- Clinical Practice
- Mathematics
- Pathology
- Technology
- Workshop Management

During the course there is an opportunity for patient contact and clinical experience at KCMC Orthopaedic workshop which is situated adjacent to TATCOT. This consists of fully supervised and timetabled clinical experience with patients who have a range of medical conditions and disabilities requiring lower limb orthotic or lower limb prosthetic treatment.

After a successful completion of the course, each candidate must complete a minimum of 6 months supervised orthotics or prosthetics clinical attachment in an approved Orthopaedic Workshop in Tanzania. This clinical attachment is supervised

by a fully qualified Orthopaedic Technologists, Orthotist, Prosthetist or Prosthetist/Orthotist as is appropriate.

A balanced and comprehensive programme as outlined by TATCOT is followed during this period of clinical attachment.

The final Certificate in Lower Limb Orthotic Technology or Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology will only be issued after confirmation from the supervisor of successful completion of the clinical attachment.

## Entry qualifications

The course has a capacity to admit an average number of 10 students each year.

To qualify for admission to the course, the applicants must possess **either**

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

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Mathematics

Engineering subjects offered at technical secondary school are also acceptable for the third credit.

**or**

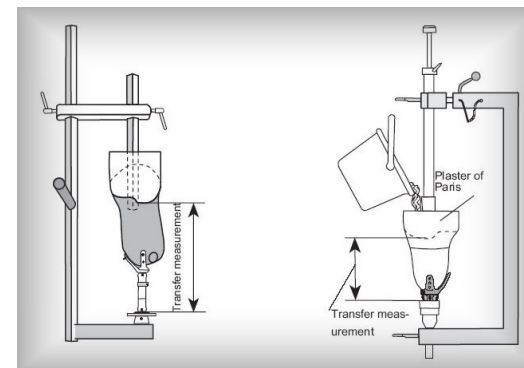
An O-level Form IV Certificate with not less than two years practical experience in an Orthopaedic Workshop. Such candidates must pass an entry Examination set by TATCOT in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania.

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

The course fees\* in US\$ are as follows:

School tuition	5,500
Books and stationery	160
Uniforms	125
Hostel rent	1,000
Catering utensils	38
Resident's permit	120
Educational excursion	132
Medical insurance	250

**Total US\$ 7,325**

\*Fees for Tanzanian students can be found on the web-page: [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 year's 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)
- Diploma in Orthopaedic Technology (3 years)
- 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).



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Certificate Courses

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## Lower Limb Orthotic Technology & Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology

TATCOT, Moshi, Tanzania



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**tatcot**  
Tanzania Training Centre  
for Orthopaedic Technologists