

# Prosthetic and Orthotic Technician

☆ Level 3    £ £6,000    🗓 18 months

## 1. What the role entails

The broad purpose of the occupation is to design and manufacture custom-made devices to meet the specification/prescription determined by the Prosthetist/ Orthotist. Prosthetic and Orthotic Technicians make devices that aid movement, correct deformity and relieve discomfort for adults and children. These devices are designed to replace, support or improve the functioning of a limb or the spine. In prosthetics this is an artificial limb (protheses), in orthotics it can be a range of devices from diabetic footwear to spinal bracing (orthoses). Prosthetic and Orthotic Technicians are highly skilled individuals who will be able to work with many different types of materials and processes to manufacture the required devices using the appropriate materials and technologies. They work with a high attention to detail and to very specific measurements, profiles and moulds as each device is bespoke to the patient, their conditions and functionality. In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with patients and their families, the Prosthetist/ Orthotist, suppliers and colleagues. They may also be required to support and supervise junior members of staff, delegating tasks as appropriate.

## 2. On-programme

Apprentices will typically spend 18 months on-programme and undertake the minimum required off-the-job training as per the ESFA funding rules. Apprentice must spend at least 12 months on-programme. Before entering Gateway, the apprentice must complete the following on-programme requirements:

- Level 2 Functional Skills English and maths or equivalent qualifications.
- A Portfolio of Evidence to underpin the Professional Discussion.

## 3. Gateway requirements

The decision to take an apprentice through Gateway is made between the employer, Independent Training Provider (ITP) and the apprentice. The apprentice should only enter Gateway once the employer is content that the apprentice is working at or above the level of the occupational standard. The apprentice must also have completed all the onprogramme elements before they enter Gateway, including the Portfolio of Evidence to underpin the Professional Discussion.

## 4. End-point assessment

The EPA for Prosthetic and Orthotic Technician contains 2 methods of assessment:

### Observation of Practice with Questions

An Observation of Practice with Questions involves an Independent End Point Assessor (IEPA) observing and questioning an apprentice undertaking work as part of their normal duties, in the workplace. This allows for a demonstration of the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) through naturally occurring evidence. Questioning allows for the assessment of the breadth and depth of underpinning knowledge against the grading descriptors. This assessment method must take 2 hours; with the observation lasting 90 minutes, and questions for a duration of 30 minutes. The IEPA can increase the time of the Observation of Practice with Questions by up to 10% to allow the apprentice to complete a task or respond to a question if necessary.

**Grading:** Grading will be measured as Fail, Pass or Distinction.

### Professional Discussion underpinned by a Portfolio of Evidence

The Professional Discussion is a structured discussion designed to draw out the best of the apprentice's competence and excellence and cover the KSBs assigned to this assessment method. It is a two-way discussion which involves both the IEPA and the apprentice actively listening and participating in a formal conversation. The assessment duration is 60 minutes (the IEPA has the discretion to increase the time of the Professional Discussion by up to 10% to allow the apprentice to complete their last point). The Portfolio of Evidence will be completed during on-programme learning, covering the KSBs to be assessed by the Professional Discussion.

**Grading:** Grading will be measured as Fail, Pass or Distinction.

## 5. Grade aggregation table

Observation of Practice with Questions	Professional Discussion underpinned by a Portfolio of Evidence	Overall Grading
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction

A Fail in any assessment method will result in a Fail overall.

## 6. Completion and certification

We'll activate certification once the apprentice has successfully completed all EPAs, and the IEPA has verified this. Working with the apprenticeship certificate issuing authority, we'll ensure the apprentice receives their certificate.

## 7. What next?

Prosthetic and Orthotic Technicians are found in the NHS or independent companies contracted to supply a service to the NHS, or companies that provide a private service direct to individuals. Some technicians work in a department based in a hospital environment, or within a manufacturing unit away from a hospital base. Upon completing this apprenticeship it is possible to progress onto the Level 6 Prosthetist and Orthotist Integrated Degree. This apprenticeship aligns with the following professional recognition:

- The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO) for Technician Associate.

### Why NCFE?

We're an approved End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) specialising in EPA delivery across health, education, social care, business, finance and digital apprenticeship standards. We offer flexible and reliable EPA solutions supported by sector expertise, guidance documents and proactive service and support.