
INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

THE BEGINNINGS OF OT IN SWITZERLAND

The beginnings of OT in Switzerland go back to the nineteen - fifties.

The first school (German - speaking) was founded in 1957 in Zurich. There followed in 1965, a second school in Lausanne (French - speaking) and 1974 a further German - speaking school was opened in Biel.

WORKING IN SWITZERLAND

Knowledge of foreign languages:

In Switzerland the various languages are an important work - factor.

The four official languages of the country are:

German, French, Italian and Rhaeto-Romanic

The most widely spoken language is the so called „Swiss - German“, in a variety of dialects, which differ strongly from written „High - German“.

At least **good** verbal command of the language spoken in the respective place of work is essential for practising the profession.

Contingent of Foreign Employees

The number of foreign employees allowed to immigrate is limited **by law**.

The number of immigrants accepted differs, according to profession and region of the country (cantonal laws).

Regulations for Entry and Residence

It is compulsory to be granted an official permission so as to be able to take employment in Switzerland.

Upon entry to the country to work in Switzerland as an OT, you must be in possession of a work agreement and of an official pledge of permission of residence. For not - EC citizens, a **visa** is necessary in most cases, instead of the assurance of permission of residence.

The Swiss Embassy or Consulate in your home country gives further information on the subject.

Work-permit

The future employer will undertake the necessary steps for obtaining your working permit.

Working Conditions

- Working - time is generally fixed at 42 hours a week.
- The yearly holidays are of a minimum of 4 weeks.
- Information regarding the initial wages can be asked - if necessary - at the office of the Swiss Association of Occupational Therapists.
Salary guidelines and rates differ from one canton to another.
- Deductions are made for taxes and social insurance. These are determined by the Federal Government, the laws of the Canton, the local community and the institution (employer).
- Health - insurance is at the applicant's own expense, (compulsory since 1.1.96).

Recommendation concerning Professional Training and Professional Experience:

- a) A WFOT - recognised OT - diploma. If the employer needs a Swiss registration, you have to apply for it at the Swiss Red Cross

Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz
Berufsbildung, Anerkennung Ausbildungsabschlüsse
Postfach
CH-3084 Wabern, Tel. 031 960 75 75, Fax 031 960 75 60, e-mail: registry@berufsbildung-srk.ch

- b) 2 years of professional practice in your own country.

Employments / searching for open positions

For offers and applications for OT - positions the journal of the Swiss Association of Occupational Therapists is to be consulted.

„ERGOTHERAPIE“: Journal of the Swiss Association of Occupational Therapists,
monthly issues, including employment vacancies

Yearly subscription – rate:

CHF 110.-- 12 issues (from January to December), incl. postal fees abroad

individual number: CHF 18.-- plus postal fee (abroad).

Orders can be sent to the Swiss Association of Occupational Therapists (see address on front page).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Swiss Association of Occupational Therapists organizes regular post-graduate and continued-interest courses.

The Association counts actually 1'850 members. The members can join also to section groups, as well as to committees and work-groups. They meet regularly to discuss professional topics of current interest.

Foreign Occupational Therapists practising in Switzerland who are in possession of a WFOT recognized diploma can become active-member of the Swiss Association of Occupational Therapists.