

The Canadian Orthoptic Council gives written (and if successful in the written, practical and oral examinations on location of the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society meeting) leading to certification as an Orthoptist. This certification is necessary for the practice of orthoptics in Canada. Applications to take the certifying exam will only be accepted from an orthoptist who is from a country in which orthoptics is a regulated profession who can attest to their good standing. References from previous employers are not sufficient.

If you are American, or British certified, you would most likely be able to take the examinations without further training at a Canadian Training Centre providing that you have a university degree in addition to your certification as an orthoptist.

The French integration program (Programme d'Integration Francophones des Orthoptistes, PIFO) is designed for the orthoptists that have been certified in France. In these cases PIFO provides the required training in the French language in order to prepare these orthoptists for the Canadian certifying examination.

If you are from country (other than USA, Great Britain or France) in which orthoptics is a regulated profession, you must submit 1. Evidence of a university or college baccalaureate degree. 2. Evidence of training in orthoptics, which must be of least 24 months duration and 3. Proof of certification as an orthoptist. The applicant must be in "good standing" with the orthoptic council, organization or university of the original certificate. In the case that these documents are in a language other than French or English the documents must be translated into French or English and be notarized. In some cases applicants may be asked to use a document verifying service when submitting. The candidate must also provide proof of English language proficiency (for example scores from TOEFL or IELTS). These documents will be examined and if found acceptable, the candidate will be granted a letter of eligibility for admission to an accredited training program in Canada. The Canadian Orthoptic council will not "place" a candidate but rather the candidate must apply to the program with the letter of eligibility. If accepted to the school the candidate will be asked to study a minimum of six months (until judged ready to take the examinations).

If you are from a country where orthoptics is not a regulated profession or have training in a related eye field then you may apply directly to a Canadian Orthoptic Training Program for the full 24 month training period. You will have to comply with their individual entrance requirements.

Teaching Programs:

Darren Oystrek
Clinical Vision Science
Dalhousie University
IWK Health Centre
5850 University Avenue
PO Box 9700

Halifax, NS, B3J 3G9
<http://cvs.healthprofessions.dal.ca/>

Jocelyn Zurevinsky
Orthoptic Clinic-Eye Care Centre
Saskatoon City Hospital
701 Queen St.
Saskatoon SK S7K 0M7
Website: www.orthoptics.ca

Christy Gilligson
Orthoptic Service
BC Children's Hospital
4480 Oak Street
Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
E-Mail: Cgilligson@cw.bc.ca
Website: <http://www.ophtalmology.ubc.ca/facilities/bcch.html>

Integration Program:

Programme d'Intégration Francophones des Orthoptistes (PIFO)
Stephanie Oglietti
Programme director
Montreal Children's Hospital D-166
2300 Tupper
Montreal Quebec H3H 1P3
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