



GERMANY

Osteopathy

The national health ministry of Germany has recently recognised osteopathy, stating that the regulation of the profession is presently adequate through the existing medical societies for physicians and the Heilpraktiker organisations for those practising under this law. Germany is currently in the process of establishing more specific regulations and standards.

There is a difference in the osteopathic education between non-physician osteopaths, physiotherapists, and medical physicians. Physiotherapists are a recognized health profession, but they have to meet a lesser educational standard and can achieve a degree of “Diploma in Osteopathic Therapy (D.O.T.)”, whereas physicians achieve a degree of “D.O.-DAAO” or “D.O.M.”, from the DAAO and DGOM respectively. Osteopathic Physicians in Germany are fully licensed with at least 6,500 hours in medical school 6 years, at least 7,000 hours in specialty training, which is 3 to 6 years, plus at least 680 hours of training in manual medicine and osteopathy before attaining their degree.

Non-physician osteopaths are not medically licensed. They have an average total of 1200 hours of training, roughly half being in manual therapy and osteopathy, with no medical specialization before they attain their degree. Non-physician osteopaths in Germany officially work under the “Heilpraktiker” law. Heilpraktiker is a separate profession within the health care system.

Statutes/Regulations:

There are presently no statutes or regulations defining the scope of practise of osteopathy in Germany. Regulations are currently being developed.

Schools of Osteopathy

There are many schools of Osteopathy in Germany. Most are moving toward national recognition. There is presently no official national recognition.

The International Academy of Osteopathy -I.A.O.

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Degrees: Bachelor of Science with Honours in Osteopathy

Organisations/Associations:

Akademie für Osteopathie (AFO): This association is responsible for non-physician osteopathic research and defining minimal standards for non-physician osteopathic education.

Bundes Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osteopathie (BAO): All schools and associations of non-physician osteopaths are members for one year. After this time, schools and associations have to show they meet the following minimum conditions for recognition: 1,350 contact hours, examinations and an integrated curriculum. The physician osteopathic organisations, the DGOM and the DAAO, are not members.

Germany Osteopathic Association (VOD)

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