

Country Work Requirements for Orthoptists

COUNTRY	REQUIREMENT	WEBSITE
FULL MEMBER COUNTRIES		
Australia	<p>The Australian Orthoptic Board (AOB) is the registration body for orthoptists within Australia, for both local and international orthoptists.</p> <p>The AOB is a separate entity to Orthoptics Australia (OA) which ensures professional standards are upheld by establishing regulations and standards for all orthoptists.</p> <p>While registration with the AOB is not compulsory to practice, orthoptists are required to register with the AOB according to legislation regarding the practice of refraction, prescribing of optical lenses and ultrasonography. This also applies to legislation regarding the administration of drugs and poisons. Orthoptics Australia thereby encourages all orthoptists to register with the AOB and to participate in the Continuing Professional Education program (CPE) to gain credit towards a Certificate of Currency. Many public and private health institutions employing orthoptists also now require that orthoptic staff members are registered with the AOB, as do Australian private health funds. Applications for registration must be updated every two years.</p>	<p>Australian Orthoptic Board (AOB) www.australianorthopticboard.org</p> <p>Australian Orthoptic Association (OA) www.orthoptics.org.au</p>
Austria	<p>To work as an orthoptist in Austria, you need to apply for a license at the health ministry.</p>	<p>The weblink for the Health Ministry is in German (English is not available):</p> <p>http://www.bmg.gv.at/home/Schwerpunkte/Berufe/Anerkennung/Anerkennung_einer_auslaendischen_Berufsqualifikation_in_einem_sonstigen_nichtaerztlichen_Gesundheitsberuf</p> <p>For more information on orthoptics in Austria, you can contact Orthoptik Austria: http://www.orthoptik.at/Neuigkeiten/</p>
Belgium	<p>To work in Belgium as an orthoptist, you need to ask for recognition from the Belgian Health Authority.</p>	<p>Belgian Health Authority: https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/gezondheid/zorgberoepen/paramedische-beroepen/orthoptist or https://www.health.belgium.be/fr/sante/professions-de-sante/professions-paramedicales/orthoptiste</p>

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		You can contact the Belgian Orthoptic Association for more information: www.orthoptie.be
Canada	To work as an orthoptist, you must be certified by the Canadian Orthoptic Council. Certification is obtained following successful completion of the annual written, practical and oral examinations.	Information regarding certification policies and procedures may be found at: www.orthopticscanada.org E-mail: info@orthopticscanada.org
France	To work as an orthoptist in France, you need to be registered and have the approval of the Minister of Health.	Minister of Health: www.travail-emploi-sante.gouv.fr For more information, you can contact the Syndicat National Autonome des Orthoptistes (SNAO): http://www.orthoptiste.pro/ or you can contact the Syndicat des Orthoptistes de France (SOF) [Orthoptic Council] : http://www.orthoptie-sof.fr/
Germany	To work in Germany as an orthoptist in national (state) clinics/hospitals you need to register and get approved with the regional health authority. To work in Germany as an orthoptist in private clinic/hospital societies or in a private ophthalmological practice there is no official registration necessary, but dependent upon the society or ophthalmologist individually.	For more information about orthoptics/orthoptists in Germany contact: Berufsverband Orthoptik Deutschland e. V. (BOD), www.orthoptik.de ; bod@orthoptik.de .
Italy	To work as an orthoptist, you need to be authorized by MINISTERO DELLA SALUTE Direzione Generale delle Professioni Sanitarie e delle Risorse Umane SSN – Uff.IV The Ministry entrusts to the Italian orthoptic association (AIOraO) the evaluation of trainings and professional requirements.	To apply for recognition, download the form from: http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/temi/p2_6.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=3988&area=professioni-sanitarie&menu=riconoscimento The website is in Italian (English is under construction) 1. Orthoptists of EU, Swiss, SEE, recognized into own countries, papers: Allegato B6; Modello B6 2. Foreign orthoptists recognized into EU, Swiss, SEE, papers: Allegato A4-6; Modello A4-6 3. Orthoptists recognized in all other countries, papers: Allegato D2-8; Modello D2-8
Japan	To work as an orthoptist, you need to be registered to pass the national exam licensed with JAPAN Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare; or you need to contact the Japanese Association of Certified Orthoptists (JACO).	Japan Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare: http://www.mhlw.go.jp JACO: http://www.jaco.or.jp

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<p>Netherlands</p>	<p>Requirements to work as orthoptists in the Netherlands are well formulated by law and similar for all health care professionals.</p> <p>There is a difference for people from the outside and inside the European Economic Union (EU and Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests from orthoptists within the EEU are evaluated by a committee of Dutch Orthoptists. Tests of the Dutch language and professional (orthoptic) knowledge are not required. The committee decides if the diploma meets Dutch standards and can require a placement for practical training or additional education (no longer than 3 years). • Requests from orthoptists outside the EEU are evaluated by a committee of Dutch Orthoptists and are required to do a “General Knowledge and Skills test” (including ICT, professional (orthoptic terminology), basic English) and a Dutch language test. Test must be passed and the committee decides if the required standards are met. If not, additional or complete education is prescribed. 	<p>For more information, you can go to the Orthoptistes de la Communauté Européenne (OCE) website: http://euro-orthoptics.com/oce/</p> <p>or you can contact the Dutch Orthoptic Association: Nederlandse Vereniging van Orthoptisten (NVvO) www.orthoptisten.info</p>
<p>Portugal</p>	<p>To work as an orthoptist in Portugal you need to be registered with the Ministry of Health.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health: http://www.acss.min-saude.pt</p> <p>For more information, you can contact the Portuguese Orthoptic Association: Associação Portuguesa de Ortoptistas (APOR): http://www.apor-ortoptistas.com.pt/</p>
<p>Scandinavia</p>	<p>To work in the country of Norway as an orthoptist you need to be authorized. You apply for this at Statens autorisasjonskontor.</p> <p>You need to know a Scandinavian language (Swedish, Danish or Norwegian).</p>	<p>Norway: Statens autorisasjonskontor: www.sak.no</p>

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	To work in Denmark and Sweden you have to prove that you have an orthoptic qualification. You contact the clinic where you want to work. There is no authorization.	Contact for Sweden: ordforande@siof.se Contact for Denmark: DMOF2012@gmail.com
Switzerland	To work as an orthoptist you need to be registered (authorized). Recognition of foreign professional titles The recognition of foreign professional titles obtained in EU/EFTA member states, is based on the Federal Act on Vocational and Professional Education and Training as well as on the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications.	The website is in German and French: www.redcross.ch
United Kingdom & Ireland	To work as an orthoptist in The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, you need to be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council.	Health and Care Professions Council: www.hcpc-uk.org.uk For more information, you can contact the British and Irish Orthoptic Society mailto:bios@orthoptics.org.uk Their weblink is www.orthoptics.org.uk .
U.S.A.	A foreign orthoptist applying for certification by the American Orthoptic Council must meet certification guidelines. If English is not the primary language, the applicant must pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Certification is obtained following successful completion of the annual written, practical and oral examinations.	For a list of certification guidelines for foreign orthoptists, please contact: American Orthoptic Council Leslie France, Executive Director E-mail: lwfranceco@att.net
ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES		
Asia-Pacific	To work in Singapore as an orthoptist, the Ministry of Health in Singapore requires orthoptists to hold a degree in Orthoptics or such equivalent qualification as the Board may approve. They recognize orthoptic qualifications obtained from certain universities in Australia and from the United Kingdom. • For an individual who obtained that	Singapore: Ministry of Health www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home.html Refer to Order section 25(1) 2008 and amendment of Order section 25(1) 2014 for more information pertaining to an orthoptists ability to perform refractions, tests of binocular vision and visual field tests to detect abnormalities of the eye of a patient.

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	<p>degree prior to 1 January 2008, he performs the refraction, binocular vision tests and visual field tests under the supervision of an ophthalmologist or on an ophthalmologist's patient upon a referral from the ophthalmologist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For an individual who obtained that degree on or after 1 January 2008: he holds, in addition, any qualification specifies in the Schedule or such equivalent qualification as the Board may approve in any particular case; and he performs the refraction, binocular vision tests and visual field tests under the supervision of an ophthalmologist or on an ophthalmologist's patient upon a referral from the ophthalmologist. 	
Brazil	To work as an orthoptist in Brazil, the orthoptist should hold a degree in Orthoptics and be registered by the Brazilian Association of Orthoptics.	www.cbort.com.br
Czech Republic	To work as an orthoptist, you need to be registered (to be licensed as an orthoptist) by the Minister of Health; and you must speak the Czech language.	www.mzcr.cz
Hong Kong	To work as an orthoptist in Hong Kong, you need to be eligible to register with the Health and Care Professions Council in U.K. or Australian Orthoptic Board in Australia.	For more information, you can contact the Hong Kong Orthoptic Association (HKOA). Their email is: hkoa@gmail.com
New Zealand	We require the Orthoptist currently holds full registration/license from their country of qualification/origin [for example: Australian Orthoptic Board (AOB) or Health & Care Protection Council (HCPC) and hold a recognized Orthoptic degree/diploma from an IOA member country.	Contact the New Zealand Orthoptic Council website: www.nzosi.com or via the IOA website: newzealand@internationalorthoptics.org for current membership forms and registration fees to join the New Zealand Orthoptic Society Incorporated (NZOSI)
Pakistan	In Pakistan, orthoptics is a relatively new profession so there is no national orthoptic council. To work as an orthoptist in Pakistan, the orthoptist should hold a bachelor	For further information, please contact: SOOOP House, College of Ophthalmology & Allied Vision Sciences, King Edward Medical University, Mayo Hospital Lahore.

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	<p>degree (minimum 16 years of education) in Vision Sciences Orthoptics from a recognized university (i.e, university must be recognized by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan which act as a certification for working).</p> <p>Currently for Orthoptists (full) the Society of Optometrists, Orthoptists & Ophthalmic Technologists Pakistan (SOOOP) is playing a part.</p>	e- mail: president.soop@gmail.com
South Africa	<p>To work as an orthoptist in South Africa is impossible as the register has been closed for the past 6 years for any new membership. There is no sign of this being changed in the foreseeable future.</p>	