

EDUCATION ORTHOPAEDIC SHOE TECHNOLOGY IN THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM

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INTRODUCTION

There are numerous new developments regarding education in orthopaedic (shoe) technology in the Netherlands and Belgium.

The sector organisation NVOS-Orthobanda works together closely with both programmes at intermediate (**SVGB**) and higher (**Fontys Hogeschool**) vocational education level.

And a unique partnership exists at higher vocational education level with **KHK in Geel, Belgium**.

Under influence of European legislation, the 8-year programme in the Netherlands has recently been shortened to a 4-year programme at intermediate vocational education level 3. 2005 saw the introduction of a bachelor programme in orthopaedic shoe technology.

These changes in education have given rise to new insights into student training methods.

METHOD

Student intake at intermediate level consists mainly of pre-vocational secondary education graduates, while intake at higher level is made up of students who have completed higher general secondary education or pre-university education. A dual programme (3 years) has been developed to give intermediate students an opportunity to progress to bachelor level, which in the future will be recognised as the valid qualification for independent practice.

Students at higher level have a need for further practical experience after graduation.

This is currently being addressed by offering a tailor-made programme which is being developed by both training institutes.

Students at higher level who have achieved a bachelor qualification outside the sector, such as physiotherapists, occupation therapists and podiatrists, can complete the Orthopaedic Technology programme through a tailor-made programme (2 to 3 years).

Categories

ISPO EQF

1 5

Higher level

Intake, indication,

Treatment room/

2 4

Intermediate

Prescription

Treatment room

2

Intermediate

Production I

Workshop

4

Intermediate

Production II

NUMBER

50 Intermediate students at present.

90 Higher students at present.

PROVISIONAL CONCLUSION

The changes in education from eight to four years, together with the development of the higher education programme, are having far-reaching effects.

A new school, the Dutch Health Tech Academy (**DHTA**), which is under development, will in the future make it possible to combine both programmes.

The sector organisation and both training institutes expect that the course programme offered to students is more than adequate for ensuring functional continuity for clients both now and in the future.

The education orthopaedic shoe technology is supported by the development fund of the sector organisation (**OFOM**).

REFERENCES

www.NVOS-Orthobanda.nl

www.Fontys.nl

www.svab.nl