

PROSTHETIST AND ORTHOTIST

BACKGROUND

Prosthetists provide artificial limbs to suit the needs of patients who have either lost a limb or were born without a limb. Prosthetists use a range of components to construct an artificial limb after consulting with colleagues and measuring the patient to ensure the best possible fit, form and function. Once fitted the Prosthetist works with their colleagues to ensure the patient receives appropriate after care and rehabilitation.

Orthotists provide specific aids such as splints, braces and footwear to aid movement, correct deformity and relieve discomfort. These aids are also designed to help patients support or control a part of their body. In order to do this, Orthotists assess the patient's condition and, in conjunction with medical colleagues, designing, measuring and fitting the most appropriate aid to suit the patient's needs.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

To train to become either a Prosthetist or Orthotist a worker needs 3 A Levels in order to study for the BSc in Prosthetics and Orthotics at either Salford or Strathclyde University.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

Prosthetists and Orthotists working directly or indirectly (as a contractor) for the NHS or local authorities must be registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC). If they wish to use the protected title they are required to be registered. This is not just limited to the NHS.

The HPC will accept a BSc in Prosthetics and Orthotics (Salford or Strathclyde) as suitable for membership.

Overseas qualified workers need to apply to the HPC's International Registration Department, who assess the workers overseas applicants on education, training, and experience to determine if these are comparable to the HPC standards of proficiency for Prosthetists and Orthotist. If they are found to be comparable, registration will be granted.

The job titles of Prosthetist and Orthotist are protected by law and only a worker who is registered with the HPC can use this title. HPC registered workers may join the British Association of Prosthetists & Orthotists (BAPO) who are professional body for this profession.

WORK PERMITS (UK) TREATMENT

B&C. Due to protection of title, applications to employ either a Prosthetist or an Orthotist should be refused if the job does not require an HPC registered worker, the same applies if the worker is not registered with the HPC.

Prosthetist and Orthotist grades at MTO level 2 to 5, should be treated as tier two.

Caseworkers should check the worker is directly employed by the employer and, if a service is being provided to the NHS by the employer, a service contract should be requested.

TWES Training: This occupation is not suitable for TWES training.

TWES Work Experience: Suitable if HPC registered and the work experience is at NVQ Level 3 standard.

SALARY

There are currently no nationally agreed pay rates for Prosthetists and Orthotists. The majority of new entrants to these professions work initially for NHS contractors who pay on average between £16,000 to £22,000.

When a person is employed directly by the NHS they may be paid either according to the NHS Clinical Scientist (CS) or the NHS Medical Technical Officer (MTO) pay scales (see below).

Currently, employers in both the public and private sector use the MTO pay scales. These are the Whitley updated pay scales for April 2005, which may change in line with the Agenda for Change in October 2005.

Current MTOs salaries per annum for a 37 hour working week

MTO 2: £16,056 - £22,857
MTO 3: £21,135 - £27,808
MTO 4: £24,719 - £32,531
MTO 5: £30,074 - £39,577

Current CS salaries per annum for a 37 hour working week

Grade B (main professional grade): £22,143 to £41,470
Grade C (Highest grade): £39,874 to £66,396.

Consultant salary rates from £68,194 to £86,240

Additional regional allowances may be paid.

Salaries in the private sector are broadly comparable with those in the public sector.

ADVERTISING

Jobs may be advertised on the BAPO website at www.bapo.com and on other relevant medical recruitment websites eg www.healthjobsuk.com and <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Health Professionals Council (HPC), **Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU, Tel no: 0207 582 0866, Fax no: 0207 820 9684**
Website: www.hpc-uk.org

British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO), Sir James Clark Building, Abbey Mill Business Centre, Paisley PA1 1TJ, Scotland, Tel: 0141 561 7217 Fax: 0141 561 7218, Website: www.admin@bapo.com, E-mail: admin@bapo.com.

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