



ergotherapienederland

Working

In

The Netherlands

As a OT

- Introduction

- Applying to work in the Netherlands – Legal requirements

- Step 1: Application for Declaration of Professional Competence

- Step 2: Acknowledgement of Application

- Step 3: Kennis en Vaardighedentoetsen (Knowledge and Expertise tests)

- Step 4: Assessment of Application

- Step 5: Processing time

- Step 6: Recognition of Professional Competence

- Kwaliteitsregister Paramedici

- Professional Association

- Employment Basics

- Looking for a job

Introduction

Anyone wishing to practice as an Occupational Therapist (Ergotherapeut) in the Netherlands will find it a rewarding and fulfilling experience. Health care in the Netherlands is of high quality. Professional practitioners, health care institutions, insurers, patient/ consumer organizations and the Dutch government all feel strongly about the quality of care which is offered.

There are a wide variety of settings in which Occupational Therapists are employed. According to European law, an applicant from another European country may not be refused recognition on the basis of not speaking Dutch. Applicants from outside the European Union may be asked to take a language test in Dutch. In practice however, it is essential that applicants have a good command of the Dutch language, both oral and written.

You should be aware that the application form must be completed in the Dutch language. Failure to do so will result in rejection of the application. All correspondence in the recognition process will also be in Dutch.

Applying to work in the Netherlands – Legal requirements

Occupational Therapists in the possession of a diploma obtained outside the Netherlands, wishing to work in the Dutch health sector are expected to meet the requirements set by the Dutch government and others. The Wet op de Beroepen in de Individuele Gezondheidszorg (Individual Health Care Professional Act) generally known by its Dutch acronym, 'BIG' is of prime importance to you.

The BIG act sets requirements on the quality of professional practice to protect clients and clarifies the conditions under which a person has the right to use a recognized registered, or training, title. Use of the title Ergotherapeut (Occupational Therapist) is a legally protected training title in the Netherlands under the BIG Act. [BIG-register | Legislation](#)

The BIG register is administered by the CIBG Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Sport (Ministry of Health and Sport) on behalf of the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport. The BIG Act provides two Articles in law for professions as follows:

Article 3: Recognized Registered Title

Doctor, dentist, pharmacist, obstetrician, nurse, physiotherapist, psychotherapist, health care psychologist

The government maintains a central register for these professions. Disciplinary rules apply.

Article 34: Recognized Training Title

Occupational therapist, Speech therapist, Dental hygienist, Remedial therapist, Pharmacist Assistant Dietician, Orthoptist, Podiatrist, Radiographer, Individual Health Care Assistant. The government does not maintain a central register for these professions. No disciplinary rules apply.

The BIG is responsible for recognizing a diploma awarded outside the Netherlands for both Article 3 and Article 34 professions.

If you fulfill all the criteria the CIBG can issue a Declaration of Professional Competence to practice in the Netherlands on behalf of the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport.

Further information:

[BIG-register | Registration](#)

[BIG-register | About the BIG-register](#)

[BIG-register | Legislation](#)

BIG-information service: 0900 – 89 98 225 (€ 0,10 per minute)
International: 00 31 70 340 66 00
Office hours: 08.30 to 17.00hrs
E-mail: info@bigregister.nl
Twitter: Ask your question via @BIGregister op Twitter.

Step 1

Application for Declaration of Professional Competence (Recognition of Foreign Diploma)

- Via the website [BIG-register | Registration](#)
- Download the application for declaration of Professional Competence (Only available in Dutch) "*Aanvraagformulier Verklaring van vakbekwaamheid (erkenning beroepskwalificatie Ergotherapeuten)*"

[http://www.bigregister.nl/doc/overig/Ergotherapeuten%20\(CB36.01\)_30128.doc](http://www.bigregister.nl/doc/overig/Ergotherapeuten%20(CB36.01)_30128.doc)

Details on completion and where to return the form are shown in the introduction page.

This form requires you to provide specific information relating to your training, experience and competencies as an Occupational therapist. Section 7 (Vereiste documenten) includes a list of documents you must provide as evidence of your competencies.

If the language of the documents is other than Dutch, English, German or French, these must be translated and certified by a sworn translator. Photocopies must, likewise, be translated. If you are unable to submit all of the documents, you must provide a written explanation of your reasons. If you fail to comply with the requirements in this document, your application may be rejected.

There is no fee for the above declaration.

Step 2

Acknowledgement of Application

- Approximately 2-3 weeks after submitting the above form "*Aanvraagformulier voor Verklaring van vakbekwamheid (erkenning beroepskwalificatie Ergotherapeuten)*" The BIG will send an acknowledgement of receipt with further details of the process.

Depending on the assessment, you may be required to take a further test (step 3).

Step 3

Kennis en Vaardigheidstoetsten (knowledge and expertise tests)

- Following assessment of the "*Aanvraagformulier voor Verklaring van vakbekwamheid (erkenning beroepskwalificatie Ergotherapeuten)*" it may be necessary for applicants with diplomas obtained outside the European Union to take a Kennis en Vaardigheid toets (knowledge and expertise test). You will be advised by the BIG registration as to the details.

There is a charge for taking the test. The BIG will inform you of the current charge.

Step 4

Assessment of your application by a third party - CBGV

- The application for the Declaration of Professional Competence, *will additionally* be assessed (at the request of the BIG) by a third party comprising Occupational Therapy experts in the Netherlands (Commissie Buitenlands Gediplomeerden Volksgezondheid (CBGV) Foreign Health Care Qualifications Commission. The Commission makes assessments on an intermittent basis depending on the number of applications received.

- The CBGV will assess your professional competence on the basis of the tests, portfolio and submitted documents. Competency must be equivalent to that of a Dutch practitioner in Occupational Therapy. The CBGV recommends suitability of Professional Competency to the BIG. You may receive advice on the level needed to attain the appropriate standard if you're level is not considered appropriate.

Step 5

Processing time

- In practice it can take up to 12 months or more to complete the process. You should bear this in mind when considering an application for employment. Being proactive, patient and persevering throughout the process is the key to success.

Although the internet site for the BIG register states 8 weeks to process an application, this applies to the eight professions under Article 3: (Dentists, doctors, health care psychologists, midwives, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists and psychotherapists). The process is slightly different for Article 34 professions (Occupational Therapists) at present.

Step 6

Recognition of Declaration of Professional Competence

- If, following the assessments you meet all the required professional requirements the BIG, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, will grant recognition of Diploma and you may legally use the recognized training title of Ergotherapeut (Occupational Therapist) in the Netherlands.

Kwaliteitsregister - Occupational Therapists

Central registration is voluntary in the Netherlands for Occupational Therapists, but in practice many employers will ask for confirmation of registration in the Kwaliteitsregister which ensures practitioners meet the standards of the BIG legislation (Beroepen in de individuele Gezondheidszorg). This registration is renewable every 5 years provided you meet the ongoing training and quality requirements.

[Introductiepagina - Kwaliteitsregister Paramedici](#)

info@kwaliteitsregisterparamedici.nl

Professional Association - Ergotherapie Nederland (EN)

The professional body representing Occupational Therapists in the Netherlands is Ergotherapie Nederland (EN). Membership is voluntary, but strongly encouraged. EN is not involved in the process of recognition of a foreign diploma.

EN is a great way to establish and build a network with professionals in the field. It provides information regarding the professional Standards of Occupational Therapists in the Netherlands. Additionally, it lists lots of information e.g.: congresses, courses, developments in the Dutch Healthcare system etc. etc.

[HOME - Ergotherapie Nederland](#)
en@ergotherapie.nl

Tel: + 31 (0) 30 2628356

Employment Basics

Permission to work in the Netherlands

If you do not hold the nationality of one of the European Union member states, you will require a Residency Permit ('Verblijfsvergunning'). [BIG-register | Working in the Netherlands](#)

- BSN Number

An employer will ask for a BSN number (Burger Service Nummer) a central tax number. This is obtained by contacting one of the many Tax offices to issue a number.

[Kantoren waar u het sofinummer kunt afhalen.](#)

- Valid identity documentation (Passport or ID)
- Permission to work in the Netherlands. Visa verblijfsvergunning

You will need to make an appointment:

Tel: (055) 5 385 385. From abroad: +31 555 385 385
Monday – Thursday 8.00 to 20.00hrs & Fridays 8.00 - 17.00 hrs

- Certificate of good conduct (Verklaring Omtrent Gedrag)

Many employers will now ask for a Certificate of good conduct. You will need to show that you have no criminal convictions or behavior that would present a risk to your work as an occupational therapist. You will need to apply to the relevant authority in the country in which you are resident.

If you are already resident in the Netherlands, and have been for some time, you can apply to the local gemeente (council). The certificate is issued by the Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie.

Looking for a job:

The central sites are:

[Vacaturebank Ergotherapie](#)

[Ergobaan.nl - de specialist in Ergotherapie vacatures](#)

There are also many agencies to be found via the internet advertising vacancies.