



Spinal Orthotics Certificate Programme

Welcome to Spinal Orthotics!

On the following screens, you will find detailed information of the Spinal Orthotics Certificate Programme, offered by TATCOT, the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists in Moshi, Tanzania.

The Spinal Orthotics Certificate Programme is the first comprehensive Blended Learning Course Programme offered to Orthopaedic Technologists in Africa, allowing participants to study from home (distance study) AND also to benefit from extensive practical face-to-face training in Moshi.



The Programme starts early March and is open for application now!

We welcome you to explore the information provided here. Please don't hesitate to contact TATCOT in case you need more information on the programme. Contact information can be found on the "Fees and Application" screen.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Spinal Orthotics Certificate Programme!

The TATCOT eLearning Team





About this Course

The Spinal Orthotics Certificate Programme was established as an eLearning/Blended Learning programme in 2007 through a joint co-operation and partnership between the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT), the University Don Bosco in San Salvador and Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung (InWent), Capacity Building International of the Federal Republic of Germany (now known as Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)).

Currently, the academic supervision of the Certificate Programme in Spinal Orthotics offered by TATCOT as eLearning/Blended Learning is under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and recognized by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO).

The course in Spinal Orthotics comprises theoretical eLearning sessions, laboratory and practice, including the clinical examination and evaluation of patients with trunk deformities in order to prescribe, produce, evaluate and deliver the appropriate trunk orthoses.

The complete programme is 8 month long. Participants come to Moshi for a short introductory workshop (3 days), and then study online and off line (with training material provided on CD-ROMs/USB Flash) for approx. 6 month. During this time, they are being supported by knowledgeable online tutors, who provide feedback and discussion and assistance by email or other communication channels. Finally, an extensive 5 week face-to-face workshop and practical (with examination) provides the hands-on skills required.

In 2007 - 2008 the first group of 19 participants followed the programme on-line, off-line and at the workshops in Moshi. Participants from all over East and Southern Africa and beyond are now implementing their newly acquired skills on Spinal Orthotics and can offer more advanced services in their workplaces.

Participation in the Programme requires basic computer skills, access to a computer and on a regular basis access to the Internet. Participants also have to have a background in Orthopaedic Technologies.

The Spinal Orthotic Programme is now open again for application by participants from English speaking Countries.

Program Duration: Beginning of March up to beginning of October each year.



- Jan
- Feb
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October

Anatomy, 12 Jan to 6 Feb
Pathology, 9 Feb to 6 March
Biomechanics, 8 March to 3 April
Radiology, April 14 to 8 May
Clinics, 11 May to 5 June
Material Technology, 8 June to 3 July
Prep. for Practical, July 6 to 24 Aug
Practical & Exam, 24 Aug to 18 Sept.



MODULE OVERVIEW

Scoliosis continues to be a widely discussed and controversial topic. Although this deformation of the vertebral column has been known for centuries, we are still not able to name all the causes of scoliosis. Therefore, the majority of scolioses occurring today are termed 'idiopathic'. It is this group of patients, which is provided with correction corsets during their growth phase.

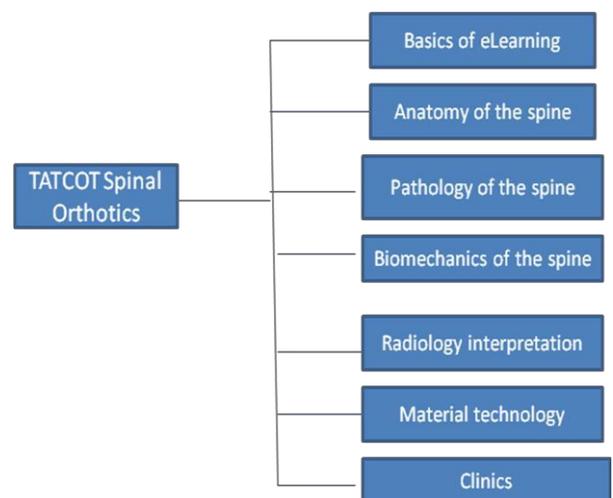
However, orthotic management is only one component of conservative scoliosis therapy. In order to provide a correction orthosis to a patient, a comprehensive knowledge of anatomy and pathology is required since the deformity can be corrected only during the growth phase. The available time has to be used optimally for therapy to be successful.

The eLearning programme in Spinal Orthotics is focused on the trunk deformity described above. In addition, it will cover other trunk deformities.

During the course the student will work through the theoretical subjects and also experience practical and clinical training.

Compulsory subjects of the entire course are:

- Basics of eLearning – 21 hours
- Anatomy of the Spine - 58 hrs, eLearning
- Pathology of the Spine - 58 hrs
- Biomechanics of the Spine - 58 hrs
- Radiological Interpretation - 58 hrs
- Clinics, Prescriptions, Goal Assessment - 58 hrs
- Material Technology - 58 hrs
- Spinal Orthotics Clinical Practice - 105 hrs





e-Learning at TATCOT Spinal Orthotic Course

Fees and Application

Entry qualifications

The course has a capacity to admit a maximum of 15 participants per course.

To qualify for admission to the course, the applicants can be TATCOT Alumni or have an appropriate diploma/degree in the field of Prosthetics and Orthotics from another accredited institution, practical work experience in orthopaedic technology and support from their employer.

Sex: both male and female candidates are eligible to join the course.

Language: Course language is English. Candidates must exhibit competence in spoken and written English.

In addition to these requirements, participants have

- To possess at least basic computer skills
- They have access to the Internet
- They are able to communicate through e-mail
- They are able to compose and save a Word document

Also have regular access to a computer:

- with CD-ROM drive /USB Port
- with an updated browser version
- with Internet access at least once a week



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Course fees

The course fee per participant amounts to **4,700.00 US \$**.

This course fee covers the following:

- Introductory Workshop (3 days) including accommodation, local transport
- 7 months Online Training with tutor support, training CD-ROMs/Flash discs
- Practical Workshop (32 days) including local transport (Hotel – TATCOT)
- All materials used in the practical Workshop
- Registration
- Examination and Certificate
- Carrying Temporary Assignment permit (CTA)

In addition, the following costs have **to be covered by the participant**:

- Vaccination certificate, if not available 50 USD on arrival
- Transport to Moshi for two Workshops (return air ticket) + airport to and from TATCOT
- Accommodation 2nd face to face workshop (minimum 40 US \$ per day)
- Allowance during the workshops (3 days 1st f2f workshop and 5 weeks 2nd f2f workshop)
- Visa on arrival (US \$50).

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the participants to process their visa application once their admission is approved

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 course fees should be paid in total before the beginning of the course, or in 2 installments by special arrangement.

Application procedures

- Application should be submitted to TATCOT latest by 15th December each year
- Candidates must confirm their place to the TATCOT in writing not later than December 30th
- Apply to the Academic Office at TATCOT, via e-mail: mtalo@kilinet.co.tz

Contact

The Principal
TATCOT
P.O. Box 8690
Moshi, Tanzania
Email: tatcot@kilinet.co.tz

Tel.: +255 (0)27 2753986 or 2753987
Fax: +255 (0)27 2752038 or 2755169



e-Learning at TATCOT Spinal Orthotic Course

Scholarship Options

Several other organizations offer study grants to TATCOT programmes. Those intending to join the Spinal Orthotics Course Programme should process their requests for grants in their own countries through the appropriate institutions, for example the Ministry of Health.

The following organizations are recommended as possible sponsors:

- Ministry of Health
- 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 participants should consult the country offices of the above organizations.



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About TATCOT

KCMC

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

TATCOT

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 June 1981. TATCOT is a supra-regional training centre providing courses in the field of orthopaedic technology in Africa and enrolls participants from all English speaking African countries as well as other interested countries beyond Africa.

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, elearning facilities 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 participants enrolled in the different programmes and a realistic examination situation for participants who have enrolled in the Spinal Orthotic Elearning Course.

KCMC is only 4 km from Moshi town centre, 55 km from Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) and 430km from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya. There are many

