

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 Course in Wheelchair Technology, the first of its type in the world, was established in 2000 through joint cooperation and partnership between the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT) and the Motivation Charitable Trust, UK.

Certificate in Wheelchair Technology

The Certificate Course in Wheelchair Technology is 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 broad objectives of the one-year certificate course in Wheelchair Technology are among others to provide graduates who:

- Are equipped with the necessary practical skills and knowledge required to appreciate the description, selection and application of wheelchairs to patients or persons with various types of physical disabilities.

- Are equipped with the practical skills and knowledge required to select the locally available materials, parts and other resources suitable for the production of wheelchairs.
- Are cost conscious and who have the required knowledge to produce wheelchairs, which provide the intended function and are durable, easily maintained, cosmetically acceptable and affordable by the population in need.
- Are equipped with the practical skills and knowledge required in developing appropriate designs, assembly of parts, and production procedures of wheelchairs which meet the requirements of the local conditions.
- Have adequate competence to serve as members of a Rehabilitation Clinical Team and participate in improving the quality, service delivery and Community Based Rehabilitation.
- Are knowledgeable, motivated and capable of educating technicians working in a wheelchair workshop with the aim of maintaining and continuously improving the quality achieved.
- Are able to show understanding of the professional ethics and be able to appreciate the individual social, cultural, psychological and economic factors, which may influence the process of production, provision and utility of wheelchairs.
- Are capable of managing, co-ordinating and supervising the daily working activities of the technicians engaged in a wheelchair production workshop.

The duration of study for the Wheelchair Technologists Course is one year commencing in October each year. The teaching year comprises 1,350 hours out of which 243 hours are set aside for theory, 972 Hours for practical and 135 hours for examination.



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
- Pathology
- Clinical Studies
- Material Technology
- Workshop Technology
- Wheelchair Service Centre Management
- Wheelchair Design and Practice
- Technical Drawing
- Mathematics and Mechanics

Clinical experience is provided through two visits per semester to see patients in their localities and through ward visits at KCMC.

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

Candidates with lower academic qualifications plus two years experience in wheelchair production in a recognized workshop can apply for the course. 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
Uniforms	125
Hostel rent	1,000
Catering Utensils	38
Resident's permit	120
Medical insurance	250
Education excursion	150
Wheelchair construction models	1,200
Total	US\$8,383

*Fees for Tanzanian students can be found on the web-page: 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 Lower Limb Orthotic Technology (1 year)
- Certificate in Lower Limb Prosthetic Technology (1 year)

Applications

Application dates:

- Applications should be submitted to the Principal, TATCOT by the 31st January of the year of entry
- Candidates must confirm their place to the Principal in writing not later than 31st 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:

- Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung GmbH (Capacity Building International, Germany) (InWEnt)
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- British Council (BC) or British High Commission (BHC)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Commonwealth Secretariat (CS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Swedish Organisation of Handicapped International Foundation (SHIA)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- Episcopal Organization Cooperation (MISSERIOR)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Norwegian Association of the Disabled (NAD)
- Norwegian Association of the Red Cross (NORCROS)
- Motivation UK

Prospective students should consult country offices of the above organisations.



Certificate Course

in

Wheelchair Technology

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for Orthopaedic Technologists