Vocational Training in Medical, Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Technology in Germany

Vocational training ("Ausbildung") in medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology offers a varied and future-orientated career. Learn more about the professional options in the sector!

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This sector offers numerous opportunities for those who are interested in a meaningful occupation centred around supporting people, as well as manual and technical skills.

Medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology: a future with great career opportunities

Medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology deals with the development, production, customization and selling of aids and devices, which support people: for example, in cases of illness, disability, after accidents or in old age.

Depending on the profession, this may involve making dentures, wheelchairs, walking aids, prostheses, glasses or hearing aids. Advising patients is oftentimes also part of the job. Medical technologists for radiology have a different focus. They do X-ray photographs, for example.

Working in medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology is of high relevance for society, because a quarter of all people under statutory health insurance require medical aids. The sector is also important regarding the economy. For example, it pushes technical advancements forward and a lot is exported to foreign countries. Did you know that Germany is one of the leading producers of medical technology?

212.100

people worked in the medical technology sector in 2024.

68 %

of the revenue in medical technology is generated from exporting to foreign countries.

93 %

of the companies in medical technology are small and medium-sized businesses with less than 250 employees.

In-demand vocational training professions in medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology

Here are some examples of vocational training professions which are in demand in the sector *(Unfortunately, the following links are only available in German. We recommend using a translation tool*):

- **Orthopaedic technician**
- **Precision optician**
- **Hearing aid audiologist**
- **Dental technician**

Many of these professions can be subsumed under the healthcare trade. Each profession has its own focus, for example, the development and production of medical devices, the customization of rehabilitation aids, or advising patients and skilled workers. Aside from these professions, there are many more options for vocational training. Vocational training in the above-mentioned professions generally takes 3 to 3.5 years to complete. In other professions of the sector, it may only take 2 years, or it may take up to 5 years.

Video: Working as orthopaedic technician in Germany

Where can I complete vocational training?

In medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology, there are many options for completing vocational training. It generally takes place within the **dual system**. In some cases, for example the profession of **technical assistant for medical device technology**, the vocational training is solely school-based and takes place in **vocational school**. During school-based vocational training, you are not remunerated.

Depending on the profession, common employers (for dual vocational training) are the following:

- doctor‘s surgeries and clinics
- crafts businesses of medical technology
- industrial companies producing medical instruments
- workshops for orthopaedic technology and rehabilitation
- medical supply shops
- medical laboratories

How much will I earn during my vocational training?

In Germany, you will receive a monthly allowance from your training company during your vocational training. The amount of this allowance depends on your chosen profession, the region, the company in question and the year of your vocational training.

You can find information on the amount of training allowance in **medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology** onthe Federal Employment Agency's **BERUFENET** website. Enter your chosen vocational training profession here and then select the relevant profile.

Here is what else you should know about the training allowance:

- You must pay **social security contributions** from your gross allowance, e.g., for statutory health insurance, pension insurance, and unemployment insurance. These contributions are automatically deducted before your net income is paid into your bank account.
- You will usually not have to pay income tax during your vocational training, as your income is likely to be below the **tax-free basic allowance**.

Your rights during your vocational training

As an apprentice, you have clear rights, such as the right to suitable equipment and to tasks that are genuinely part of your vocational training.

Any questions? '**Faire Integration**' offers free advice. You can also find a comprehensive overview of all the key regulations in the guide '**Information on vocational training in Germany**'.

What are determining factors for the training allowance?

The training allowance may depend on ...

- ... the region in Germany, where you are trained.
- ... the company in which you are trained.
- ... the training year you are currently in. The allowance increases with each training year.

Which requirements do I have to meet?

For vocational training, you generally need a school-leaving certificate. For vocational training in the **dual system**, you do not need to have it recognised for the **visa**. For school-based vocational training, the recognition of the foreign school-leaving certificate may be necessary. Good German skills are very important for vocational training, for example for **vocational school**. There is also the option of completing a language course in Germany to prepare for vocational training. Learn more details on the general requirements for vocational training **here**.

The additional **soft skills** that are oftentimes expected from applicants for vocational training medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology are the following:

- diligence
- a sense of responsibility
- adroitness and hand-eye coordination

Foreign language skills are an advantage, for example to communicate with international patients.

Have you already learnt or worked in a profession, or do you have an academic degree? No problem! You can additionally complete vocational training. It can even be an advantage if your previous experience is related to medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology. Having your previous qualification recognised is not required.

Prospects after vocational training

Medical, orthopaedic and rehabilitation technology are fast-growing sectors in Germany. After successfully completing vocational training, you have a good chance of concluding an employment contract with your training company. Even as a trained **skilled worker**, there are numerous opportunities for further education and career development, for example, acquiring the title of Bachelor Professional (depending on the profession, as ***Meisterin/Meister* for the profession of orthopaedic technologist** or ***Meister/Meisterin* for the profession of hearing aid audiologist**, amongst other options). You could also become a manager of a technical team in healthcare. On **BERUFENET**, you will find information on the job-specific options, depending on the vocational training.

In many cases, **self-employment** or academic studies are also an option, for example, in the field of medical technology or dental technology. To learn more about the general options after vocational training, please refer to the "**Prospects after vocational training**".

Salary after vocational training

The best way to find out about the current salary levels is online research. Similar to the training allowance, there is a difference depending on the **federal state** you work in, the size of the company and whether the employer is bound to collective agreements. Therefore, you should make sure to look up information according to your situation and refer to multiple sources. For instance, use the ***Entgeltatlas*** (remuneration atlas) of the Federal Employment Agency. You can also find more salary examples for your desired profession with the help of search engines.

Gross or net? What you should know

The salaries are indicated as gross amounts. This means that taxes and social security contributions still have to be deducted, before knowing the net salary. You will find more information on that in the "**Salary, taxes and social security**" section.

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