

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT  
OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS  
IN MEMBER COUNTRIES  
OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**



**Information compiled 1986  
Revised 1992  
Revised 1999  
Revised 2003  
Revised 2006**

**revised 2007**

## THE WORLD FEDERATION of OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists is the official international organisation for the promotion of Occupational Therapy. Founded in 1952, WFOT currently (2007) has 66 member associations in the following countries:

<b>Country Name</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Year Information Updated</b>
Argentina	Full	1970	2007 September
Australia	Full	1952	2006 June
Austria	Full	1978	2007 November
Bangladesh	Full	2000	2003
Belgium	Full	1968	2007 October
Bermuda	Associate	1992	1999
Brazil	Full	1994	1998
Canada	Full	1952	2007 September
Chile	Full	1980	2007 September
Colombia	Full	1976	1992
Cyprus	Associate	1996	no information
Czech Republic	Full	2002	no information
Denmark	Full	1952	2007 September
Estonia	Full	2006	no information
Finland	Full	1972	2007 November
France	Full	1964	2007 September
Germany	Full	1958	2010 July
Georgia	Associate	2006	no information
Greece	Full	1992	2007 October
Hong Kong	Full	1984	2007 Novembere
Iceland	Full	1976	2003
India	Full	1952	2006 May
Indonesia	Full	2000	no information
Iran	Full	2006	no information
Ireland	Full	1970	2007 September
Israel	Full	1952	2003
Italy	Full	2002	2007 November
Japan	Full	1972	2007 September
Jordan	Full	1992	April 2006
Kenya	Full	1976	1992
Korea Rep. of	Full	1998	2007 September
Latvia	Full	1998	2007 November
Luxembourg	Associate	1990	2006 May
Macau	Associate	2006	no information
Malaysia	Full	1990	2003
Malta	Full	1994	2007 November
Mauritius	Full	2006	2003
Mexico	Full	2004	no information

Namibia	Associate	2000	2007 October
Netherlands, The	Full	1960	2007 September
New Zealand	Full	1952	2007 September
Nigeria	Associate	1992	2003
Norway	Full	1958	2007 October
Pakistan	Full	1992	no information
Palestine	Full	2006	no information
Panamá. Rep. de	Associate	2004	2007 November
Peru	Associate	2006	no information
Philippines	Full	1968	1992
Portugal	Full	1964	1986
Russia	Full	2004	no information
Singapore	Full	1992	2007 September
Slovenia	Full	2004	no information
South Africa	Full	1952	July 2008
Spain	Full	1972	1986
Sri Lanka	Full	1992	no information
Sweden	Full	1952	2007 October
Switzerland	Full	1962	2006 April
Taiwan (ROC)	Full	1986	2007 November
Tanzania	Full	2002	no information
Thailand	Full	2002	no information
Turkey	Associate	2006	no information
Uganda	Full	1996	?
United Kingdom	Full	1952	2007 September
United States of America	Full	1952	2007 September
Venezuela	Full	1968	2007 November
Zimbabwe	Full	1990	2003

and 6 contributing members:

APOTRG	Contributing	2006	
CLATO	Contributing	2002	
COTEC	Contributing	1994	
OTARG	Contributing	2004	
Caribbean	Contributing	1994	1999
Kuwait	Contributing	2003	

## INFORMATION

This information was provided by WFOT members and collated by the Secretariat For further information or to notify amendments, please email to the Secretariat at wfot@multiline.com.au

## **INTRODUCTION**

These guidelines are prepared by WFOT to assist qualified occupational therapists who are seeking work outside their own country.

This can be a unique, enriching, professional and personal experience, but serious questions need to be addressed by the individual therapist before the process of careful planning can begin.

Be honest in answering these questions -

### **1. Do you have a speaking knowledge of the language of the host country?**

This is of vital importance for all levels of communication in order to make the experience meaningful to yourself and your hosts. NB Non verbal communication is also important. Whether you are dealing with patients, with doctors, with a landlady or the grocer, you can neither understand their questions nor form your own if you cannot use their words. Remember that communication includes understanding of local religion and beliefs about illness.

### **2. Are you able to adapt to all types of conditions?**

Although you will see many more similarities than differences in life in general, you will nevertheless encounter differences that will both amuse and frustrate you. It is a good idea to be prepared for problems to arise. However, instead of trying to change the conditions to your usual pattern, can you adjust yourself to those of the host country?

### **3. How good is your health - physically and emotionally?**

Unless your physical and emotional health are excellent, do not attempt to go abroad. Problems do not go away when you go to live elsewhere. Your system must be able to withstand changes in climate, in nutrition, in working hours and human attitudes.

### **4. How good is your professional knowledge?**

Unless you have had at least one year, and preferably more, of working experience in occupational therapy, do not attempt to work abroad. Your skills and knowledge will be challenged every day and should be strong enough to benefit from giving as well as taking. In many instances, you will be the first professional representative from your country - it is a tremendous responsibility to represent your entire professional population. Are you ready to accept this?

### **5. Do you really know your own country?**

As a therapist abroad you are also an ambassador of your own country and should be prepared to answer every type of question about government, education, cultural patterns, politics, sports, etc.

### **6. How much do you know about sources of financial support for overseas appointments?**

It is always best to enquire first in your own country through governmental or charitable organisations. Be sure that you know about salary scales for non-citizens and how these relate to cost of living.

### **7. Are you aware of the specific financial implications of taking money out of and into another country?**

There are restrictions on the amounts for certain countries which would influence the funds you have available for living expenses while abroad.

## **8. Insurance**

Professional indemnity insurance may be necessary. Check your personal cover early in your planning.

Make sure you have adequate medical and repatriation insurance as well as cover for personal belongings. Think twice about taking valuable possessions.

## **9. Financial commitments at home**

Do you have a mortgage to maintain? A house to let? Insurance payments? Any other outstanding financial matters? Consider this in relation to your eventual return.

## **10. Coming back**

Most people find that they experience 'reverse culture shock', so make sure that you have people around you who understand this.

## **Further information**

Specific requirements about individual countries can be obtained from your WFOT Delegate, who can also provide information about contact addresses.

You may use these guidelines in seeking work in non-member countries. Please share information with your delegate so that networks can be built up. You can post your work experience / information in the OTION forum through the WFOT website [www.wfot.org](http://www.wfot.org) – OTION.

To learn about visa and entry regulations and policies, contact the embassy or consulate of the country in which you seek employment.

Make use of the Internet - Web pages are included where known.

Much of the information you need must be obtained by you. To establish contact write to the agency of your choice or the addresses given by the country in which you are interested and include the following information:

- Full name, title and address, clearly printed or typed.
- The clinical area in which you desire to work.
- Brief details of your work experience.
- The geographical areas in which you would prefer to, plan to, or are willing to live.
- Information about your level of knowledge of the language of the country.
- If possible, write your letter in the language of the country.

Give an estimate of the amount of time you wish to spend in the country - six months, one year.

Good luck!

**Information about countries is requested under the following headings -**

1. Name of country
2. Language
3. Immigration regulations and work requirements
  - a) Source of information
  - b) Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications
4. Professional information
  - a) Association address
  - b) Source of information about positions available
5. Educational requirements
  - a) Degree or diploma / type of institution
  - b) Length of programme
  - c) Qualifying exam
6. Professional or Association qualifying exam
  - a) For foreign therapists: Getting registered
  - b) Source of information
7. Legal or Governmental exams or requirements
  - a) For foreign therapists
  - b) Source of information
8. Minimum requirements for employment
  - a) Years of experience
  - b) WFOT approved school or other
  - c) Language
9. General / Other Information

## ARGENTINA

2. **Language:** Spanish
3. **Immigration regulations and work requirements:**
  - a) Source of information:  
Argentine Council in own country  
  
Dirección Nacional de Migraciones  
Antártida Argentina 1355  
C1104ACA Buenos Aires  
Argentina  
[info@migraciones.gov.ar](mailto:info@migraciones.gov.ar)
  - b) Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications:  
Permanent immigration visa  
Temporary (one year) immigration visa
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) Association address:  
AATO  
Libertad 370 3° B  
CP 1043 Buenos Aires  
Argentina  
[asocato@ciudad.com.ar](mailto:asocato@ciudad.com.ar)  
[www.terapia-ocupacional.org.ar](http://www.terapia-ocupacional.org.ar)
  - b) Source of information about positions available:  
There is no official entity which keeps this information for the whole country. The OT Association has job offers and for the private practice, applicants can consult the newspaper classifieds.
5. **Educational requirements:**
  - a) Degree or diploma/ type of institution:  
University degree
  - b) Length of programme:  
4 (four) years at least
  - c) Qualifying exam:  
Necessary when the degree is not equivalent to the Argentine national curriculum. The professional should apply to a Argentine Public University, with a recognised Occupational Therapy Career, for the equivalence of the foreign degree.
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) For foreign therapists:  
There are not specific requirements besides those included in the educational item and the legal or governmental requirements.
  - b) Source of information:  
AATO
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) For foreign therapists:  
As for local OT, be registered with the Ministry of Health.
  - b) Source of information  
Ministerio de Salud  
Oficina de Matriculaciones

**8. Minimum requirements for employment:**

- a) Years of experience:  
Depends on employer.
- b) WFOT approved school or other:  
The Occupational Therapy Careers on public universities are approved by the WFOT, so the equivalence of the foreign degree of WFOT approved schools is easier.
- c) Language:  
Knowledge of it.

(Information Sept 2007)

# AUSTRALIA

## OT AUSTRALIA

The following information can be found on the OT AUSTRALIA national website, [www.ausot.com.au](http://www.ausot.com.au), search words 'working in Australia'

### **Eligibility to Practice Occupational Therapy:**

All occupational therapists who have trained overseas are required to undergo an assessment conducted by the Council of Occupational Therapy Registration Boards (COTRB).

This assessment process involves an initial desktop audit where you will need to meet a number of criteria before being able to migrate. Once in the country, you will complete a goal-directed practice audit in your initial employment, designed to ensure that your practice skills develop and that you are able to attain standards required in an Australian work context.

For full details, contact the COTRB directly:

COTRB

PO Box 229

TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA 5031

Telephone: +61 8 8443 9375

Fax: +61 8 8443 9550

Email: [cotrb@sboards.com.au](mailto:cotrb@sboards.com.au)

Web: [www.cotrb.sboards.com.au](http://www.cotrb.sboards.com.au)

---

### **New Zealand Registered Occupational Therapists**

The exception to the above requirement is that occupational therapists who are eligible for registration in New Zealand may be automatically eligible to practice in most states of Australia, except WA due to the introduction of the Trans Tasmania Mutual Recognition Agreement.

If for example, you are a British trained occupational therapist who has sat the NZOTRB exam in New Zealand and are registered to practice in New Zealand – you may be eligible to work in Australia.

---

### **Registration for Occupational Therapists in Australia**

There are eight states and territories in Australia, only four of which have registration. These are Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

If you wish to practice in any of these states you will need to contact the relevant Occupational Therapy Registration Board (via COTRB). In the four states without registration, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania, you are eligible to practice once you have successfully completed the COTRB practice audit.

*(Information June 2006)*

## AUSTRIA

2. **Language:** German
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**  
Yes
  - a) **Source of information**  
Contact the local Austrian embassy
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
Contact the local Austrian embassy
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Ergo Austria Bundesverband der Ergotherapeutinnen Österreichs,  
Schlagergasse 6, A-1090 Vienna, Austria
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
[verband@ergoaustria.at](mailto:verband@ergoaustria.at)
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution:**  
Both
  - b) **Length of programme:**  
Minimum 3 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**
  - b) **Source of information : contact the association**
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**
  - b) **Source of information**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment**
  - a) Years of experience: opportune – depends of working place
  - b) WFOT approved school
  - c) Language German
9. **General / Other Information:**

Health system is subordinated federal and county laws. Therapist who want to nostrificate their education have to contact the local health department. Their education is compared with the education according to Austrian law. Applicants are informed what additional examinations they have to undergo.  
The same is for therapist from EU. They do not need a visa but in some cases a work permission.

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh we don't have any occupational therapy regulatory body formed by the government. Here the general requirement of recruiting OTs are:

- 1) The national candidate has to pass a degree or diploma from any recognised university or the government state medical faculty
- 2) For foreign therapists qualified in abroad need to first arrange the work either paid or volunteer with proper OT degree or diploma. Then with this arrangement he or she has to get work permit from the relevant ministry to start working in Bangladesh.
- 3) Nationally qualified therapist has to be member of the Bangladesh Occupational Therapy Association (BOTA)

For further information please contact:

Bangladesh Occupational Therapy Association  
CRP, Chapin, Savar  
Dhaka-1343  
Bangladesh  
E: [bota@post.com](mailto:bota@post.com)  
W: [www.botabd.netfirms.com](http://www.botabd.netfirms.com)  
Secretary: Salauddin Ahmed

*(Information 2003)*

## BELGIUM

2. **Language:** French and Dutch
  
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Belgian Embassy from your country
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
In Belgium, we have 15 schools and there is no lack of OT; on the contrary, some OT do not find work.
  
4. **Professional information**
  - a) **Association address**  
National Federation of Belgian Occupational Therapists [www.ergobel.be](http://www.ergobel.be) or regional associations [www.ergo-ae.be](http://www.ergo-ae.be) (French speaking) and [www.ergotherapie.be](http://www.ergotherapie.be) (Dutch speaking)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
Regional associations but there is no lack of OT in Belgium
  
5. **Educational Requirements:**

**For NON-EUROPEAN countries**, you must apply to the Ministry of Education for the region where you want to work, to see if your educational programme is equivalent and you may have to present some exams even if your diploma is from a WFOT-approved school.

**For EUROPEAN countries except Netherlands**, the implementation of the Directive 89/48/CEE is not yet ready and you must still ask the recognition of your diploma to the **Ministry of Education**.

**For Netherlands qualified OT** there is a special agreement of equivalence for OT diploma between Belgium and Netherlands.
  
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**  
No request but recommendation of good knowledge of French or Dutch or both depending of the region where the person want to work.
  
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists:**  
Getting the equivalence of diploma
  - b) **Source of information**  
Addresses of ministry in charge of the equivalence : please go to our website: [www.ergobel.be](http://www.ergobel.be) and the French or Dutch information as you must apply to the ministry of the region where you want to work. Address are changing and we are updating them on the web [www.ergobel.be](http://www.ergobel.be)

**8. Minimum requirements for employment**

**a) Years of experience**

Only equivalence of diploma is required

**b) WFOT approved school or other**

**c) Language**

Good knowledge of the language of the region even if this requirement is again the EU regulation. Employers will only select OT speaking the language of the region and in Brussels we must speak French and Dutch.

**9. General / Other Information:**

Belgium is centrally situated in Europe and many international organisations and companies are headquartered there. Many foreign occupational therapists live in our country with their families and are confronted with problems linked to OT diploma equivalence and languages before looking for employment.

Belgium is a small country divided into regions (still smaller!) having distinct characteristics, such as different languages, regulations and laws.

Practicality, the OT must be reasonably fluent in the language of the region where he (she) intends to work, either French or Dutch (Flemish), and in Brussels a good knowledge of both languages.

In Belgium, we have 15 schools and there is no lack of OT; on the contrary, some OT do not find work

*(Information October 2007)*

## BERMUDA

2. **Language:** English

3. **Immigration regulations and work requirements:**

a) **Source of information**

Bermuda Occupational Therapy Association  
PO Box DV510  
Devonshire Dv Bx  
Bermuda  
Email [www.bota.bm](http://www.bota.bm)

All applicants **must** be registered by the council for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine.

b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications:**

In accordance with the Bermuda Government Immigration Department Regulations.

All applicants must be able to communicate clearly in English (both written and verbal).

Work permits must be obtained from the Department of Immigration by the future employing authority.

**NO WORK PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL THE APPLICANT HAS SATISFIED REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

Employment should be arranged **before** entry into the country.

4. **Professional Information:**

a) **Association address**

As above

b) **Source of information**

Bermuda Occupational Therapy Association

5. **Educational Requirements:**

a) **Degree or diploma / type institution**

Degree from a WFOT approved school.

b) **Length of programme**

Training institution must be accredited by the national association in the country of training.

c) **Qualifying exam**

Must have passed the national certification examination in the country of training.

Copies of all documents must be certified by a Notary Public

*The minimum requirement for employment is one year's post graduate experience.*

*(Not an academic year)*

*(Information 1999)*

## BRAZIL

2. **Language:** Portuguese
3. **Immigration regulations and work requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Brazilian Ministry of Labour
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
A work permit should be requested by a Brazilian institution to the Brazilian Ministry of **Labour**.  
Requirement is analysed by the Brazilian Ministry of Labour (BML) according to Brazilian legislation. Once approved the work permit is sent to the Brazilian Ministry of International Affairs (MIA) which forwards the authorisation to the Brazilian Consulate or Embassy of the country of the professional;  
The occupational therapist should produce equivalence of her /his educational qualification and practical experience in the related professional field, having at least two (2) years of professional practice;  
Brazil has special agreements with some countries where specific procedures regarding work permits apply. Information can be obtained at Brazilian Consulates or Embassies or at the applicant's own country's foreign office;  
There are also special work permit requirements for a university position.
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
Associacao Brasileira dos Terapeutas Ocupacionais (ABRATO)  
R.Jaime Telles, 133/503  
90460.030 Porto Alegre-RS  
BRASIL
  - b) **Positions available:**  
Clinical Occupational Therapist  
There are no formal positions available. The O.T. can work as a clinician and/or as a head of a team. In the health system the positions vary from one institution to another;  
The professional can also work in private clinical practice, as a clinical supervisor as well as a consultant. He can also work in private companies at the Human Resource Departments.  
  
Teaching  
At universities or Occupational Therapy Schools the positions are teacher, researcher, clinical supervisor, Head of the Department or Course Co-ordinator. The requirements for such positions vary from one University to another according to professional's formal education (Specialisation, Master or Doctoral Degrees) and clinical and/or management experiences.
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or Diploma and type of institution**  
University degree
  - b) **Length of Programme:**  
4 (four) Years at least 3600 hours (1000 hours clinical)
  - c) **Qualifying exams:**  
Necessary only when the Degree Certificate is not equivalent to the Brazilian National Curriculum. To consider a foreign degree certificate as equivalent to a Brazilian one, the following steps are necessary:  
  
The professional should apply to a Brazilian Public University with a recognised occupational Therapy Course for the equivalence of his/her Degree Certificate.  
  
The following documents are necessary:

Degree Certificate, Course Curriculum with the length of the Course and the applicant's undergraduate curriculum. The documents must be translated officially to Portuguese and authenticated by the Brazilian Consulate.

A special commission will be designated to examine and judge the equivalence of the curricula. The Commission will be composed of teachers from the university or from outside. Two major aspects will be examined - applicant's qualifications and adequacy of documentation and course equivalence.

The Commission can decide for qualifying exams if the equivalence between the Occupational Therapy Courses is not clear. The exams must be taken in Portuguese;

If the criteria for the certificate revalidation is not achieved, complementary studies in a Brazilian university with an Occupational Therapy Course will be recommended.

When the Certificate revalidation process is approved, the subsequent procedure is to apply for professional registration at one of the Brazilian Regional Occupational Therapy Councils. (see below)

**6. Professional or Association qualifying exam:**

**a) For foreign occupational therapists**

There are no specific requirements besides those included in the Educational item

**b) Source of information**

ABRATO Brazilian National Association

**7. Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**

**a) For foreign occupational therapists:**

Necessary only when the Degree Certificate is not equivalent to the National Certificate

**b) Source of information**

Ministry of Education and Regional Council of Occupational Therapy

**8. Minimum Requirements for employment:**

**a) Years of experience**

At least two years of professional experience. Evidence of such experience is required. The documents must be translated officially and authenticated by the Brazilian Consulate.

**b) WFOT approved school**

The official requirement is the Brazilian Ministry of Education Guidelines (item 5) which is based on the WFOT Minimum Standard for the Education of Occupational Therapists;

**c) After the certificate revalidation approval, registration in the Regional Council of Occupational Therapy is required. The following documentation is requested:**

work permit, four (4) photographs 3x4 (male with tie), identity card, birth certificate and marriage or divorce certificate (all registered photocopies).

The original Degree Certificate will have an annotation on the margin after both processes of revalidation and registration.

*(Information 1998)*

## CANADA

2. **Language:** English and/or French
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Nearest Canadian Consulate or Embassy  
<http://www.cic.gc.ca>
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists/Association canadienne des ergotherapeutes  
Carleton Technology and Training Centre  
Suite 3400  
1125 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1S 5R1  
  
Tel: 6135232268  
Fax: 6135232552  
Web site: [www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
[http://www.caot.ca/CAOT\\_career\\_listings.asp?pageid=1001](http://www.caot.ca/CAOT_career_listings.asp?pageid=1001)  
Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy  
Occupational Therapy Now
5. **Educational Requirements:**  
Certification and registration with a provincial regulatory organization are compulsory.  
A full listing of regulatory organizations is listed at  
<http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?ChangeID=63&pageID=50>
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**  
National certification examination developed and administered by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists is required to practice in most areas of Canada. Information regarding the examination is available at  
<http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=1067>
7. **General / Other Information:**  
More information for internationally educated occupational therapists wishing to practice in Canada is available at  
<http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=1489>
8. **Information regarding working in Canada:**  
<http://www.gocanadaot.com/en?ref=main>
9. **Information regarding a preparation program for working in Canada:**  
<http://www.otepp.ca/>

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## CARIBBEAN

2. **Language:** English

The Caribbean islands that are members of ACOT include Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and the Cayman Islands. Presently, Peace Corp or VSO volunteers are working in Guyana and St Vincent.

3. **Immigration Regulations and Work Requirements:**

a) **Source of information**

- o Contact the specific High Commission in one's own country
- o The Foreign Office of the specific country for work-permit requirements for non-nationals.

b) **Terms of employment**

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health of specific country (addresses available from the High Commissions)

4. **Professional Information**

a) **Association address:**

ACOT  
c/o Psychiatric Hospital  
Black Rock, St Michael  
Barbados

b) **Source of information about positions available:**

The Chief Personnel Officer, Ministry of Health (addresses available from High Commission)

5. **Educational Requirements**

a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**

Diploma or degree from a WFOT recognized institution

b) **Length of programme**

A minimum of 18 months work experience needed

c) **Qualifying exam**

A detailed curriculum vitae with at least 2 references

6. **Requirements for Employment**

a) **For foreign therapists**

Work-permit necessary for non-nationals. Obtained from the government - this is usually arranged by the employer.

b) **Source of information**

Certification by the Paramedical Council required in Barbados.

*(Information 1999)*

## CHILE

2. **Language:** Spanish
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information:**  
<http://www.tramitefacil.gov.cl/1481/article-47215.html>
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
Visa de Residencia: Solicitud de Residencia Sujeta a Contrato Dirigido a extranjeros (al cónyuge, padres e hijos) que viajan al país con el propósito de dar cumplimiento a un contrato de trabajo suscrito entre él y su empleador domiciliado en Chile  
Al realizar este trámite, al usuario se le podrá entregar, si cumple con los requisitos, un permiso de residencia temporal que le permitirá dar cumplimiento a un contrato de trabajo suscrito entre él y un empleador domiciliado en Chile.
4. **Professional information**
  - a) **Association address**  
Colegio de Terapeutas Ocupacionales de Chile AG  
Chilean Association of Occupational Therapists  
Avda. Salvador 95 Of. 703 Providencia  
Casilla 51573 Correo Central Santiago  
Teléfono-FAX 56 2 2692508  
[colegio@terapia-ocupacional.cl](mailto:colegio@terapia-ocupacional.cl)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
Same as above
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma / type of institution**  
The requirements involved vary according to the type of occupational therapy education of the immigrant.
  - b) **Minimum requirements:**  
Legal copies of Diploma or Degree and copy of detailed programme of study, translated into Spanish. Examination in Spanish and Occupational Therapy.  
Direct contact with:  
Miss Alicia Valdes OT  
Carrera de Terapia Ocupacional  
Facultad de Medicina  
Universidad de Chile  
Independencia 1027  
Santiago, Chile  
[esterocu@canela.med.uchile.cl](mailto:esterocu@canela.med.uchile.cl)
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**  
No
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**  
Yes, there is a process to recognize occupational therapy qualifications (Universidad de Chile) More information about the process in <http://www.uchile.cl/estructura/titulos/index.html>
8. **Minimum requirements for employment**
  - a) Immigration requirements.
  - b) Direct contact with the institution providing employment

(Information Sept 2007)

## COLOMBIA

2. **Language:** Spanish
2. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**  
Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications:  
Work visa, information available from Colombian Embassy in each country.
3. **Professional information**
  - a) **Association address:**  
Asociacion Colombiana de Terapia Ocupacional, (ACTO)  
Transversal 5 No.49-00  
Casa Antigua del Infante  
Bogota  
Colombia  
Tel /fax 57 1 2883985
  - b) **Sources of information about positions available:**
    1. ACTO address above
    2. Ministerio de Salud (Health Bureau)  
Division Salud Mental, (Department of Mental Health)  
Calle 16 No 7 - 39, Santafe de Bogota, Colombia
    3. Escuela Colombiana de Rehabilitacion Facultad de Terapia Ocupacional  
Cra 30 No 152 - 40 Santafe de Bogota, Colombia
    4. Universidad Nacional  
Facultad de Medicina Unidad Ocupacion Humana  
Piso 5, Santafe de Bogota, Colombia
    5. T.O. Liliana Tenorio  
Calle 3 Bis No.35A-87 Apto 103A  
Cali, Colombia
    6. T.O. Ayola Cuesta  
Cra 48 No 7-162 Avenida las Vegas  
Medellin, Colombia
    7. T O Maria Eugenia Caicedo  
Grupo Latinoamericano de Rehabilitacion  
Cra 32 No 95-68  
Santafe de Bogota, Colombia
4. **Educational Requirements:**  
Approval of professional academic degree by ICFES.  
If a treaty does not exist with the country of origin, the ICFES will contact a governmental institution of the country to evaluate the studies undertaken by the applicant.  
  
Address:  
ICFES Oficina de Coordinacion Internacional Y Convalidacion de Titulos  
(Department of International Coordination)  
Calle 17 No 3 - 40, Santafe de Bogota, Colombia).

*(Information 1992)*

## DENMARK

2. **Language:** Danish
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information:**  
The Danish Immigration Service: [http://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/coming\\_to\\_dk/coming\\_to\\_dk.htm](http://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us/coming_to_dk/coming_to_dk.htm)
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications.**  
See above.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
The Danish Association of Occupational Therapists  
Nørre Voldgade 90  
DK-1382 København K.
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
[www.etf.dk](http://www.etf.dk)
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
Bachelor Degree in Occupational Therapy ( B.Oc.T.).
  - b) **Length of programme**  
3½ years
5. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**  
See above
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
The National Board of Health  
<http://www.ciriusonline.dk/Default.aspx?ID=6836>
8. **Minimum requirements for employment**
  - a) **Years of experience**
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
Yes
  - c) **Language**  
Danish
9. **General / Other Information:**  
For more information on Danish employment requirements please find COTEC's "Summary of The OT Profession in Europe" on COTEC's website  
General information: [www.etf.dk/english](http://www.etf.dk/english)

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## FINLAND

### 2. **Language:** Finnish and Swedish are the two official languages in Finland

Licensing or use of a protected title (see the text later) does not involve any language proficiency requirements confirmed by the public authorities. The employer (e.g. the local authority) may, however, require a certificate of language skills. More than 90 percent of the population in Finland speak Finnish as their native language, and slightly over 5 percent speak Swedish.

### 3. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**

#### a) **Source of information**

The nearest Finnish Consulate or Embassy

#### b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**

In order to be able to start working in Finland as a health care professional, you must submit an application to the National Board of Medicolegal Affairs (Terveydenhuollon oikeusturvakeskus TEO, see the information later in this text) for the right to practise your profession.

People coming from EU-countries:

In the fee-form application the applicant must specify the profession that s/he wish to practise. The applicant must date and sign the document in his/her own hand. It is recommended that the application be made in Finnish, Swedish or English. The application must include the following enclosures:

Passport (copy)

Degree certificate

A valid certificate of your right to practise your profession in the EU Member state from which you come to Finland

A certificate showing that your education complies with the requirements lay down in the pertinent EU Directives.

The enclosures must be officially certified copies of the original documents. Translations of the documents into Finnish, Swedish or English must also be presented. The certificate of the compliance of your education with the pertinent EU Directives must be the original document, and it may not be more than three (3) months old. TEO will keep the application documents. TEO's decision on the right to practise a profession is issued in Finnish or in Swedish, The decision is subject to a fee of 70 euros (after decision).

Joint Nordic labour market:

The agreement on the joint Nordic labour market for certain personnel groups engaged in health care and in care of the sick came into effect on 1 January 1994. The agreement is based on the fact that the education in the health care sector is so similar in all the Nordic countries that a person licensed or otherwise approved in one Nordic country can be granted the corresponding rights in another Nordic country. The agreement applies to occupational therapists.

People coming from other than EU and Nordic countries

Workers coming to Finland from abroad and outside EU and the Nordic countries must obtain also a residence permit if their employment lasts longer than three (3) months. The police department of the place of residence grants the residence permit. For obtaining a permit, you need your passport or ID card, a photograph and your employment contract or some other document of your employment.

The National Board of Medicolegal Affairs (TEO) is an information centre that provides information on issues such as practising OT in the health care sector. The contact data for TEO are:

National Board of Medicolegal Affairs

Siltasaarenkatu 18 C, 5th floor

P.O.Box 265, FIN-00531 Helsinki

Finland

[www.teo.fi](http://www.teo.fi) Information is available in Finnish, Swedish and English.

Telephone switchboard (09) 3967 280 [+ 358 9 3967 280]  
Telefax (09) 3967 2842 [+358 9 3967 2842]

**4. Professional Information:**

**a) Association address**

Suomen toimintaterapeuttiliitto ry  
Maistraatinportti 4 A  
FIN- 00240 Helsinki, Finland  
Tel. 358-20-1235390  
Fax. 358-20-1235391  
E-mail: [toimisto@toimintaterapeuttiliitto.fi](mailto:toimisto@toimintaterapeuttiliitto.fi)

**b) Source of information about positions available:**

Association see address above.  
Employment office  
International services  
Haapaniemenkatu 4 A 2krs  
FIN-00530 Helsinki, Finland  
Tel: +358 9 7021

**5. Educational Requirements:**

**a) Type of registration or certification:**

The National Board of Medicolegal Affairs inspects and approves the education for health care professionals and recognises their degrees.

**b) Additional qualifications:**

In cases where a person's qualifications do not correspond to the education received in Finland, TEO may require professional experience, an adaptation period for a profession or a qualification test before the person can be licensed or permitted to use a protected title.

**6. Minimum requirements:**

Same as a) and b) above

**a) Applicants from non-WFOT countries**

Same as a) and b) above

**b) Additional requirements**

Employing agencies may have further requirements, eg concerning vaccinations.

**7. Additional information:**

The National Board of Medicolegal Affairs (TEO) is responsible for the Central Register of Health Care Professionals (TERHIKKI), which is maintained by the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES). TERHIKKI contains the following data on more than 200,000 health care professionals:

- personal data and address
- data on professional education and special qualifications
- the right to practice a profession
- control data e.g. limitation or revocation of the right to practice a profession

The Finnish health care system comprises workers with highly varied educational backgrounds. Some of these professional groups are encompassed by the system of registration. Registered professionals in health care are divided into three groups: those who are licensed, those who are granted a permit, and those entitled to use a protected title. Professionals coming from the EU Member States may either be licensed or entitled to use a protected title.

On application the National Board of Medicolegal Affairs grants the right to practise a profession, i.e. a person is licensed. Occupational therapists are licensed professionals.

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## FRANCE

2. **Language:** French
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

French Embassy or Consulate in own country  
The Health Ministry  
Address: Ministère de la santé et des solidarités  
D.H.O.S./ P2  
14, avenue Duquesne  
75700 PARIS 07 SP
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**

Working in France is possible only for Occupational Therapists who have obtained a 'practice authorization or who have a French OT Diploma
4. **Professional information**
  - a) **Association address**

Association Nationale Française des Ergothérapeutes (ANFE)  
34 boulevard Aristide Briand  
94110 Arcueil  
Tél. : 01 49 85 12 60  
Fax: 01 49 85 13 60  
[www.anfe.asso.fr](http://www.anfe.asso.fr)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**

Ask ANFE for list.
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**

Level Licence
  - b) **Length of programme**

3 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**

Diploma of State: practical + memory
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**

Need to ask for a practice authorization from the Health Ministry
  - b) **Source of information**

The Health Ministry
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**

You need to ask for a practice authorization from the Health Ministry:

    - Copy of a document in proof of nationality (identity card or passport) readable.
    - Written Request (on computer or typewriter) specifying the origin of your diploma as well as the occupation which you wish to follow.
    - Also point out the date and the birthplace
    - Copy of the original of the diplomas delivered by the school (failing this of the certificate of success).

**Professional Experience**

- Detailed Statement of the program of the studies followed with the number hours by matter and year
- Contents of the practical training courses carried out with the number of hours by matter and per year
- Translation in French of all the documents requested

**b) Source of information**

The Health Ministry

**8. Minimum requirements for employment**

**a) Years of experience**

Experience is not necessary

**b) WFOT approved school or other**

All school are approved by the WFOT

**c) Language**

French

**9. General / Other Information**

A working knowledge of the French language

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## GERMANY

2. **Language:** German
3. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**
  - a) Source of information: Consulate or Embassy in home country
  - b) Terms of employment with reference to Immigration qualification:
    - European Community applicants: no requirements.
    - Applicants from other countries: visa including permission to take up work (application to Embassy or Consulate before entering Germany) and work permit - to be obtained after entering Germany, from the local "Agentur für Arbeit"
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) Association:

Deutscher Verband der Ergotherapeuten e. V. (DVE)  
Postfach 2208  
76303 Karlsbad, Germany  
Tel.: 49 7248 91 81 0  
Fax: 49 7248 91 81 71  
Web: [www.dve.info](http://www.dve.info)  
E-Mail: [info@dve.info](mailto:info@dve.info)
  - b) Source of information about positions available:

OT Journal ERGOTHERAPIE UND REHABILITATION  
Schulz-Kirchner Verlag GmbH  
Mollweg 2  
65510 Idstein, Germany  
Web: [www.forum-ergotherapie.de](http://www.forum-ergotherapie.de)

Zentralstelle Auslands- und Fachvermittlung (ZAV) der Bundesagentur für Arbeit  
Villemombler Straße 76  
53123 Bonn, Germany  
Tel.: 49 228 71 30  
Fax: 49 228 71 32 70 1111  
Web: [www.zav.de](http://www.zav.de)
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) Recognition of diploma/degree/certificate. Please apply to the local authorities ("Bezirksre-gierung", "Regierungspräsidium") responsible for the region in which work is to be taken up
  - b) Education should meet WFOT minimum standards
6. **Minimum requirements for employment:**

Good knowledge of the German language; see 3a; 3b
7. **Applicants from non-WFOT countries:**

Consideration may be possible; see 3a; 3b; 5.
8. **Additional requirements:**

Employers may have further requirements (e. g. work experience in specific OT-fields)

(Revised July 2010)

## GREECE

2. **Language:** Greek
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**  
For the EU citizens work and residence permits are not required. For the non EU citizens residence and work permit requirements vary and details should be obtained from the Greek Embassy or Consul in the applicant's own country.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Association of Greek Ergotherapists  
**Akademias 91-93, Kanigos Sq.**  
**10677, Athens**  
Tel./Fax: 0030 210 3228979  
e-mail: [info@ergotherapists](mailto:info@ergotherapists)  
website: [www.ergotherapists.gr](http://www.ergotherapists.gr)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
From the association, from the newspapers, for private posts from the individual organization, for stat positions from the Ministries of Health and Education.
5. **Educational Requirements:**  
Diploma from university or other institution of higher education when there is an at least 3 years study program.
6. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**  
EU citizens are able to apply for stat positions. In that case a Certificate of Professional Equivalence is needed, issued by the Council of Professional Ecquivalence Recognition (info: OEEK Department of Professional Rights and Equivalences). A Certificate in Greek Language is also needed and can be issued by the Greek Language Center and a computer license issued by centers approved by OEEK.
7. **Minimum requirements for employment**  
Working knowledge of the Greek language, computer license or working experience depending upon the requirements of the position.

**Greek Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs** tel:0030/ 210-344-2505, 210-344-2506, 210-344-2508, 210-344-2520, 210 344-2000 [www.ypepth.gr](http://www.ypepth.gr)  
**Greek Ministry of Health** tel: 0030/ 210-5232-821/9, 210-5249-011 [www.mohaw.gr](http://www.mohaw.gr)  
**Greek Language Center** tel:0030-2310-459101/5, 0030-210-3636549

*(Information Oct 2007)*

## HONG KONG

1. **Language:** Cantonese (Mandarin and English for a small portions of service organizations)
2. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Immigration Department of Hong Kong SAR
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
Immigration Department of Hong Kong SAR
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Hong Kong Occupational Therapists Association  
P.O Box 98241, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
Jenny Fung, P.O Box 98241, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
Both are accepted
  - b) **Length of programme**  
3 years and/or more
  - c) **Qualifying exam**  
Required
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Required
  - b) **Source of information**  
Occupational Therapists Registration Board of Hong Kong SAR
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists:**
  - b) **Source of information:**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment**
  - a) **Years of experience**
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
Preferred
  - c) **Language**  
Cantonese, English speaking therapists may be employed by some service organizations

### 2. General / Other Information:

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## ICELAND

### 2. Language: Icelandic

Icelandic is the original Norse language. Almost every Icelander is multilingual: English and Danish are understood by most people. Several courses in Icelandic are available and people working in Iceland are expected to enrol in one. Icelandic is a very difficult language and presents a major stumbling block to functioning effectively.

### 3. Immigration Regulations and Requirements:

#### a) Source of information

Icelandic Occupational Therapy Association  
Lagmuli 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
108 Reykjavik, Iceland

#### b) Terms of employment with reference to immigration requirements:

For most foreigners, work permit and residence permit must be procured by Icelandic employer, before arrival in Iceland. European Union and European Economic Area citizens may apply for a 3 to 6 month residence permit after arrival in Iceland while looking for work.

### 4. Professional Information:

#### a) Association

address above

#### b) Source of Information about positions available

Association (address above).

### 5. Educational Requirements:

#### a) Degree or diploma/type of institution

Diploma or degree from an Occupational Therapy school recognised by WFOT.

#### a) Additional qualifications

Once in Iceland, one must apply for an Icelandic licence by submitting a copy of their Occupational Therapy diploma or degree, a transcript of grades if available, and a small fee to the Icelandic Ministry of Health which consults with the Icelandic Occupational Therapy Association regarding validity of credentials.

### 3. Minimum Requirements for Employment:

Because the profession is so young in Iceland, a HIGH DEGREE OF PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE is desirable, preferably at least 2 years.

Some employers ask for a minimum employment commitment of one year.

It should be noted that increasing numbers of employers refuse to hire foreign therapists because of past difficult experiences and the long time it takes before the foreigner can function independently and effectively.

Applicants from non-WFOT countries:  
Not acceptable.

*(Information 2003)*

## INDIA

2. **Language:**  
There are many languages in the country but knowledge of Hindi is essential in northern region and English in South India.
3. **Immigration Regulations and requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Indian Consulate or Embassy in one's own country
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to Immigration qualifications**  
None
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association Address**  
The All India Occupational Therapists' Association  
C/O Dr. Anil K.Srivastava, President  
93,Laxmanpuri, Faizabad Road, Lucknow -226016, India  
Tel: +91 522 2350482 , 09415405095  
Email: [anilsrivastava20@yahoo.co.in](mailto:anilsrivastava20@yahoo.co.in)  
Website: [www.aiota.org](http://www.aiota.org)
  - b) **Source of Information about positions available from:**
    - Employment assistance bureau of AIOTA
    - AIOTA Website
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
A Graduate in Occupational Therapy from an institution recognised by AIOTA and/or a Graduate from WFOT approved institution for clinical positions.  
Masters in O.T. for faculty positions in academic institutions  
Able to speak Hindi/English and vernacular of the area where the therapist wishes to apply.
6. **Minimum Requirement for employment:**  
See above

Applicants from non-WFOT Countries: May be accepted if affiliated with a member country

Additional Qualifications: Post Graduation/experience of work in specific subject may be preferred in speciality departments/institutions

*(Information May 2006)*

## IRELAND

1. **Language:** English
2. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

Department of Enterprise,  
Trade & Employment,  
23 Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2,  
Ireland.  
Telephone: + 353 1 631 2121  
LoCall: 1890 220 222  
Fax: +353 1 631 2827  
E-Mail: [info@entemp.ie](mailto:info@entemp.ie)
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications:**

Yes. These vary depending on the type of visa.
3. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**

The Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI)  
Office Address: 29 Gardiner Place  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel/Fax: +353 -1- 8780247  
Email: [info@aoti.ie](mailto:info@aoti.ie)  
Secretary: Sinead Montgomery  
Website: <http://www.aoti.ie>
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**

Most Occupational Therapists in Ireland are employed by the Health Service Executive. It provides healthcare service in the Republic of Ireland. Details of available positions can be found on their website:  
<http://www.careersinhealthcare.ie/>  
Under the section 'Discipline / Category' click onto the dropdown menu for "Allied Health & Social Care" for positions in occupational therapy in the following services areas:

    - Acute Hospital Services
    - Childcare Services
    - Community Services
    - Disability Services
    - Mental Health Services
    - Older People Services
4. **Educational Requirements**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**

An Honours Degree (4 years B.Sc. (hons) degree) or equivalent
  - b) **Length of programme**
  - c) **Qualifying exam**

From the National University of Ireland (NUI)
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**

None required.
  - b) **Source of information**
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements**
  - a) **For foreign therapists: Getting registered**

None required - at this time.

A registration board has been established recently and registration will be introduced in 2008 / 09

**b) Source of information**

Information will be made available on the website for the Department of Health and Children when registration will be required.

<http://www.dohc.ie>

**8. Minimum requirements for employment:**

**a) Years of experience**

A (newly) qualified staff grade / basis grade occupational therapist can commence working in Ireland once they have the necessary educational qualification, visa or work permit (if required) and Garda Clearance (see section 9 below).

A staff grade occupational Therapist is only eligible to apply for a Senior position once they can demonstrate that they have a minimum of three years experience. Note this does not mean 'qualified' for three years or more but that the person has 'worked' for three years or more.

To be eligible for a Clinical Specialist post one is required to have worked for a minimum of five years in a specialty.

To be eligible for an 'Occupational Therapist Managers' post one is required to have had five years post graduate experience.

An occupational therapist is not required to have a defined amount of experience to set up a Private Practice – technically one could do this after graduating.

**b) Approved school or other**

WFOT Approved!

**c) Language**

There is no formal language test required.

Ireland has the right, like other Member States within the EU to require migrants, if it so wishes, to demonstrate that they have the knowledge of the language(s) necessary for practicing the profession in Ireland.

Article 53 of the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications under the section on 'Knowledge of languages' states that:

*Persons benefiting from the recognition of professional qualifications shall have a knowledge of languages necessary for practising the profession in the host Member State.*

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smatapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/smatapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi)

<http://europa-eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11065.htm>

**9. General / Other Information:**

**a. European Directives 89/48/EEC, 92/51/EEC and 2005/36/EC**

The European Directives 89/48/EEC, 92/51/EEC and 2005/36/EC establish a system for the recognition of Diplomas and Qualification in one European Community (EC) member state which have been acquired in another EC member state.

This professional recognition system requires a member state to take into consideration the diplomas, certificates and other evidence of qualifications, which an applicant has acquired in order to practice their profession in their member state of origin. The Validation Committee of The Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI) then compare that with the

knowledge, abilities and qualifications required by the national rules for Ireland to determine an applicant's eligibility to practice occupational therapy in Ireland.

Under Article 8 of Directive 89/48/EEC and Article 12 of Directive 92/51/EEC, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide documentary proof that she / he holds the relevant qualifications / diplomas required within the meaning of the directive.

The Validation Committee of The Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI) review all applications qualifications to the same high standard regardless if an applicant is from within the EC or not.

Under the above Directives there is a time limit of four months for a response once the completed file with all the requested information has been submitted. This applies to all EC applications. For Non EC applications there is no specified time limit for a response.

Applications will not be considered until all the requested information has been submitted.

#### B. Validation by the Department of Health and Children

The AOTI 'validates' the qualifications of foreign trained occupational Therapists to ensure that they are 'broadly equivalent' to those of an Irish trained occupational therapist. The information required for the validation process is sought in agreement with the Department of Health & Children of Ireland and the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland.

1. Candidates should be in possession of a qualification in occupational therapy that satisfies the 89/48/EEC, 92/51/EEC and 2005/36/EC European Directives (see above for details).
2. Candidates are required to have a minimum of 1,000 hours from clinical placements.
3. A minimum of 250 psychosocial hours and 250 physical and sensory disabilities hours is required as a component of the total 1,000 hours.

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## ISRAEL

2. **Language:** Hebrew, additional languages helpful
3. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Israeli Embassy, Consulate or Delegation.
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
In accordance with immigrations regulations
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
The Israel Association Occupational Therapists  
93 Arlozorov Street  
Tel Aviv 62098  
Israel  
  
Tel 03-6921278-277  
Fax 03-6958471- for Batia
  - b) **Source of Information about Positions Available:**  
Occupational Therapy Supervisors of:  
[orly.boni@moh.health.gov.il](mailto:orly.boni@moh.health.gov.il)  
  
(a) Ministry of Health  
29 Rivka Street  
Jerusalem 91010  
  
(b) Sick Fund of the General Federation Labour  
101 Arlosorff  
Tel Aviv
5. **Educational Requirements:**  
Department of Medical Professions Ministry of Health  
2 Ben Tabi St Jerusalem 93591
  - a) **Type of Registration or Certification**  
Fully qualified occupation therapists, graduate of WFOT recognised school
  - b) **Additional qualifications needed**  
Basic Knowledge of Hebrew
  - c) **Minimum Requirements for Employment**  
Two years experience
  - d) **Applicants from non-WFOT countries**  
Accepted, if graduates of recognised school

### **Additional Specifications**

Minimum duration of employment – six months

*(Information 2003)*

## ITALY

2. **Language:** Italian
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Ministry of the Interior (Ministero dell'interno) or local police commissariat
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
Work permits are easier to obtain for citizens of EU countries.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
[presidente@aito.it](mailto:presidente@aito.it)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
[www.aito.it](http://www.aito.it)
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
University Bachelor Degree
  - b) **Length of programme**  
3 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**  
No
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Foreign therapists can apply to be association members, no exam required
  - b) **Source of information**  
AITO
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**  
Foreign therapists must have credentials approved by the health ministry before they can work in Italy
  - b) **Source of information**  
Ministero della salute
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**
  - c) **Language**  
A good knowledge of Italian is essential
9. **General / Other Information**

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## JAPAN

2. **Language:** Japanese
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

Your local Japanese embassy or consulate, and readers who are already in Japan may enquire at their local immigration office.
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**

Persons of Japanese decent and spouses of Japanese nationals are generally granted visa's that allow them to work as well. Persons without such a status may find it impossible to get a working permit without the recommendation of a Japanese institution. Please verify this information with your local Japanese embassy or consulate, and readers who are already in Japan may enquire at their local immigration office.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**

Japanese Association of Occupational Therapists. Morimitsu-shinko Bldg., 1-5-9 Kotobuki, Taito-ku, Tokyo 111-0042 Japan. Phone: 03-5826-7871 (from abroad +81. 3-5826-7871) Facsimile: 03-5826-7872 (from abroad +81. 3-5826-7872). E-mail: [international@jaot.or.jp](mailto:international@jaot.or.jp)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**

Generally professional and personal networks, institutions' homepages, job-information at educational institutions, advertisements in JAOT's newsletter and the OT-journal.
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**

There are 3 and 4 year colleges, part-time evening courses that lead to a diploma and 4 year university courses that lead to a Bachelor degree
  - b) **Length of programme**

3 or 4 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**

National Certification Board Exam is held once a year at the beginning of March (see below)
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**

Not applicable
  - b) **Source of information**

Not applicable
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists: Getting registered**

The procedure of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare involves presenting relevant documents, such as occupational therapy license, occupational therapy diploma, study results, content of studied course, and so forth. Diploma, license and similar official documents should be legalized by local authorities. All documents should be translated into Japanese and certified by a Japanese notary stating that the translation is based on true documents and as accurate as possible (done to the best of one's abilities). An application form and a form to be completed by a medical doctor (drug-use is one reason for rejection of applications) are provided by the Ministry. Finally, the applicant may be required to

provide other information as well, such as an outline of the main points of the laws concerning occupational therapy from the country/state where the applicant obtained a license/diploma, a resume, and so forth. Non- Japanese nationals need to provide proof of fluency in Japanese. This entails passing the level one test of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (examinations are held once a year, around the world, on the first Sunday of December). Graduation from a Japanese High School will suffice too. Collecting all the documents, official recognitions, translation and so forth will take at least several months. It may even take half a year or more, because it is not uncommon to be told that documentation is insufficient or incomplete and that one needs to resubmit after additional information has been added. The investigation that leads to granting or refusing the license-application will take another 3 months from the moment the documents have been presented at the ministry and accepted by the responsible official. Finally, regulations at the ministry require that the applicant comes in person to receive the instructions for the application as well as submitting the necessary documentation. It is not known if persons living abroad may apply at the embassy of Japan, or other legal representative, in their country. Alternatively, one may also attempt the national licensing examination (administered once a year in March), but the qualification for being allowed to sit on this exam need to be clarified with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

**b) Source of information**

Person-in-Charge-of-License-Registration (menkyo touroku kakari). Health Policy Bureau, Medical Professions Division, Test and licensing Room, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8045 JAPAN tel: 03-5253-1111, extension 2577

**8. Minimum requirements for employment:**

**a) Years of experience**

Depending on the position. Note that the best opportunities are in research and education, advisory/consultancy or as volunteer or assistant

**b) WFOT approved school or other**

Full time appointments as educator (teacher or higher) require at least 5 years clinical experience, or at universities a Masters degree or higher.

**c) Language**

In education and research English may suffice, but generally Japanese language abilities are required.

**9. General / Other Information:**

Under Japanese law one needs a Japanese occupational therapy license for practicing occupational therapy in Japan. However, there are opportunities to work in the field of occupational therapy without actually being directly in charge of treatment. Education and research are obvious examples, and there are also opportunities as English teacher, guest lecturer, consultancy, volunteer work, and so forth. Finally, one needs to be aware that applying to advertised jobs does happen, but is not the norm. Finding employment is more often than not achieved via personal and professional networks and introduction by a "third party", who is usually an acquaintance or persons already working at the organization of interest.

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## JORDAN

(Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)

1. **Language:** Arabic\English
2. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Not applicable
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
Not applicable
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Jordanian Society for Occupational Therapy
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
Depends on the employers whether private or governmental agencies.
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
3 years Dip or 4 years BSc
  - b) **Length of programme**  
3 years Dip or 4 years BSc
  - c) **Qualifying exam**  
Not applicable
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Not applicable
  - b) **Source of information**
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements**
  - a) **For foreign therapists: Getting registered**  
Within their association and their certificates were approved in Jordan from the ministry of Health, higher education and ministry of labors.
  - b) **Source of information: constitution and work regulations**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**  
Immediate after graduation
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
Approved from the ministry of Higher education and the WFOT approval is an extra asset.
  - c) **Language**  
Speaking Arabic language is a must to work with the most population but English still used in different settings
3. **General / Other Information:**

Law of practicing and regulations is under construction and will be published soon.  
Qualification exam is not available now but the idea still there.

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## KENYA

2. **Language:** English and Swahili
3. **Immigration Regulation and Requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Permanent Secretary,  
The Ministry of Health,  
P O Box 30016,  
Nairobi,  
Kenya
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
The applicant must negotiate with the Government for any vacancy unless salary is paid for by a foreign source.
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
The Secretary  
Kenya Occupational Therapy Association  
PO Box 57088  
Nairobi, Kenya
  - b) **Source of Information about positions available**  
The Secretary at the above address.
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a. Diploma or degree from a WFOT recognised school.
  - b. Applicant should be from a member country of WFOT.
  - c. Be able to communicate well in English and adequate Swahili.
  - d. Have a preference for offering occupational therapy services in the community, especially in rural areas.
  - e. Be able to adapt to the local community.

### **Additional Specifications:**

The above requirements are not absolute. The Association can modify, change or add other specifications depending on the country's stage of development and the demand from the community.

Applicants with special skills which are not available in Kenya can work in the country as long as their qualifications are acceptable to the Kenya Government and the National Association.

*(Information 1992)*

**KOREA  
(Republic)**

1. **Language:** Korean
2. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Korean Consulates located in each country
4. **Professional information**
  - a) **Association address:**  
The Korean Association of Occupational Therapists (KAOT)  
Yonsei University  
Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Health Science  
234 Maeji-ri, Hungup-myon, Wonju-si  
Kangwon-do  
Republic of Korea  
  
Tel./Fax.82-33-766-0616  
E-mail: kaotoffice@hanmail.net  
Website: <http://www.kaot.org>
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
Ministry of Health and Welfare  
1, Jungang-dong Gwacheon City Gyonggi Province 427-760 Korea, Rep.  
Website: <http://english.mohw.go.kr/index.jsp>
5. **Educational Requirements**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
University degree or its equivalent in occupational therapy.
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**
  - b) **Source of information**
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**  
To become eligible for employment in Korea, internationally-educated occupational therapists must meet National Health Personnel Licensing Examination Board (NHPLEB) eligibility requirements and undergo prescreening based on the status of their occupational therapy educational programs.  
  
NHPLEB eligibility requirements include:
    1. The candidates must be the graduates of entry-level occupational therapy programs that are recognized by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) at the time of their graduation.
    2. The candidate must take the Occupational Therapy Certification Examination in Korean and obtain the passing scores.
  - b) **Source of information**  
National Health Personnel Licensing Examination Board  
679-30 Jayang-dong, Gwangjin-gu  
Seoul, Korea  
Zip code 143-873  
Tel. 82-2-476-2333 Fax. 82-2-2088-1081  
E-mail: [kukmail@kuksiwon.or.kr](mailto:kukmail@kuksiwon.or.kr) Website: [www.kuksiwon.org](http://www.kuksiwon.org)
8. **Minimum requirements for employment**
  - a) **Years of experience:** 2 years
  - b) **Language:** Korean

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## LATVIA

1. **Language:** Latvian
2. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
There is no clear source of information ([www.iem.gov.lv](http://www.iem.gov.lv) – the Ministry of Internal Affairs about immigration regulations). It is possible to search the information from embassies and consulates.
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**
3. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Kurzemis Prospekts 112- 74, Riga, LV 1069, Latvia
4. **Source of information about positions available**  
Contact the Association ([et-asociacija@inbox.lv](mailto:et-asociacija@inbox.lv) or [www.ergoterapija.lv](http://www.ergoterapija.lv))
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
Bachelor Degree
  - b) **Length of programme**  
4 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**  
Certification
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Not available yet
  - b) **Source of information**  
Contact the Association
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements**
  - a) **For foreign therapists: Getting registered**
  - b) **Source of information**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**
  - c) **Language**  
Latvian, Russian
9. **General / Other Information:**  
We still have no experience with foreign occupational therapists coming to work in Latvia. There are only some cases of volunteering or study exchange.

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## LUXEMBOURG

2. **Languages:** Luxembourgish, French, German
3. **Immigration regulations and requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**
    - Ministere du Travail et de l'Emploi
    - 26 rue Sainte-Zithe
    - L-2763 Luxembourg
    - Minister de la Justice
    - 16 bd Royal
    - L-2934 Luxembourg
    - Minister de la Sante
    - Allee Marconi
    - L-2120 Luxembourg
    - Ministere de l'Education Nationale de la Formation Professionnelle et des Sports
    - L-2926 Luxembourg
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address:**
    - Association Luxembourgeoise des Ergotherapeutes Diplomes (ALED)
    - B.P. L-1176 Luxembourg
    - Grand-Duche de Luxembourg, Europe
    - Luxembourg
    - T: + 352 021 79 68 49
    - E: [reimen\\_nani@hotmail.com](mailto:reimen_nani@hotmail.com)
    - W: [www.aled.lu](http://www.aled.lu)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**
    - The Association
5. **Educational requirements:**
  - a) **Degree of diploma type of institution**
    - A level + WFOT agreed school
  - b) **Length of programme**
    - Ministere de l'Education et de la Formation Professionnelle
  - c) **Qualifying exam**
    - Ministere de l'Education et de la Formation Professionnelle
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - None
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - Recognition of diploma by the Ministere de l'Education et de la Formation Professionnelle. Exam only for Ots who want or have the opportunity to become a civil servant.
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) Years of experience : If the diploma programme is not accepted by the Ministry
  - b) WFOT approved school
  - c) Knowledge of French and/or German, Luxembourgish is an advantage

[www.jobsearch.lu](http://www.jobsearch.lu) and [www.monster.lu](http://www.monster.lu) are addresses of Luxembourg with employment offers. At the homepage of our association [www.aled.lu](http://www.aled.lu) you can find job offers of OT's.

*(Information 2006)*

## MALAYSIA

2. **Language:** Malay is the official language for all occasions.  
English is widely spoken and used in written communications
3. **Immigration regulations and work requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Malaysian Consulate in own country or Wisma Putra, Malaysia
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
All applications for visa will be processed accordingly. Go to your nearest Malaysian consulate for further information
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Secretary  
Malaysian Occupational Therapists Association (MOTA)  
Current address  
Hospital Bahagia, Hulu Kinta  
31250 Tg Rambutan, Perak  
Malaysia
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**
    - MOTA
    - [OT-Malaysia@yahoogroups.com](mailto:OT-Malaysia@yahoogroups.com)
    - WFOT Delegate
5. **Educational requirements:**  
Graduate from WFOT recognised school
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Appointment is subject to government of Malaysia's approval (Public Services Department) and Ministry of Health if you are interested in working with the government . If you are applying to work with a non-government agency than you should liase with the agency and they will help you process your application.. At the moment there is no Act governing the employment of OTs in this country. The Bill is still being reviewed, and is yet to be tabled. We have been actively reviving this issue for the past five years or so. We started gathering interest about it more than 15 years ago.
  - b) **Source of information**  
Malaysian Occupational therapists Association (MOTA)or Malaysian consulate in own country
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**
  - b) **Source of information**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) Years of experience - preferably with working experience
  - b) Graduate from WFOT approved school
  - c) Language - Bahasa Malaysia, (other dialects ie Chinese, Hindi) & English

*(Information 2003)*

## MALTA

2. **Language:** Maltese/ English
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements**
  - a) **Source of information**  
<http://www.etc.gov.mt/>
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
M.A.O.T., Occupational Therapy Dept, St.Luke's Hospital, G'mangia, Malta.
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
[www.maotwebsite.org](http://www.maotwebsite.org)
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
Degree Honors
  - b) **Length of programme**  
4 years full time
  - c) **Qualifying exam**  
Log into our website and click on OT school section
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
As number 7
  - b) **Source of information**
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Council for the Professionals Supplementary to Medicine CPSM  
<http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=84>
  - b) **Source of information**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**  
None
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
We have only 1 OT school which is approved by wfot
  - c) **Language**  
English
9. **General / Other Information:**

*(Information Nov 2007)*

# MAURITIUS

Requirements for Occupational Therapists to work in Mauritius.

**1. Need to apply first for work contract to the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health and / Quality of Life**

Head Quarters  
Registrar Building  
5th Floor S.S.R.N. Street Port Louis Mauritius

**2. Application will be sent to the Public Service Commission (P.S.C.)**

Requirements:- An Occupational Therapist with a Diploma/ Degree who has trained in a college recognised by W.F.O.T.

Up to date Occupational Therapists trained in England, France, India have applied and are employed; however employment is open to all Occupational Therapists who have a diploma/ Degree from a college recognised by WFOT.

**3. Requirements**

Work permit to be applied from:  
Ministry of Employment - Permanent Secretary  
Sterling House, Port Louis Mauritius

Residence permit from:  
Prime Minister's Office 2nd Floor Government House Port Louis Mauritius

Please note that at present there is an acute need and demand for Occupational Therapists to work on a two years contract in Mauritius. French and English speaking people will be given priority

*(Information 2003)*

## NAMIBIA

2. **Language:** Official language English
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration  
P/Bag 13200 Windhoek,  
Namibia
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**

A person needs to have an employment secure, before a work permit will be issued. Work permits have to be renewed annually or bi-annually
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**

Namibian Association of Occupational Therapists (NAOT)  
P. O. Box 9456  
Eros Windhoek  
Namibia  
Tel & Fax: +264 64 301 250
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**

The NAOT
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**

Professional degree, WFOT approved
  - b) **Length of programme**

Four years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**

Academic programme and at least 1000 hours field work
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**
  - b) **Source of information**
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**

Application for registration with Allied Health Professions Council of Namibia.  
All foreign therapists have to apply for registration and have to do an Internship if the Council so requires.  
After completion of an Internship a Council Exam has to be written. After passing this or directly if the Council has so decided, a therapist will be granted conditional registration, which implies, that the therapist may work without supervision, but not registering his or her own private practice for at least five years.
  - b) **Source of information**

Mr J Burger at the Office of the Allied Health Professions Council  
'[jburger@hpcna.com.na](mailto:jburger@hpcna.com.na)'  
Mrs H Burger', Member of the Allied Health Professions Council  
'[pompie@mweb.com.na](mailto:pompie@mweb.com.na)'
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**

As specified by the job description
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**
  - c) **Language**

English

(Information Oct 2007)

## THE NETHERLANDS

2. **Language:** Dutch
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports ; [www.verwijspunt.nl](http://www.verwijspunt.nl)
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
see above
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
Nederlandse Vereniging voor Ergotherapie, Kaap Hoordreef 56b, 3563 AV  
Utrecht. [www.ergotherapie.nl](http://www.ergotherapie.nl)  
A lot of information in English on the site of the Dutch association about Education, OT in the Netherlands and working in the Netherlands and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
[www.fysion.nl](http://www.fysion.nl)
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
Bachelor degree
  - b) **Length of programme**  
Four years
  - c) **Qualifying exam** no
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
No examination but you have to pass the commission of the ministry of health which judges your qualifications
  - b) **Source of information** [www.ergotherapie.nl](http://www.ergotherapie.nl)
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered:**  
The Ministry of Health - Until now no examinations but this might change in 2008-2009
  - b) **Source of information** [www.verwijspunt.nl](http://www.verwijspunt.nl)
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**  
No obligation but an advantage
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
No obligation but an advantage
  - c) **Language**  
Dutch - in some (research) positions English might do.
9. **General / Other Information:**  
The Site of the Dutch Association gives a lot of information in English, Arab and Turkish

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## NEW ZEALAND

**Language:** English

### **Practice Requirements**

The regulatory body governing the practice of occupational therapy in New Zealand is the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand (OTBNZ). Information about the requirements to practise in New Zealand and how to apply for registration are available from the OTBNZ website: <http://www.otboard.org.nz>.

### **English Language Requirements**

Please refer to the Board website <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/> for more detailed information on the Board's English Language requirements. If English is not the applicant's first or home language, the Board accepts the results of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with an overall score of 7.5 in the academic test, and a minimum score of 7 in each band.

In some situations applicants may apply to the Board for an exemption from the requirement to provide the IELTS results. Such applications are considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Immigration Regulations and Requirements**

Those wishing to obtain information about immigration regulations and the current employment situation in New Zealand should visit the website of the New Zealand Government Immigration Service at: <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/>, and/or contact the nearest New Zealand Embassy or High Commission.

### **Key points to note are:**

1. In order to work legally as an occupational therapist in New Zealand it is necessary to be registered by the OTBNZ, and to hold a current practising certificate each practising year (1 April to 31 March).
2. Applications for registration from therapists who have undertaken their training overseas are considered on a case by case basis, and the Board does not operate any form of accreditation system.
3. In determining eligibility for registration the OTBNZ considers both the comparability of qualifications and evaluates clinical and cultural competence for the scope of practice: Occupational Therapist.
4. Where applicants fail to satisfy the Board of the equivalence of their qualification and/or of their clinical and cultural competence, they may be given the opportunity of undertaking the Board's Competency Examination.

**Enquiries to :** The Deputy Registrar, Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand, P O Box 10 202, Wellington, New Zealand, Ph: 0064 4 918 4740, Fax: 0064 4 918 4746, [despina@otboard.org.nz](mailto:despina@otboard.org.nz).

### **Professional Information**

The New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists (NZAOT) is the professional association for occupational therapists throughout New Zealand.

Its role is to:

1. **Promote excellence in occupational therapy practice and professional ethics in Aotearoa/New Zealand.**
2. **Represent the benefits and value of occupational therapy to the people of Aotearoa/New Zealand.**
3. **Promote the continuing development of the profession of occupational therapy.**

4. **Promote the interests of the membership of the Association to Government and non-government organizations within Aotearoa/New Zealand and internationally.**
5. **Promote and facilitate professional development and research opportunities, academic activities and publications within occupational therapy.**

Occupational therapists practising in New Zealand are encouraged to belong to NZAOT. Occupational therapists living outside New Zealand are welcome to join NZAOT as Associate members. They will then receive a copy of the monthly magazine, OT Insight, which includes job advertisements and news of interest to occupational therapists.

All members have access to special interest groups (on-line discussion forums) and a members only section which includes access to occupational therapy evidence based databases and the NZAOT Values Exchange – an on line ethical reasoning tool.

The Executive Director  
 The New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists Inc.  
 PO Box 12506  
 Wellington 6144  
 Tel: 00 64 4 473 6510  
 Fax: 0064 4 473 6513

Website: [www.nzaot.com](http://www.nzaot.com)  
 Email: [nzaot@nzaot.com](mailto:nzaot@nzaot.com)

### Locating Employment

**Disclaimer:** Provision of this information does not indicate endorsement of the services provided by these employment consultants.

#### **John and Christine Higgins, eNZ Paramedical**

Website: [www.enzedparamedical.co.nz](http://www.enzedparamedical.co.nz)  
 e-mail: [enzedpa@wave.co.nz](mailto:enzedpa@wave.co.nz)

#### **Kirsten Thormforde, Medical Staffing International Limited**

Website: [www.medicalstaffing.co.nz](http://www.medicalstaffing.co.nz)  
 e-mail: [kirsten@medicalstaffing.co.nz](mailto:kirsten@medicalstaffing.co.nz)

#### **Michelle Preston, Beresford Blake Thomas**

Website: [www.bbtglobal.com](http://www.bbtglobal.com)  
 e-mail: [mpreston@bbtglobal.co.nz](mailto:mpreston@bbtglobal.co.nz)

#### **Eden Health (Select Care Personnel Pty Ltd)**

Website: [www.selectcare.com.au/page/eh\\_home](http://www.selectcare.com.au/page/eh_home)  
 e-mail: [general@edenhealth.co.nz](mailto:general@edenhealth.co.nz)

Other Useful Websites	
<a href="http://www.immigration.govt.nz/">http://www.immigration.govt.nz/</a>	Official NZ <b>Immigration</b> Site. Lots of useful information, including current passmarks, form downloads,...
<a href="http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf">http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf</a>	The New Zealand <b>Ministry of Health</b> , Manatu Hauora, is the NZ Government's principal agent and advisor on health and disability. Has links to all District Health Boards.
<a href="http://www.govt.nz/">http://www.govt.nz/</a>	The official gateway to New Zealand government on the Internet. Site provides an overview of New Zealand - from driving licenses to tax issues.

<a href="http://www.nzaot.com/">http://www.nzaot.com/</a>	The <b>New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists (Inc) (NZAOT)</b> provides services, support, representation and networking opportunities for occupational therapists. Find occupational therapy positions; indications of pay rates.
<a href="http://www.ielts.org/">http://www.ielts.org/</a>	Handbook, test explanations and information about obtaining practice material for the International English Language Testing System.
<a href="http://www.seek.co.nz/">http://www.seek.co.nz/</a>	Search for Health jobs in New Zealand
<a href="http://www.stuff.co.nz/">http://www.stuff.co.nz/</a>	National NZ news, world news, sport, infotech and business news from Independent Newspapers Ltd.
<a href="http://www.jobs.co.nz/">http://www.jobs.co.nz/</a>	New Zealand marketplace containing thousands of jobs in various industries.
<a href="http://movetonz.org/">http://movetonz.org/</a>	Free help and advice to guide you with New Zealand Immigration.

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## NIGERIA

2. **Language**      English
3. **Immigration regulations and requirement:**

- a) **Source of information**

- Nigerian Consulate in own country

- Volunteers**

- Contact Person - Chikondi Mpokosa  
Voluntary Services Overseas Nigeria  
Programme Manager/Team Leader  
Education, HIV/AIDS, Participation and Governance  
Plot 1182 Olusegun Obasanjo Crescent  
Off IBB Way, Wuse 2  
P.O. Box 2452,  
Garki, Abuja  
Tel: 09- 4138747  
Mobile: 080-34752716  
Email: [Chikondi.Mpokosa@vsoint.org](mailto:Chikondi.Mpokosa@vsoint.org)

4. **Professional information:**

- Chief Occupational Therapist  
Occupational Therapy Department  
Lagos University Teaching Hospital  
P.M.B. 12003  
Lagos. Nigeria  
Tel/Fax: 01-342-5315  
Mobile – 0803 305 0893

5. **Educational Requirement**

- Certification from WFOT recognized school  
Additional qualifications

- Registration  
Nigerian Medical Rehabilitation Therapists Board

*(Information 2003)*

## NORWAY

2. **Language:** Norwegian

3. **Work permits and residence permits:**

**(a) Nationality from the European Economic Area (EEA Countries):**

Citizens from the EEA have the same rights as Norwegians regarding employment, wages and working conditions. For residence beyond 3 months it is necessary to obtain residence permit. This includes work permit. The applicant must document an offer of employment and sufficient economic support. Application should be forwarded to the police at the place of residence in Norway, to a Norwegian Foreign Service mission or to the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration.

**(b) Applicants from countries outside the EEA:**

- A work permit may be granted to a foreign national who is highly skilled or has special qualifications.
- A work permit may only be granted if that particular position cannot be filled by the domestic labour force.
- Anyone who applies for a work permit must have already received a concrete offer of employment.
- Requirements for sufficient economic support must be met.
- The applicant must also have a place to live in Norway.
- Applications for work permits must be submitted from abroad.
- The applicant must await the result of the application before travelling to Norway.

**(c) Source of information:**

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (Utlendingsdirektoratet - UDI)  
P. O. Box 8108 Dep.  
NO-0032 Oslo  
Norway  
Telephone: +47 23 35 15 00  
E-mail: [webmaster@udi.no](mailto:webmaster@udi.no)  
Website: <http://www.udi.no>

4. **Professional Information:**

**a) Association address:**

Norsk Ergoterapeutforbund  
Lakkegata 21  
NO-0187 Oslo  
Norway  
Telephone: +47 22 05 99 00  
Fax: +47 22 05 99 01  
E-mail: [netf@netf.no](mailto:netf@netf.no)  
Website: <http://www.netf.no>

**b) Source of information about positions available:**

In the Journal: Ergoterapeuten (at the above address)  
E-mail: [Ergoterapeuten@netf.no](mailto:Ergoterapeuten@netf.no)  
Website: <http://www.netf.no>  
NAV: <http://www.aetat.no>

5. **Educational Requirements:**

**a) Authorisation as an Occupational Therapist in Norway:**

It is necessary to apply for authorisation as an occupational therapist in Norway. Applications with enclosures (detailed schedule from the college of Occupational Therapy attended, certified true copy of diploma as an Occupational Therapist, etc.) should be forwarded to:

The Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel  
(Statens Autorisasjonskontor for helsepersonell - SAFH):  
P.O. Box 8053 Dep  
NO-0031 Oslo, Norway  
Telephone: +47 21 52 97 00, Fax: +47 21 52 97 03  
Hours: 8.00 a.m. - 3.45 p.m. (September 15th - May 14th), 8.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.  
(May 15th -September 14th) CET  
E-mail: [postmottak@safh.no](mailto:postmottak@safh.no)  
Website: <http://www@safh.no>

- b) Ability to speak Norwegian is not required by Norwegian authorities. In practice employers normally require knowledge of Norwegian.

*(Information Oct 2007)*

**PANAMA**  
**(Republic)**

2. **Language:** Spanish
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Immigración – Ministerio de Gobierno y Justicia
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
be Panamanian or nationalized Panamanian to get the registration and work as occupational therapist.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Asociación de Terapeutas Ocupacionales de Panamá
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
none
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
University ( Licenciatura)
  - b) **Length of programme**  
4 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam:** none
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Foreign therapists must get the Panamanian nationality or citizenship to get the register to exercise the profession at the Health Council.
  - b) **Source of information**  
Health Council
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
Getting registered and be Panamanian or nationalized panamanian
  - b) **Source of information: Health Council**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment**
  - a) **Years of experience**  
No requirements
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
being Panamanian and the program of studies of foreign university be approved by the University of Panamá
  - c) **Language**  
Spanish or English
9. **General / Other Information:**

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## PHILIPPINES

2. **Language:** English, Filipino (other regional dialects eg Ilocano, Visayan, Pampango)
  
3. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Commission on Immigration and Deportation,  
Philippines Consulate in own country.
  
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
Occupational Therapy Association of the Philippines (OTAP)  
c/o UP-College of Allied Medical Professions  
P. Faura Street  
Ermita, Manila  
Philippines
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
The Association, the Department of Health.
  
5. **Educational Requirements:**

**Type of registration or certification:**

  - A degree from a WFOT approved course in occupational therapy.
  - Must have passed the certification exam given by the Professional Regulation Commission in August of each year.
  - Minimum requirements for employment:
  - (a) Must have at least two years clinical experience in any field of specialisation in Occupational Therapy.
  - (b) Work permit - can be requested from the Department of labour and Employment.
  - (c) Residence permit - can be requested from the Commission on Immigration.
  - (d) Knowledge of English and Filipino languages.

*(Information 1992)*

## PORTUGAL

2. **Language:** Portuguese
  
3. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information:**  
Portuguese Embassy or Consulate in own country.  
Immigration in Portugal
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
Foreign therapists are allowed to work in Portugal -
    - (i) Under the same conditions as Portuguese therapists provided that there are enough positions available for all Portuguese therapists first.
    - (ii) If the institution where they are to work especially requires their service. All foreign therapists are subject to immigration laws.
  
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
Associação Portuguesa de Terapeutas Ocupacionais  
Estrada de Benefica, 589.7  
1500 Lisboa  
Portugal
  - b) **Source of information about positions available:**  
The Association.
  
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Type of registration or certification**  
diploma as evidence of WFOT approved course in occupational therapy.
  - b) **Additional qualifications**  
working knowledge of the Portuguese language, and an exam in Portuguese language required.
  - c) **Minimum requirements for employment**  
See 1 and 2.
  - d) **Applicants from non-WFOT countries**  
individual consideration.

*(Information 1986)*

## SINGAPORE

2. **Language:** English
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Ministry of Manpower, Singapore. website: [www.mom.gov.sg](http://www.mom.gov.sg)  
[http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/communities/work\\_pass.html](http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/communities/work_pass.html)
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
[http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/communities/work\\_pass/overview\\_of\\_work\\_passes.html](http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/communities/work_pass/overview_of_work_passes.html)
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Mailing Address:**  
Orchard Road P.O. Box 0475  
Singapore 912316  
Website: [www.saot.org.sg](http://www.saot.org.sg)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
Minimum WFOT Recognised Diploma in Occupational Therapy
  - b) **Length of programme**  
3 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**  
Qualifying examinations for certain foreign trained allied health professionals  
[http://www.nyp.edu.sg/SHS/shs\\_qe.html](http://www.nyp.edu.sg/SHS/shs_qe.html)
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**
  - b) **Source of information**
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**  
Not Applicable
  - b) **Source of information**
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**  
Not applicable
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
Qualification must be from WFOT Approved schools
  - c) **Language**  
English
9. **General / Other Information:**  
OT as a career in Singapore  
<http://www.saot.org.sg/career/index.htm>

(Information Sept 2007)

## SOUTH AFRICA

1. **Language:** English [official] also 10 other indigenous languages.
2. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

National Dept of Health, Foreign Work Force Management Programme [FWMP] Private Bag X 828. Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa., access also from [www.doh.gov.za](http://www.doh.gov.za)
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**
    - no foreign occupational therapists or occupational therapy technician may depart to South Africa to practice his or her profession or to seek employment without a formal FWMP letter of endorsement- serving as an invitation.
    - recruitment from developing countries will not be endorsed
    - employment contracts are for up to 3 years, and are not renewable
    - each application considered on merit
4. **Professional information:**
  - a. **Association address**

OTASA ,1210 Prospect street , Hatfield ,Pretoria.  
[otoffice@uitweb.co.za](mailto:otoffice@uitweb.co.za)  
[www.otdbase.org](http://www.otdbase.org)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**

OTASA office will have some information, also Dept of Health web page [[www.doh.gov.za](http://www.doh.gov.za)]
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a. **Degree or diploma in occupational therapy or a qualification as an occupational therapy technician**

Recognised professional qualification in occupational therapy or occupational therapy technician, is required to apply to sit the qualifying Professional Board [ HPCSA] examination. The WFOT accredited training is considered of the highest priority for allowing candidates to sit the HPCSA Board Examination.
  - b) **Length of training programme**

for occupational therapists - 3 to 4 years  
for occupational therapy technicians - 2 years
  - c) **Qualifying exam**

Exam offered by **Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotics/Prosthetics and Arts therapy** [of the Health Professions Council of South Africa ] Comprises practical/oral and written components - format may be reviewed from time to time. Application to do examination to be made to HPCSA ( The Board Manager, Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotic and prosthetics, and Arts Therapists. HPCSA PO Box 205, Pretoria 0001 South Africa).
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists;** see 5 c above
  - b) **Source of information:** HPCSA – Professional Board, as above  
Find details at: [www.hpcsa.co.za](http://www.hpcsa.co.za)

- 7. Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
- a) **For foreign therapists: Getting registered** Only possible with FWMP letter of endorsement and successful completion of Professional Board exam [ HPCSA ] Also see general information below.
  - b) **Source of information:** As for 3a] and 6 b] above
- 8. Minimum requirements for employment:**
- a) **Years of experience;** not specified
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other:** advantage but not specified
  - c) **Language:** English
- 9. General / Other Information:**
- Examinations for foreign qualified OT's are arranged in major centres e.g . Johannesburg, Capetown, Durban; The examination is offered 2 x per year The presentation of two case studies, one in the psychiatric and one in the physical area of occupational therapy (any age group) is required for presentation at the examination. A clinical area needs to be found and a letter of permission from the HPCSA acquired for this purpose, before taking the examination. Assistance will be offered by OTASA and the Board.
  - An examination fee is charged by the HPCSA
  - National Dept of Health Certification [ NDoH ] - FWMP must issue a letter of endorsement and certification in terms of the Immigration Act.
  - Employing provinces monitor the validity of work permits.
  - It is extremely important to note that the NDoH is not in a position to consider applications once the applicant has arrived in the country.

[Document compiled in consultation with Professional Board- HPCSA]

*(Information July 2008)*

## SPAIN

2. **Language:** Spanish
  
3. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Spanish Embassy in own country.
  
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
A work permit is required. This may be obtained from the local Spanish Ministry of Labour office. This permit allows for employment only in a private institution. Work in a government institution or facility is open only to Spanish nationals.
  
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
Asociacion Profesional Espanola de Terapia Ocupacional  
Modesto Lafuente 63 3o C  
28003 Madrid  
SPAIN  
  
School of Occupational Therapy Escuela de Terapia Ocupacional  
Centro Nacional de Rehabilitacion  
C/ Francisco Silvela, 40  
Madrid 28028, Spain
  
5. **Educational Requirements:**  
An occupational therapy diploma or degree from a WFOT recognised school of Occupational Therapy.

*(Information 1986)*

## SWEDEN

2. **Language:** Swedish
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Swedish Embassy or Consulate
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications:**  
EU/EEA citizens can freely reside in Sweden for up to three months and may start working before registering with the Swedish Migration Board. Work permits are not required.  
All non-EU/EEA citizens must apply for work and residence permits before entering Sweden.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Förbundet Sveriges Arbetsterapeuter (FSA) - Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists  
Box 760  
SE-131 24 Nacka, Sweden  
Phone: +46 8 466 24 40  
E-mail: [fsa@akademikerhuset.se](mailto:fsa@akademikerhuset.se)  
Web site: [www.fsa.akademikerhuset.se](http://www.fsa.akademikerhuset.se)  
See information in English, French, German and Spanish at the bottom of the first page.  
Here you can also download or order the folder "Descriptions of professional requirements for occupational therapists" (2003):
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
Subscribe to the journal "Arbetsterapeuten" (in Swedish) address same as Association.  
At [www.europa.eu.int/eures/home.jsp?lang=en](http://www.europa.eu.int/eures/home.jsp?lang=en) you can find information and jobs in Sweden and Europe in English.  
At the website of the Swedish Public Employment Service, [www.arbetsformedlingen.se/go.aspx?C=223](http://www.arbetsformedlingen.se/go.aspx?C=223) you can find a folder "Do you want to work in Sweden?" (2008), information about finding a job in Sweden (2007), labour market outlooks etc.
5. **Requirements for employment as an occupational therapist in Sweden:**
  - a) Registration/license from own country has to be recognised by the National Board of Health and Welfare, (Socialstyrelsen), SE-106 30 Stockholm, Sweden, [www.socialstyrelsen.se](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se)  
Phone: +46 75 247 30 00, Email: [socialstyrelsen@socialstyrelsen.se](mailto:socialstyrelsen@socialstyrelsen.se)
  - b) It is the responsibility of the employer to see to it that the individual OT has good knowledge of the Swedish language (reading and writing) as well as Swedish laws and regulations governing the exercise of the profession.
  - c) Graduation from WFOT recognised programme.
  - d) Identity document. All documents translated into English.
  - e) Citizens of EU and EEA do not need work permits but residence permits. More information at the Swedish Migration Board's website [www.migrationsverket.se](http://www.migrationsverket.se). Citizens from outside EU or EEA need both work- and residence permits.

*(Information Oct 2008)*

## SWITZERLAND

2. **Languages:** German, French, Italian or Rhaeto-Romanic in the respective areas of the country
3. **Immigration regulations and requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

Swiss Embassy or Consulate in own country.  
Swiss missions abroad: [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/g/home.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/g/home.html)  
Immigration, entry, labour market: [eu-immigration@bfa.admin.ch](mailto:eu-immigration@bfa.admin.ch) and [www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch)
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**

European nationals: In accordance with the ratified Bilateral Agreement with EU Member States. Other nationals: In accordance with the Immigration regulations. Work permit can be obtained by future employer.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association's name and address:**

**EVS/ASE**  
ErgotherapeutInnen-Verband Schweiz / Association Suisse des Ergothérapeutes / Associazione Svizzera degli Ergoterapisti  
Postgasse 17, Postfach 686, CH-3000 Bern 8, Switzerland  
Tel.: +41-31-313 88 44 Fax: +41-31-313 88 99. [evs-ase@ergotherapie.ch](mailto:evs-ase@ergotherapie.ch)  
[www.ergotherapie.ch](http://www.ergotherapie.ch)
  - b) **Source of information about positions (offers and applications):**
    - Swiss OT Journal called "ERGOTHERAPIE" (see association's address above)
    - Association's website: [www.ergotherapie.ch/jobs](http://www.ergotherapie.ch/jobs)
5. **Educational requirements:**
  - a) **Type of registration or certification**

Diploma from WFOT approved Education Programm for occupational therapists and approval of equivalence of foreign OT Diploma towards the Swiss OT-Diploma. [registry@berufsbildung-srk.ch](mailto:registry@berufsbildung-srk.ch)
  - b) **Additional qualifications**

Good speaking knowledge of the general and technical language of the area where applicant wishes to work.
  - c) **Minimum requirements for employment**

Certified qualification from own country
  - d) **Applicants from non-WFOT countries**

Individual consideration may be given, based on professional skill and performance.

WFOT member countries  
See a) under Educational requirements.

Associate member countries :  
See d) under Educational requirements

Additional specifications:

  1. Professional practice:  
At least 2 years full-time post qualification professional practice.
  2. National Association membership :  
Recommended
  3. WFOT Individual membership :  
Appreciated

*(Information 2006)*

## TAIWAN

2. **Language:** Chinese
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan, ROC
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**  
There is no regulation available regarding the practice of the international occupational therapists in Taiwan. The Act of Occupation Therapist, Taiwan, requires all practicing occupational therapists to pass the national OT qualification examination, which is in Chinese only.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**  
Taiwan Occupational Therapy Association  
9 Bo-ai Rd., Apt. 5F-3, Zhong zheng District, Taipei City 100, Taiwan, R.O.C.
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**  
Taiwan Occupational Therapy Association, website <http://www.ot-roc.org.tw/>  
Occupational Therapy Union of The Republic of China,  
website <http://www.oturoc.org.tw/>  
Taiwan Occupational Therapists Union, website <http://www.ot.org.tw/>  
Taipei Association of Occupational Therapists, website <http://www.taot.org.tw/>  
Kaohsiung Occupational Therapists Association, website <http://www.kota.org.tw/>
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**  
bachelor degree (University) or diploma (junior college) for occupational therapist
  - b) **Length of programme**  
bachelor degree: 4 years after senior high school; diploma: 5 years after junior high school
  - c) **Qualifying exam**  
National examination or application for admission to a university  
Regional examination for admission to a junior college
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**  
The Act of Occupation Therapist requires occupational therapists to pass the national OT qualification examination, which is in Chinese. National occupational therapist examination is held twice a year. The applicant should submit their applications to the Examination Yuan of R.O.C.
  - b) **Source of information**  
The Examination Yuan of R.O.C. <http://www.exam.gov.tw>
7. **Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists : Getting registered**  
The Act of Occupational Therapist requires all occupational therapists register with the local health administration office before their practice.
  - b) **Source of information**  
The Act of Occupational Therapist, Taiwan
8. **Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a) **Years of experience**  
Depends on the requirement of each facility
  - b) **WFOT approved school or other**  
Not required
  - c) **Language**  
Chinese (Mandarin) and Taiwanese
9. **General / Other Information**

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## UGANDA

In order to work in Uganda, an Occupational Therapist must register with Allied Health Professional's Council (AHPC).

Requirements for registration are:

- ❑ An OT from another country pays US \$100
- ❑ Does a professional exam both oral and written.
- ❑ Submits papers of qualification from a WFOT approved programme
- ❑ Applies to AHPC through Uganda Association of Occupational Therapists (UAOT)

Please contact the UAOT at [otuganda@yahoo.com](mailto:otuganda@yahoo.com) or visit the website [www.geocities.com/otuganda](http://www.geocities.com/otuganda)

## UNITED KINGDOM

2. **Language:** English (Welsh spoken in some areas of Wales)
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

Immigration & Nationality Directorate  
Lunar House  
40 Wellesley Road  
Croydon  
CR9 2BY  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel: +44 (0)870 606 7766  
Website: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>, [www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk) or contact the British Mission in your own country.
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**

Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Joint Entry Clearance Unit,  
London  
SW1A 2AH  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7238 3858  
Website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk>  
Email: [visas.foruk@fco.gov.uk](mailto:visas.foruk@fco.gov.uk)
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address**

British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT)  
106-114 Borough High Street  
Southwark  
London SE1 1LB  
tel +44 (0) 207 357 6480  
fax +44 (0) 207 450 2299  
[www.baot.org.uk](http://www.baot.org.uk)  
[beryl.steeden@cot.co.uk](mailto:beryl.steeden@cot.co.uk)
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**

Current job vacancies can be viewed online at [www.baot.org.uk](http://www.baot.org.uk) in the classified section (*available to members of the British Association of Occupational Therapists only*) and in the BAOT publications *OTN – Occupational Therapy News* and *BJOT – British Journal of Occupational Therapy* available each month. A number of international recruitment agencies operate in the UK and many employers operate their own recruitment websites.

We recommend that all occupational therapists wanting to work in the UK make themselves fully aware of the national policies, professional conduct, guidelines and standards governing practice here. The best way to do this is to become an overseas member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists. On becoming a registered occupational therapist practicing in the UK, you will be able to upgrade your membership to become a Professional Member of the British Association/College of Occupational Therapists. Our Membership Section will be able to offer further advice. Contact [membership@cot.co.uk](mailto:membership@cot.co.uk)
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**

A degree or diploma from a WFOT approved institution.

- b) Length of programme**  
Not applicable
  - c) Qualifying exam**  
Not applicable
- 6. Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) For foreign therapists**  
No professional or association examination but registration by the Health Professions Council (HPC) is essential.
  - b) Source of information**  
See 7b
- 7. Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**
  - a) For foreign therapists: Getting registered**  
To practise as an occupational therapist in the UK, you must be registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC), the Regulatory Body. They provide information on the application process, which can take several months to complete, so it's important you make this your first step. 'Occupational Therapist' is a protected title which may only be used by registered occupational therapists.
  - b) Source of information**  
The Health Professions Council (HPC)  
Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road,  
London, SE11 4BU  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7582 0866 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7820 9684  
email: [info@hpc-uk.org](mailto:info@hpc-uk.org)  
or for international enquiries email: [international@hpc-uk.org](mailto:international@hpc-uk.org)  
or visit [www.hpc-uk.org](http://www.hpc-uk.org) for further information  
Applicants need to provide course certificates, information about their course curriculum, health and character references and details of their experience.
- 8. Minimum requirements for employment:**
  - a. Years of experience**  
2 years
  - b) WFOT approved school or other**  
WFOT approved school
  - c) Language**  
A good knowledge of the English language is required by most employers. For those applying from outside EEA member countries, a formal language test score will be required for professional registration.
- 9. General / Other Information**

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2. **Language:** English
3. **Immigration regulations and work permit requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**

American Occupational Therapy Association  
<http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/Resources/Intl.aspx>  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration  
<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications**

Requirements to work in the United States include:

    1. Attaining a visa. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issues visas to foreign nationals wishing to work in the United States. In most cases, this will be a category H1B temporary work visa. You must get a visa certificate before applying for a visa. Two organizations are authorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to provide visa certification. They are:
      - National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)  
<http://www.nbcot.org>
      - Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)  
<http://www.cgfns.org>
    2. Qualifying to take the certification exam given by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and passing it.
    3. Passing tests of English language competency, if applicable.
    4. Meeting state regulatory requirements, including attaining a license in those states where it is required.
4. **Professional information:**
  - a) **Association address**

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
4720 Montgomery Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland 20824  
USA  
<http://www.aota.org>
  - b) **Source of information about positions available**

AOTA's OTJoblink <http://www.otjoblink.org>
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Degree or diploma/type of institution**
  - b) **Length of programme**
  - c) **Qualifying exam**

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), separate from AOTA, is the organization that gives the certification exam, and one must be approved by NBCOT to take the exam. NBCOT's requirement is graduation from an entry-level occupational therapist training program that is accredited by AOTA's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) or approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). See the NBCOT website for information on exam eligibility and administration at <http://www.nbcot.org>. ACOTE only accredits post-baccalaureate programs, so NBCOT requires internationally-trained occupational therapists to meet the same standard.
6. **Professional or Association qualifying exam:**
  - a) **For foreign therapists**
  - b) **Source of information**

See "Educational Requirements"

**7. Legal or Governmental exams or requirements:**

**a) For foreign therapists : Getting registered**

**b) Source of information**

Therapists must meet the regulatory requirements of a state of jurisdiction in order to practice. In addition to passing the certification examination, 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico regulate occupational therapy services. Most of these jurisdictions require continuing education to maintain a license. Each state in the United States has a regulatory board and a professional association that provides resources regarding practice and continuing education. Contact the state regulatory board to determine the particular requirements of that state for initial and continuing ability to practice occupational therapy. Information on state associations is located on the AOTA home page at <http://www.aota.org>. Some states require a social security number to obtain a state license. Read about [getting a social security number](http://www.ssa.gov) at this link: <http://www.ssa.gov>.

**8. Minimum requirements for employment:**

**a) Years of experience**

No minimum requirement

**b) WFOT approved school or other**

See "Educational Requirements"

**c) Language**

English is the language spoken in the United States. All candidates must demonstrate English-language proficiency. Graduates of occupational therapy programs in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom are currently exempt. See NBCOT's website for more information at <http://www.nbcot.org>.

**9. General / Other Information**

*(Information Sept 2007)*

## VENEZUELA

2. **Language:** Spanish
3. **Immigration Regulations and Requirements:**
  - a) **Source of information**  
Venezuelan Consulate in own country
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualification**  
Depends on current regulations
    1. For employment of Venezuelan OTs in a public institution/service:
      - Having an Occupational Therapist Title, from a Venezuelan University or Higher Education institution
      - O.T. Title registered at Ministry of Interior Relations and Justice, and at Ministry of Health
      - If the Title is from a foreign country, it must be revalidated or convalidated by the School of Public Health, Central University of Venezuela
    2. For employment of Venezuelan or foreign OTs in a private institution/service:
      - Venezuelan citizenship is not a requirement
      - Foreign O.T.s must present the Title at Central University of Venezuela, where the decision concerning revalidation or convalidation is taken
      - The revalidated or convalidated Title must be registered at the Ministry of Interior Relations and Justice, and at the Ministry of Health
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association`s adress**
    1. Elizabeth Rodríguez Uzcátegui, Presidenta  
Federación Venezolana de Terapeutas Ocupacionales  
Centro Nacional de Rehabilitación IVSS  
Complejo Hospitalario Dr. Pérez Carreño  
Avenida La Guayanita, Urbanización Bella Vista  
Caracas, Venezuela  
E mail [fvtove@hotmail.com](mailto:fvtove@hotmail.com)
    2. Educational Headquarters:  
Lic. Gisela Blanco, Coordinadora de la Carrera de Terapia Ocupacional  
Escuela de Salud Pública, Universidad Central de Venezuela  
Complejo Hospitalario Dr. José Ignacio Baldó, El Algodonal  
Antímano, Caracas, Venezuela  
E mail [giblanco5@yahoo.com](mailto:giblanco5@yahoo.com)
    3. Source of information about positions available:  
Venezuelan Federation of OT
5. **Educational Requirements:**
  - a) **Type of registration or certification**  
as stated above
  - b) **Additional qualifications**  
depend on job requirements (teaching, supervising); a minimum of several years experience working as an OT is required to supervise; teachers must be graduates (Licenciados)
  - c) **Minimum requirements for employment**  
as stated above
  - d) **Applicants from non-WFOT countries**  
depends on employer`s decision

**6. Employment potential:**

Poor. Major employers (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Venezuelan Social Security Institute) do not employ foreign therapists (except Cubans by agreement between the Venezuelan and Cuban governments). There are opportunities for private practice, both for Venezuelan and Foreign OTs.

Foreign OTs have to comply with the following:

As stated above, revalidation or convalidation of OT Title  
Registration of Title

*(Information Nov 2007)*

## ZIMBABWE

2. **Language:** English, Shona, Ndebele
3. Immigration Regulations and Requirements:
  - a) **Source of information**  
Ministry of Immigration  
PO Box No 7717  
Causeway  
Harare  
Zimbabwe
  - b) **Terms of employment with reference to immigration qualifications:**  
Temporary residence permit, work permit and registerability with the Health Professions Council if temporary residence required. These must be applied for from outside Zimbabwe. Definite job offer is required stating name of employer, salary negotiated and conditions of service.
4. **Professional Information:**
  - a) **Association address:**  
The Zimbabwean Association of Occupational Therapists  
PO Box CY 2665  
Causeway  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
  
Rehabilitation Officer Ministry of Health  
P O Box No 8204  
Kaguri Mukwati Building Causeway  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
  
NGO's can be contacted directly or through the Association

5. **Educational Requirements:**

Registration with Health Professions Council which involves:

- (a) Submission of original and certified copy of degree/diploma certificate (translated into English), AND
- (b) Proof of literacy in English
- (c) Photograph of self
- (d) Reference
- (e) Employment record

Although not stipulated in the Health Professions Council Regulations, non-Zimbabwean applicants are not appointed to Ministry of Health positions without at least two years post-graduate experience. Apply direct to: The Health Professions Council, 7 Ross Avenue, Beigravia, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Applicants must have a WFOT approved qualification.

*(Information 2003)*