ORTHOPEDIC SHOE TECHNOLOGY

2014 – 2015 HANOI 18 MONTH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

FACTSHEET

START JUNE 2ND 2014

Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists
Faculty of University of Labor and Social Affairs

Fontys
University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands
Curriculum development and training support
What is orthopedic shoe technology?

Orthopedic shoe technologists are engaged in measuring, designing and manufacturing orthopedic footwear solutions for people with congenital or acquired foot problems with the aim to increase function and mobility and to prevent further deformity or loss of function of the feet. Orthopedic shoe solutions range from relatively simple solutions such as insoles to more complex orthopedic designs such as specialized shoes with orthopedic support, correction and functional improvement.

An orthopedic shoe technologist must have knowledge, understanding and insight of the anatomy and function of the human body, have excellent communication skills and ample knowledge about the qualities and use of materials and different manufacturing techniques.

Curriculum information

The international training course to become orthopedic shoe technologist takes 18 months. The course aims at becoming an orthopedic shoe technologist who is able to analyze foot problems, design orthopedic foot solutions and is fully equipped with the skills to produce these solutions. Therefore, the curriculum consist of equal parts of theoretical medical, functional and technical subjects including anatomy, pathology, materials and biomechanics etc. to provide you with the required theoretical knowledge and the professional practical skills in the labs and workshop, such as casting and shoemaking, to shape you to become a professional skilled orthopedic shoe technologist.

During the course you will always evaluate what you do with why you do it. In addition the focus will shift from theory to application and from simple to complex.

Course accreditation, comparable to category II, will be requested from IVO (the International Association for Orthopedic Footwear). Fontys University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands is responsible for the curriculum development to meet the international standards. They will provide close supervision and technical support to VIETCOT and lectures during the training course. Being an international and soon to be accredited course the full training programme will be in English.

Besides the regular curriculum a business plan competition will be an integral part of this training course during the first 3 cohorts. Students during the first three cohorts will participate in a business plan competition in which the top candidates from 5-6 countries can win a start-up grant for an orthopaedic shoemaking workshop. The grant includes expert advice from a combined Vietnamese-Dutch team of orthopaedic shoe experts during the establishment of the shoemaking workshop.

Slamet from Indonesia was born with two club feet. He can be helped by an operation to reposition his feet, but will still not be able to walk normal unless he receives the special shoes that he needs.
To become enrolled in the course for orthopedic shoe technologist potential students should:

- have finished at least 9 years of education (lower secondary school) with relevant experience in shoemaking or orthopedic technology, or
- have finished at least 12 years of education (higher secondary school) without previous experience
- have a good understanding and command of English. Both an English TOEFL test and Skype interview will be part of the selection procedure
- be able to provide a list of references

Besides students should recognize themselves having the following personal skills and ambitions:

- entrepreneurial skills
- have good fine manual/motor skills
- good spatial (2D/3D) orientation
- enjoy hands-on working skills
- good communication skills
- able and willing to learn in an international environment with different nationalities
- committed to work with people with disabilities and/or diseases that might be socially labelled
- are ambitious to become an orthopedic shoe technologist and as such can study abroad for 18 months

The establishment of the training course is part of an equal opportunity project. Persons with a small physical disability, who consider themselves able and motivated to become an orthopedic shoe technologist are encouraged to apply.
The establishment of the training course is made possible by a Grant of the Dutch National Postal Code Lottery via the project “These Shoes are made for Walking”. The project is jointly implemented by the Netherlands Leprosy Relief and Liliane Foundation who have both recognized the need for qualified orthopaedic shoe technologists and training institutes in many Asian countries.

The two organisations are committed to develop the required orthopaedic shoe technology skills and therefore will provide the opportunity to apply for full or half sponsored scholarships. These scholarships include airline tickets and can be applied for by low resource organisations and individuals who can not financially support the training course by themselves.

**Application procedure**

In order to apply for the international training course orthopedic shoe technology at VIETCOT you will first have to meet all admission requirements. In case you meet all requirements we will invite you to apply for enrolment. There are two different positions you can apply for; the general application or the scholarship application.

For both positions please send the following list of documents by email to VIETCOT (thanh@vietcot.com):
1. A one-page letter in English describing your motivation to follow the course
2. Scanned copies of your diplomas and grade reports
3. An up-to-date curriculum vitae and a list of references in English
4. Results of a recent TOEFL test (not older than 6 months)

If you are applying for the scholarship programme the following is required additionally:
1. A one-page motivation letter by your organisation explaining the need for a full or half scholarship.
2. The maximum age to apply for the scholarship programme is 35 years of age.

The general application should be submitted before 01-03-2014, while a scholarship application should be submitted before 01-02-2014. After a successful application you will be invited for a Skype interview.

Please email your application timely to: thanh@vietcot.com

Visa applications and other practical arrangements can take several months to process and candidates are therefore advised to apply as early as possible.

**Costs**

The fee for this international training course is set at **19,000 USD** for the full 18 months (excluding holidays) programme and includes: tuition fees, registration fees, books and learning materials, uniforms, seminars, clinical placement, graduation, medical insurance, sports activities, accommodation, monthly stipend for meals, and visa costs. This course fee is excluding airline tickets for the students. Additional English language tuition during the first 6 months (if needed) will cost 500 USD.

**Scholarships**

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More information

Training centre

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