

AOA INTERNATIONAL LICENSURE SUMMARY

Updated: August 2005

This summary of licensure availability in international countries for graduates of United States osteopathic medical schools is revised and expanded on a continual basis. Some countries have definite policies regarding either the licensure of D.O.s, the licensure of internationally trained physicians and health care practitioners and/or the licensure of non-citizens. A few countries have consistently refused to grant U.S.-trained D.O.s full practice rights, often permitting them to perform only manipulation and sometimes refusing to grant them any type of practice. Other countries, however, are simply not educated on the qualifications of U.S.-trained D.O.s and their equivalence in education, training and practice to M.D.s. To that end, communication with international health care officials can be a time consuming and formidable task.

There are a few issues to keep in mind when researching licensure possibilities in foreign countries. Many countries that were or continue to be under British influence adhere to Britain's definition of an "osteopath," a non-physician health care practitioner who practices only manipulation. Due to the similarity of the titles, many of these countries refuse to grant U.S.-trained D.O.s practice rights beyond the scope of manipulation.

Further, the procedure by which international countries consider granting physician licensure to foreigners is not consistent among all countries. The procedure can take the form of a simple interview with a Minister of Health or Medical Board, a handshake with a governmental insider or the submission to a battery of examinations, intensive residencies and the like.

Also, the intent and type of practice sought by the U.S.-trained D.O. might warrant a substantially different application procedure. For example, those who are interested in working on a volunteer basis or for a mission often find the process less hindered by paperwork and legal regulations. For this reason, an applicant should be as clear as possible about his or her intentions when making a written inquiry.

The following is a catalog of countries in which the AOA has investigated osteopathic licensure. Included in each country's listing is the year in which the last request for updated licensure status was made, the scope of osteopathic practice in that country, an overview of issues specific to that country and the contact for licensure inquiries. As you will note, information regarding many of these countries is out-of-date and has not been reevaluated. In addition, licensure status can change from year to year - so it is encouraged that the individual contact the appropriate authority well in advance of an expected visit or move.

Should you wish to investigate licensure possibilities in a country not listed below or would like to have more information regarding one of the listed countries, please contact the AOA Division of State Government & International Affairs, 142 East Ontario, Chicago IL 60611; (800) 621-1773 ext. 8196.

Further, it would be of great help to the AOA and other osteopathic physicians if the AOA Division of State Government Affairs were notified of the outcome of any inquiries. In addition, if correspondence from international health agencies is received, please forward copies for the files maintained at the AOA. This will help greatly with future inquiries.

Argentina

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Per correspondence from the Ministry of Culture and Education, it appears that U.S.-trained D.O.s will be permitted to obtain a

full physician license in Argentina in accordance with requirements for all foreign physicians. Argentine law does not specifically include osteopathic medicine or the D.O. degree; instead, foreign physicians must submit credentials to various agencies and then appear before any of the National Universities in order to have their diploma considered as an Argentine equivalent.

Contact: Argentine Consulate closest to professional residence

Aruba

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: denied

Per its director, the Aruba Public Health Department can only issue a license to graduates from five U.S. medical schools, none of which are osteopathic medical schools.

Contact: Director,
Public Health Department
Oranjestad
ARUBA

Australia

Year of Last Request: 2000

Scope of Practice: varies

The Australia Medical Council has continually denied requests by the AOA to recognize U.S. educated and trained D.O.s for the unlimited practice of medicine. However, a U.S. educated and trained osteopathic physician was recruited to head up an emergency room in the suburbs of Sydney. Through the efforts of the hospital, he secured an unlimited medical license through the New South Wales Medical Board upon endorsement of the Australian College of Emergency Medicine. It appears that licensure would be dependent on the state.

Contact: New South Wales Medical Board
Medical Board Building
Off Punt Road
PO Box 104
Gladesville NSW 1675
New South Wales
AUSTRALIA
<http://www.nswmb.org.au>

Australian Medical Council
PO Box 4810
Kingston Act 2604
AUSTRALIA
<http://www.amc.org.au>

Austria

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

In order to practice in Austria, a hospital must have a position available, which cannot otherwise be filled by an Austrian physician.

Contact: Austrian Medical Chamber
Weihburggasse 10-12
A1010 Vienna
AUSTRIA
<http://www.aek.or.at>

Bahamas

Year of Last Request: 1997

Scope of Practice: unlimited

In January 1997, the Bahamian Medical Council, for the first time, issued a license to practice cardiac and vascular surgery to a U.S.-trained D.O.

Contact: Registrar
Bahamian Medical Council
PO Box N-9802

Nassau
BAHAMAS

Barbados

Year of Last Request: 1974

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

No provision for registration or licensure of osteopathic physicians exists yet the Ministry of Health and Welfare refused to grant full practice rights to a U.S.-trained D.O. in 1974.

Contact: Barbados Medical Council
Minister of Health
Old Hospital Building
Jemmott's Lane
St. Michael
BARBADOS

Belize

Year of Last Request: 2004

Scope of Practice: unlimited

There is no legislative authority governing the licensure of osteopathic physicians. Foreign physicians will only be considered for registration if a Belizean physician will not be displaced. The AOA was notified that a US-educated DO was granted a temporary license as a psychiatrist in Belize.

Contact: Ministry of Health and Sports
East Block
Independence Hill
Belmopan
BELIZE

Bermuda

Year of Last Request: 1997

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Applicants must have graduated from an approved college of osteopathic medicine accredited by the AOA, have successfully completed two years of postgraduate training as a minimum, and must be examined by the Council's Examination Committee or interviewed by the Council. Non-Bermudan physicians must have approval from the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs to work on the island.

Contact: Bermuda Medical Council
PO Box 1195
Hamilton 5
BERMUDA

Bolivia

Year of Last Request: 1988

Scope of Practice: unknown

According to AOA file information, a response was not received from the Embassy.

Contact: Embassy of Bolivia Colegio Medico de Bolivia
3014 Massachusetts Avenue, NW OR Calle Ballivian 1266
Washington, DC 20008 La Paz
BOLIVIA

Brazil

Year of Last Request: 2000

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A U.S. educated osteopathic physician was granted an unlimited license to practice medicine in Brazil. It is a difficult process and requires taking and passing a Brazilian examination., establishing residency, and do some training in Brazilian hospitals.

Contact: AMB
Avenue Brig
Liuz Antonio 278 2 Andar
Sao Paulo 01318
BRAZIL

Cambodia

Year of Last Request: 1992

Scope of Practice: unknown

Several attempts to contact the Minister of Health in Cambodia have failed, most likely due to the current political unrest. No Cambodian Embassy exists in the United States, yet the AOA has established a contact through a non-profit, Cambodian-advocacy organization the director of which has ties with Cambodian Health officials.

Contact: Cambodian Medical Association
#73 Boulevard Preah Monivong
Phnom Penh
CAMBODIA

Canada

Listed below are the licensure requirements for US-trained D.O.s in the provinces and territories of Canada. All the provinces that have provisions for licensing D.O.s as physicians require that D.O.s be graduates of AOA-accredited osteopathic medical colleges and they be or intend to become Canadian citizens. For the provinces or territories that state, “no provisions exist for licensing US-trained D.O.s,” it is suggested the individual contact that regulatory authority. While there may not be a provision, the regulatory agency may consider amending its current policy to include recognition of US-trained D.O.s.

Alberta

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: Must have completed at least 2 years of GME accredited by the ACGME or AOA and must have passed the Universities Coordinating Council Exam, a basic sciences exam, and have passed all three parts of the licensing examination of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC).

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta
900 Manulife Place
10180-101 Street
Edmonton Alberta T5J 4P8
CANADA
(780) 423-4764
<http://www.cpsa.ab.ca>

British Columbia

Scope of Practice: one licensure pathway provides D.O.s with unlimited practice rights, and another pathway limits D.O.s to practice OMM

Requirements: To be eligible for unlimited licenses: must have completed at least one year of GME approved by the AOA or the ACGME, completed at least 1 year of GME in Canada, passed all three parts of the LMCC. For licenses limited to OMM: must have completed at least 2 years of AOA approved GME and passed all three parts of the NBOME or COMLEX.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia
1807 W. 10th Avenue
Vancouver British Columbia V6J 2A9
CANADA
(604) 733-7758
<http://cpsbc.bc.ca>

Manitoba

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: In 2002, the College voted to register U.S.-educated and trained DOs.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba
1000-1661 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3T7
CANADA
(204) 774-4344
<http://www.cpsm.mb.ca>

New Brunswick

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: Must have completed at least 2 years of GME approved by the AOA or the ACGME and have passed all three parts of the LMCC. There is also a reciprocity pathway for D.O.s holding a license to practice medicine in Maine.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick
1 Hampton Road, Suite 200
Rothesay, New Brunswick E2E 5K8
CANADA
(506) 849-5050
<http://cpsnb.org>

Newfoundland

Scope of Practice to be determined

Requirements: in 2002, the College committed itself to seeing that the government establishes a registration pathway for U.S.-educated D.O.s. It is anticipated that establishing guidelines may take a couple of years.

Contact: Newfoundland Medical Board
139 Water Street, Suite 603
St. John's Newfoundland A1C 1B2
CANADA
(709) 726-8546

Northwest Territories

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: While no specific provisions are in place, the AOA has been told the government will grant registration to any physician that qualifies for licensure in any other province.

Contact: Government of the Northwest Territories
Centre Square Tower 8th Floor
Yellowknife NWT X1A 2L9
CANADA
(867) 920-8058

Nova Scotia

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A new regulation was put into effect in 2002 to recognize U.S.-educated osteopathic physicians.

Contact: Provincial Medical Board of Nova Scotia
Sentry Place
1559 Brunswick Street, Suite 200
Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 2G1
CANADA
(902) 422-5823
<http://www.cpsns.ns.ca>

Ontario

Scope of Practice: Unlimited

In 2002, the Premier of Ontario and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) announced that changes were being implemented to recognize international medical graduates, including D.O.s who are now recognizing by the CPSO. In addition, the CPSO has created a Fast Track Assessment Program for international medical graduates who wish to practice in Ontario. The Fast Track Assessment is an expedited process designed for doctors with experience. It focuses on an evaluation of practice skills and can be tailored to the individual applicant. By evaluating the practice skills of the individual doctor rather than looking at the grades and training programs, the College acquires a more realistic view of the abilities of the individual physicians.

For more recent graduates, there is the Standard Assessment process. It concentrates on examination grades and completion of an approved course of education and residency. All candidates are assessed in the same way. The CPSO now accepts the COMLEX-USA exam (**only with the Level 2-PE**) and USMLE with USMLE Step 2 CS (Clinical Skills) or ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) CSA (Clinical Skills Assessment) as equivalent to the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE). For more information on Ontario's registration, go to

www.cpso.on.ca/info_physicians/applicants/regist.htm. The Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) in Ontario will now accept US-trained D.O.s for their 1st iteration match; previously D.O.s were only able to apply for the 2nd iteration of CaRMS. The CaRMS does, at this time, require the MCC exam, not the COMLEX-USA. For information, please visit www.carms.ca.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

80 College Street

Toronto Ontario M5G 2E2

CANADA

(416) 967-2600

<http://www.cpso.on.ca>

Prince Edward Island

Scope of Practice: no provisions exist for licensing US-trained D.O.s

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Prince Edward Island

199 Grafton Street

Charlottetown, PEI C1A 1L2

CANADA

(902) 566-3861

Quebec

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: Must have completed at least 1 year of GME approved by the AOA or the ACGME, must have completed at least 1 year of GME in Quebec, passed the written, oral and clinical board examination of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and must speak French fluently.

Contact: College des Medecins du Quebec

2170 Rene-Levesque Blvd West

Montreal Quebec H3H 2T8

CANADA

(514) 933-4441

<http://www.cmq.org>

Saskatchewan

Scope of Practice: limited to OMM

Requirements: Must have completed at least 1 year of AOA-approved GME.

Contact: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan

211 Fourth Avenue South

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 1N1

CANADA

(306) 244-7355

<http://www.quadrant.net/cpss>

Yukon Territory

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Requirements: While no specific provisions are in place, the AOA has been told the government will grant registration to any

physician that qualifies for licensure in any other province.

Contact: Government of the Yukon
PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
CANADA
(867) 667-5257

Cayman Islands

Year of Last Request: 1983

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A D.O. was granted an unlimited license to practice medicine in 1983. This represented a significant accomplishment, as the Islands are a British protectorate. Written examinations are not required for licensure and licensure is granted based on the applicant's academic degree and qualifications. No distinctions were placed on the D.O. degree and the government accepted his osteopathic credentials.

Contact: Chief Medical Officer
Tower Building
Grand Cayman,
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Central African Empire

Year of Last Request: sometime before 1990

Scope of Practice: unlimited

The D.O. degree and proof of licensure in one of the fifty U.S. states, plus annual attendance at the National Congress for Physicians is all that is required for licensure in the Central African Empire. No examination is required and students wishing to study tropical disease are not required to obtain permits and the like. Letters of inquiry must be written in French or Sango, which are the native languages.

Contact: Minister of Health
Bangui
CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

Chile

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Application for a practice license must be made to the University of Chile through the submission and transfer of the physician's medical diploma. A written exam, in Spanish, is required.

Contact: Directora Escuela de Pregrado
Universidad de Chile
Avda. Independencia No. 1027
Santiago
CHILE

Colegio Medico de Chile
Esmeralda 678
Santiago
CHILE

China

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Chinese law does not provide specifically for osteopathic medicine or the U.S. D.O. degree. For this reason, U.S.-trained D.O.s are permitted to apply for "Short Term Medical Practice."

Contact: Dr. Zhao Minggang, Official
Division of Hospital Management
Dept of Medical Administration
Ministry of Public Health
People's Republic of China
44 Houhai Beiyan
Beijing
CHINA

State Administration Tradition Chinese Medicine P.I.C.
7 Dongping Road
Chaoyang District
Beijing 00027
CHINA

Colombia

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Colombian law does not specifically state restrictions of osteopathic practice. Therefore, U.S.-trained D.O.s are permitted to submit their credentials according to the same procedure administered to other foreign physicians. They must contact the Colombian consulate closest to their professional residence for verification of original degree, then contact the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Colombia. All transcripts, programs of study, and copies of identification must be translated into Spanish and be notarized.

Contact: Ministry of Public Health
Calle 16 No. 7-39
Bogota
COLOMBIA

Costa Rica

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Several requirements exist for foreign physicians wanting to practice in Costa Rica. Unless the physician was contracted individually by state institutions or marries a Costa Rican, the physician must have resided in the country for at least 5 years and will be required to serve both a one-year internship in a hospital and a one year service in the Medical Sanitary Service. The physician's diploma will be considered equivalent to that issued by the University of Chile in order to receive a practice license.

Contact: Colegio de Medicos y Cirujanos Costa Rica Osteopathic Medical Association (CROMA)
Republica de Costa Rica OR P.O. Box 25216-1446
Apartado 548 Miami, FL 33102
San Jose (a courier service delivers mail to Costa Rica)
COSTA RICA <http://cro-ma.org>

Denmark

Year of Last Request: 1995

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Danish National Board of Health
PO Box 2020
Amaliegade 13
DK-1012 Copenhagen
DENMARK
<http://www.sum.dk>

Dominican Republic

Year of Last Request: 2000

Scope of Practice: unlimited

On July 4, 2000, legislation was enacted that recognizes U.S. educated osteopathic physicians for the unlimited practice of medicine. The law also recognizes AOA postgraduate training and board certification.

Contact: Dr. Victorino de Jesus Garcia Santos
Secretario de Estado
Ensached La Fe
Santo Domingo,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ecuador

Year of Last Request: sometime before 1990

Scope of Practice: unlimited

In order to practice in Ecuador, foreign-trained physicians must obtain an Ecuadorian medical license. This license is conferred upon passage of all Ecuadorian medical school examinations, the writing of a thesis in Spanish and completion of an internship. Temporary permits are available and registration must be confirmed annually. Reciprocity exists with most Latin American countries.

Contact: Ministerio de Salud Publica
Quito
ECUADOR

Egypt

Date of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Egyptian medical Syndicate
42 Kasr El-Aini Street
Cairo
EGYPT

Finland

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Foreign-trained physicians may only enjoy full practice rights in Finland with the permission of the Finnish National Board of Health. Knowledge of the Finnish language and a work permit are requirements.

Contact: National Authority for Medicolegal Affairs
PO Box 265
FIN-00531 Helsinki
FINLAND

France

Year of Last Request: 1988

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

A work permit is necessary for a foreign-trained physician to practice in France. Osteopathic medicine is not recognized by the government, so only M.D.s can obtain full practice rights.

Contact: Conseil National de l'Ordre des Medecins
180 Boulevard Haussmann
F-75389 Paris Cedex 07
FRANCE
<http://www.conseil-national.medecin.fr>

Germany

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

It appears that any foreign physician may apply for licensure to one of the several regional medical authorities, which represents the town in which the applicant intends to live. The regional medical authority has information regarding the types of providers needed in that area and therefore grants licenses depending on the specialty of the foreign physician. As with other European countries, it is rumored that Germany has too many physicians and is not granting licensure to any foreign physicians.

Contact: CEO
Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit
53108 Bonn 2
GERMANY

Ghana

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Ghana Medical & Dental Council
PO Box 10586
Accra – North
GHANA

Great Britain

Year of Last Request: 1998

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

The General Medical Council of Great Britain has consistently denied U.S.-trained D.O.s full practice rights and has declined the AOA's request to permit D.O.s to sit for the medical examination. This may be due in part to the large presence of British "osteopaths," who are non-physician health care providers who practice much like chiropractors.

Contact: Administrative Officer
The Osteopathic Association of Great Britain
62 Messina Avenue
London NW6 4LE
GREAT BRITAIN

Greece

Year of Last Request: 2004

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

According to the Greek Embassy, foreign-trained physicians holding either the M.D. or the D.O. degree are able to obtain a full-practice license. However, such physicians must be Greek citizens in order to practice unless, and such instances are extremely rare, there exists a crucial need for certain types of specialist physicians. Further, a work permit must be obtained, a difficult task, and speaking Greek is an unwritten requirement. In 1998, an osteopathic physician began the process to obtain licensure. 1999 - D.O.s are not officially recognized by law, therefore a subcommittee was formulated to research U.S. osteopathic medicine. The subcommittee sent a positive report to the Medical Council of Greece. The final recommendation of the Medical Council should be issued shortly.

Contact: Mr. Nikos Papaconstantinou
Embassy of Greece
2221 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| DIKATSA-Medical Division | Ministry of Health and Education |
| 112 Sygrou Avenue | 223 Mesogeion Avenue |
| 11741, Athens | 115 25 Athens Hellas |
| GREECE | GREECE |

Guatemala

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Cirujanos de Guatemala
Chief Executive Officer
17 Calle 1-61 Zona 1
GUATEMALA

Guyana

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A U.S.-trained D.O. was granted a physician license by the Ministry because his credentials were considered as M.D.-equivalent. Osteopathic medicine is not specifically recognized so applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Contact: Chief Medical Officer
Ministry of Health
Brickdam Georgetown 11
GUYANA

Honduras

Year of Last Request: 2002

Scope of Practice: Unlimited

The National Autonomous University must accredit all foreign titles. After accreditation is completed, then applicant must seek registration with the Medical College of Honduras (MCH). Titles, grades, and lesson plans must be authenticated in the country where studies were completed. Authentication must be done by the Honduran Consul in the same state. Upon completion, MCH will issue a provisional permit good for one year to a Honduran doctor who has done training outside of Honduras, and foreign applicants must complete two years of the Ad-Honorem Social Service. When the two years have expired, applicant may apply for Definitive Registration.

Contact: Dr. Julio Alberto Bourdeth Tosta
Secretary of Registration
Board of Directors of the Medical College of Honduras
P.O. Box 810
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
HONDURAS

Hong Kong

Year of Last Request: 1998

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A letter from the Hong Kong Medical Council explained that there is no legislation governing the registration of osteopathic physicians. A prospective D.O. applicant can apply to the Licentiate Committee in order to sit for the Licentiate Examination. Passage of this exam along with completing "externship training," would entitle a foreign medical practitioner to full registration by the Medical Council. Applicants must have completed "not less than five years" full-time medical training of a type approved by the Medical Council before application is made. The information sent to the AOA did not specify what type of medical training the Council does approve. However, it did note that the Council may require a personal interview before application is made so that the Council is able to ascertain whether the applicant is indeed eligible for the examination.

Contact: The Licentiate Committee
The Medical Council of Hong Kong
17/F Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wanchai
HONG KONG

India

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: undetermined

The AOA received a response to its 1998 inquiry regarding licensure of US-trained DOs. The Medical Council of India stated that osteopathic medicine degree is not recognized for the purpose of IMC Act, 1956. However, they did state that a DO might apply after getting Indian nationality and after implementation of screening test Regulation/Provision in the Indian Medical Council Act.

Contact: Delhi Medical Council
RM NO 356-357 3rd Floor
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi 110002
INDIA

Indonesia

Year of Last Request: 1992

Scope of Practice: unlimited if with mission or university

Foreign-trained physicians can enjoy unlimited practice rights if they are working in conjunction with a university for a specific project, or if they are providing services on behalf of a mission. Foreign physicians are barred from private practice. No examination is required, yet a degree from an approved medical school is needed.

Contact: Indonesian Medical Association
Jl Sam Ratulangi
Jakarta 29
INDONESIA

Iran

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Ministry of Health and Medical Education
Keshavarz Blvd.
Building #2 11th Floor
Tehran
IRAN

Ireland

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: denied

The AOA has written numerous letters to various government agencies in Ireland. At its August 1998 meeting, the Education and Training Committee reviewed pertinent information regarding the osteopathic education and training. The Medical Council on the recommendation of its Education and Training Committee decided to once again deny licensure to U.S.-trained D.O.s because osteopathic medical schools are not recognized by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the U.S. allopathic medical school accreditation body. In 2000, the AOA once again wrote to The Medical Council on the behalf of a U.S. educated D.O. who will be traveling with an American sports group as the team physician to compete in Ireland. The request was for approval to treat U.S. citizen while in Ireland. The response from The Medical Council has been that they will take the matter under consideration.

Contact: Registrar
Medical Council of Ireland
Portobello Court
Lower Rathmines Road
Dublin 6
IRELAND
<http://www.medicalcouncil.ie>

Israel

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: to be determined

Previously, U.S.-trained osteopathic physicians were granted full practice rights in Israel, providing they have established residence in Israel. It was required that all immigrant physicians pass a licensing examination given in summer or in winter. It is possible to take the test in English, but the knowledge of Hebrew is both necessary and mandatory in order to obtain employment as a physician in Israel (immigrant physicians are eligible for a free 5-mo intensive Hebrew course). The exam is a pass/fail and the format is multiple choice. Areas covered by the exam are internal medicine, surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, and psychiatry. The AOA was informed that the laws in Israel do not specifically include US-trained DOs. The AOA and osteopathic physicians who hold Israeli licensure are working to resolve this issue.

Contact: Prof. Shannon, M.D.
Director
Department of Medical Professions
Ministry of Health
2 Rehov Ben Tabai
Jerusalem 91010
ISRAEL

Italy

Year of Last Request: 2004

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

It may be possible for a U.S.-trained D.O. to practice in Italy, yet it is extremely difficult to obtain the license to practice. Non-Italians must obtain a work permit, which is issued only when no Italian citizen can be found to fill the post. Therefore physicians are discouraged from seeking employment in Italy without firm contracts and work permits. According to 1990 AOA file information, if there exists a U.S. state law outlining reciprocity with Italy, a statement to this effect from the Italian Consulate will warrant better chances.

Contact: National Federation of the Orders of Doctors & Dentists
Piazza Cola Di Rienzo 80/A
Rome
ITALY
<http://www.fnomceo.it>

Jamaica

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: limited

The AOA has researched licensure in Jamaica through a specific mission project presented to the Minister of Health by a group of U.S.-trained D.O.s. While the request for D.O. degree recognition and full practice rights were initially denied by the Minister, the D.O.s were permitted to supply some services while participating in the mission.

Contact: Chief Medical Officer
Medical Council of Jamaica
10 Caldonia Avenue
Kingston 5
JAMAICA

Japan

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Director
Office of Examination and Licensing
Ministry of Health and Welfare
1-2-2 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda - Ku
Tokyo 100-24
JAPAN

Kenya

Year of Last Request: 1991

Scope of Practice: unknown

AOA files do not contain a response from Kenya health officials regarding the status of osteopathic licensure.

Contact: Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board
PO Box 44839
Nairobi
KENYA

Korea

Year of Last Request: 1995

Scope of Practice: unknown

AOA file information includes a request for information regarding the "Korean Society of Osteopathic College of Radiology," but no response was received.

Contact: Ministry of Health & Welfare
1, Chungang-Dong
Kwachon
Kyonggi-Do
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Kuwait

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

Per a letter of inquiry from the AOA, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Public Health requested further information regarding the profession and educational structure of osteopathic medicine as practiced in the United States. The request for additional information was mailed, but no response was received from the Ministry.

Contact: Undersecretary
Ministry of Public Health
PO Box 5
13001 Safat
KUWAIT

Laos

Year of Last Request: 1992

Scope of Practice: unknown

From information obtained from the U.S. Embassy in Laos, it appears that D.O.s can work through medical relief organizations.

Contact: AOA State Government Affairs

Lebanon

Year of Last Request: 2004

Scope of Practice: unlimited

It was reported to the AOA that US-educated osteopathic physicians are considered on an individual basis and need a letter from the AOA citing their education, training, etc. If accepted, the DO can then sit for the medical examination currently used in Lebanon.

Contact: Minister S. Frangieh
Minister of Health
Rue du Musee
Beirut
LEBANON

Liberia

Year of Last Request: sometime before 1990

Scope of Practice: unlimited

All foreign-trained physicians must be approved on an individual basis and must submit a photocopy of a license and medical school degree. No distinction between the M.D. and D.O. degrees is made and a rotating internship is required. Special permits are not available, although visits of less than six months can be arranged.

Contact: Liberian Medical Board

Monrovia

LIBERIA

Luxembourg

Year of Last Request: 1987

Scope of Practice: unlimited, but difficult to obtain

The practice of medicine in Luxembourg by a doctor who is not a national of the European Economic Community is very rare.

Contact: Ministere de la Sante

57 Boulevard de la Perusse

L2320

LUXEMBOURG

Malaysia

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: denied

Malaysian law does not allow for osteopathic medical practice, therefore the Ministry denied the AOA's request for practice rights.

Contact: Malaysian Medical Council

Ministry of Health

50590 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Mexico

Year of Last Request: 1998

Scope of Practice: previously denied

Previous AOA file information indicated that D.O. licensure could not be obtained in Mexico unless through the association of a short-term mission project, such as the osteopathic physician group "DOCARE." No physician, D.O. or M.D., may practice in Mexico without working papers, which requires completion of a five-year residency and after which services are given on a limited basis and under the supervision of a Mexican M.D. Political connections are extremely helpful but do not necessarily guarantee licensure.

Contact: Mexico Secretaria-Educacion Publica

Insurgentes sur 1397, 2 01000

Mexico

Micronesia

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Micronesian law does provide specifically for the inclusion of "doctors of osteopathy."

Contact: Secretary of Human Resources

Department of Health Services

Federated States of Micronesia

PO Box PS 70

Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941

Morocco

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: denied

Application for physician licensure is a "long and fastidious" procedure, according to the Minister of Health, unless a bilateral cooperation agreement has been signed by Morocco and the applicant's country of origin. According to a representative from the North African Affairs Bureau of the U.S. State Department, no such agreement exists between the U.S. and any country. Therefore no U.S. physicians, whether D.O. or M.D., are eligible to be licensed in Morocco.

Contact: Ministere de la Sante Publique
355, avenue Mohammed V
Rabat
MOROCCO

Nepal

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

The Nepalese Minister of Health granted full practice rights to osteopathic physicians upon the AOA's first and only request. Full practice rights will be granted after approval by the Nepal Medical Council and the acquisition of a visa from the Immigration Department.

Contact: Nepal Medical Council
Exhibition Road
Siddi Sadan
Katmandu
NEPAL

Netherlands

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: undetermined

The AOA sent a letter to the Netherlands requesting recognition of the U.S. D.O. degree for licensure of physicians. 1999 - The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport sent an application plus the requirements for "admission of foreign doctors." The requirements for licensure do not specifically recognize U.S.-trained D.O.s. The osteopathic physician interested in licensure will complete the application and submit it for licensure.

Contact: Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sport
PO Box 16114
2500 BC Den Haag
THE NETHERLANDS

New Zealand

Year of Last Request: 2005

Scope of Practice: unlimited on a case-by-case basis

A US educated DO was granted full licensure to practice medicine as a GP with a specialty of Musculoskeletal Medicine. The license was awarded following a hearing before the licensing authorities in New Zealand.

Contact: Chairman
The Medical Council of New Zealand
PO Box 11649
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND
<http://www.ncnz.org.nz>

John Cullen, D.O., M.N.Z.R.O.
New Zealand Register of Osteopaths
PO Box 11-853
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Nicaragua

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

Per a telephone conversation with the Assistant Secretary for Non-governmental Assistance, budget constriction in Nicaragua prevents the government from paying foreigners who wish to work in Nicaragua. Financial aid is sometimes given through foundations and tax exemptions are given on items brought by foreign workers, such as medical equipment.

Contact: Minister de Salud
Ministerio de Salud
Ste. A Gallo y Villa Sur
Edif. Complejo Camilo Ortega
Managua
NICARAGUA

Nigeria

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unlimited

In order to gain licensure in Nigeria, an osteopathic physician must have graduated from an AOA accredited college of osteopathic medicine and must have completed a one-year rotating internship. An appearance in front of the Nigeria Medical Council is also required and an oral quiz may be mandated. Reciprocity exists with several other African countries and with the United States. In 1999, the AOA received a letter from a DO who is licensed in Nigeria. He was licensed in Nigeria by reciprocity of his Texas license and recognition of AOA training programs. He is licensed to practice medicine and surgery with a specialty certificate in orthopedics.

Contact: Dean, Faculty of Medicine
University of Ibadan
Ibadan
NIGERIA

Medical & Dental Council of Nigeria
PO Box 3795
Surulere Lagos
NIGERIA

Norway

Year of Last Request: 1990

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

Although D.O.s are able to obtain a license to practice only manipulation in Norway, they are not permitted to use the title "doctor" and all osteopathic services are not covered for payment under Norway's socialized medicine system.

Contact: Directorate of Health of Norway
Post Boks 8128
N-0032 Oslo 1
NORWAY

Pakistan

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unknown

Although the Council does not recognize the D.O. degree, one U.S.-trained D.O. has been recognized on individual merits by the Council after much documentary evidence; however, his practice is confined to one hospital and he may not engage in private practice.

Contact: Pakistan Medical and Dental Council
Mauve Area
Sector G-10/4
Islamabad Federal Capital
PAKISTAN
<http://pmdc.org.pk>

Panama

Year of Last Request: 1994

Scope of Practice: unlimited

The University of Panama must first accept the diploma of the applicant as equivalent to that issued by the University. The applicant must also be a citizen of Panama and fulfil any necessary training from the Technical Council of Public Health.

Contact: Director General
Ministerio de Salud

Apartado 2048
Panama 1,
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Papua New Guinea

Year of Last Request: 1996
Scope of Practice: unlimited

Two U.S.-trained D.O.s were able to secure medical practitioner licenses. The physicians reported that it was a long, involved process that took approximately one year to accomplish. Physicians can also apply for a short-term or a long-term volunteer service license.

Contact: Registrar
Medical Board of
Papua New Guinea
PO Box 841
Port Moresby National Capital District
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Peru

Year of Last Request: 1994
Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Colegio Medico del Peru
261 Los Procers
Lima, PERU

Ministry of Health
Ave Salaverry S-N
Cudra 7
Lima
PERU

Philippines

Year of Last Request: 1994
Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Philippines Board of Medicine
P Paredes Street
Sampaloc Manila
PHILIPPINES

Romania

Year of Last Request: 1994
Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Ministry of Health and Family
Secdor 1
Ministerului 224
Bucharest
ROMANIA

Russia/Commonwealth of Independent States

Year of Last Request: 1994
Scope of Practice: unlimited with sponsor

Several U.S.-trained D.O.s have provided services in parts of the former U.S.S.R. through a program established by Deborah Hospital of New Jersey. According to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, a licensure process is not up and running; therefore, foreign doctors make arrangements to practice through Russian sponsors, such as hospitals or businesses.

Contact: Russian newspapers/medical journals

Ministry of Public Health
Vadikovsky Per 18-20
101474 Moscow
RUSSIA

Association of Physicians of Russia
15-2-239 Petrozavodskaja St.
125502 Moscow
RUSSIA

St. Lucia

Year of Last Request: 2000
Scope of Practice: unlimited
A U.S.-educated D.O. was granted an unlimited license to practice medicine based on his credentials.
Contact: Medical Council of St. Lucia
Minister of Education & Health
Castries
ST. LUCIA

St. Kitts

Year of last Request: sometime before 1990
Scope of Practice: unknown
AOA file information indicates that the point of contact to inquire about osteopathic licensure is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, however no address is given.
Contact: Medical Board of St. Christopher & Nevis
PO Box 186
Basseterre
St. Kitts
WEST INDIES

Saudi Arabia

Year of Last Request: 1994
Scope of Practice: unlimited
In order to practice medicine in Saudi Arabia, a foreign physician must be recruited by a government agency, a corporation or a private health care entity, such as a hospital.
Contact: Saudi newspapers/medical journals

Scotland

Year of Request: 1998
Scope of Practice: varies
A US-trained D.O. has been working in Scotland for several years as a non-physician osteopath. An osteopathic physician sponsored by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons was denied licensure based on the fact that osteopathic medical schools are not accredited by WHO. The AOA supplied the physician with information on osteopathic accreditation and also supplied information that WHO is not an accrediting agency for any medical schools in the U.S.
Contact: The Secretary
Scottish Osteopathic Society
Rosemount Osteopathy
26 Northfield Place
Aberdeen AB25 1SD

SCOTLAND
Tel: 01224 635999
<http://www.scottish-osteopathic-society.co.uk/index.htm>

Sierra Leone

Year of Last Request: 1993
Scope of Practice: unlimited
Physician licensure can be obtained in Sierra Leone with the submission of notarized osteopathic medical school diploma, curricula vitae and a letter of intent to the Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Desire to work with a mission or for the needy will work in the applicant's favor. In addition, a D.O. who has been living in Sierra Leone for many years has been extremely helpful in assisting other D.O.s with obtaining practice rights.
Contact: Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health
Youyi Building, Brooksfields
Freetown
SIERRA LEONE

Singapore

Year of Last Request: 1993
Scope of Practice: denied
The Singapore Medical Council will not recognize the D.O. degree; in fact, it will only recognize those M.D. degrees conferred by 11 allopathic medical schools.
Contact: Singapore Medical Council Singapore Medical Council/Ministry of Health
Level 4 Institute of Health College of Medicine Building
32nd Hospital Avenue 168937 16 College Road
SINGAPORE SINGAPORE 169854
<http://www.gov.sg/moh>

South Africa

Year of Last Request: 1996
Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation
Osteopathic medicine is not legislatively defined and many barriers exist in licensing foreign-trained physicians despite the crucial need (there is only one doctor per 3,400 black South Africans). In 1996, the AOA wrote a letter to the South African Medical Council on behalf of a D.O. who was part of a medical mission team going to South Africa. The medical council did not wish to grant the U.S.-trained D.O. a temporary license to do medical missions work.
Contact: Registrar
Health Professions Council of South Africa
PO Box 205
Pretoria, Gauteng 0001
SOUTH AFRICA
<http://www.hpcs.co.za>

Spain

Year of Last Request: 1994
Scope of Practice: denied
Osteopathic medicine is not regulated in Spain and therefore, per the Secretary General of the Spanish Ministry of Health, D.O.s may not obtain physician licenses.
Contact: Col·legi Oficial de Metges de Barcelona
Centre of Studies
Corsega 257 Parl 08036
Barcelona Catalonia
SPAIN

Spanish Consejo General de Colegios Medicos
Villaneuva 114
E-28001 Madrid
SPAIN

<http://www.cgcom.org/ome0.htm>

Sweden

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unlimited

An osteopathic physician met with Swedish officials and they did not seem to have any objections to U.S.-trained osteopathic physicians being licensed there (especially since two U.S.-trained D.O.s were granted full practice rights in 1974 and 1976).

Contact: Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
Klara Ostra Kyrkogata #10
Stockholm
SWEDEN

Switzerland

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: denied

Only Swiss citizens and "recognized refugees" are eligible to sit for the state-administered physician licensure exams. Passage of the examinations is the first step in receiving a license. After the examination process, one must obtain a work permit in order to participate in a post doctoral training program (residency) of which there are far less positions than applicants. This work permit expires after twelve months and cannot be renewed. Further, osteopathic medicine is not recognized by the Swiss government.

Contact: Swiss Medical Association
Elfenstrasse 18
3000 Bern 16
SWITZERLAND
<http://www.fmh.ch>

Syria

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: unknown

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Minister of Health
Parliament Street
Damascus
SYRIA

Taiwan

Year of Last Request: 1998

Scope of Practice: unlimited

The R.O.C. government recognizes the U.S. D.O. degree. This allows U.S.-educated D.O.s to sit for Taiwan's Examination Yuan and, if successful, can continue on in the process for licensure.

Contact: Director
General Department of Health
100 Aikuo East Road
Taipei
TAIWAN

Tanzania

Year of Last Request: 1985

Scope of Practice: unlimited

Licensure will be granted to applicants with medical school degrees who have completed a required, although unspecified, residency. Temporary work permits are available and reregistration is required annually.

Contact: Medical Council of Tanganyika
PO Box 9083
Dar-es-Salaam
TANZANIA

Thailand

Year of Last Request: 1996

Scope of Practice: undetermined

The AOA did not receive a response to its request for information on how a U.S. educated D.O. could obtain licensure.

Contact: Thai Medical Council
275 Devavesm Palace
Bangkok 2
THAILAND

Turkey

Year of Last Request: 1988

Scope of Practice: unknown

AOA file information is scant and to date no new requests have been made.

Contact: Turkey Ministry of Health
T.C. Saglik Bakanligi
Sihhiye Ankara
TURKEY

Uganda

Year of Last Request: 1990

Scope of Practice: denied

Uganda does not recognize the osteopathic profession and has therefore denied any type of practice rights to U.S.-trained D.O.s.

Contact: Registrar
Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners
PO Box 16115
Wandegeya Kampala
UGANDA

Ukraine

Year of Last Request: 1999

Scope of Practice: unknown

There has been discussion about the possibility of establishing rotations, specifically ophthalmology, in the Ukraine. Documentation has been sent regarding the equivalence of DOs and MDs in the United States.

Contact: Contact the AOA for further information
(800) 621-1773 ext. 8280

United Arab Emirates

Year of Last Request: 1993 and 2004

Scope of Practice: varied

A U.S.-trained D.O. who has practiced in the U.A.E. for many years has informed the AOA about the status of osteopathic licensure. Physician licensure is difficult. In 2004, an osteopathic physician who also has a practice in Lebanon petitioned for recognition. The Ministry contacted the UAE Embassy in the United States for more information. The AOA provided the Embassy with information about the profession and but his request was denied.

Contact: Ministry of Health
PO Box 848
Abu Dhabi,
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
<http://www.moh.gov.ae>

Venezuela

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unknown

To date, the AOA has not received a response from the Health Minister regarding osteopathic licensure.

Contact: Ministerio de Sanidad & Asistencia Social
Recursos Humanos
Chief Executive Officer
Caracas
VENEZUELA

Vietnam

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: unlimited

U.S.-trained D.O.s will be accepted as full physicians in Vietnam. Foreign physicians can fill vacancies in hospitals that are in need of certain specialists. However, these hospitals are government-owned and pay very low wages if any at all. Most foreign physicians are providing volunteer care to the people of Vietnam.

Contact: Ministry of Health
138A Gian Vo Street
Hanoi
VIETNAM

Professor Nguyen Kim Son
Viet-Doc Hospital
40 Trang Thi
Hanoi
VIETNAM

Professor Le Huy Lieu
Bach Mai Hospital
Giai Phonv Road
Hanoi
VIETNAM

Professor Trihn Kim Anh
Cho Ray Hospital
201A Nguyen Chi Thanh Street
District 5, HCMC
VIETNAM

Zambia

Year of Last Request: 1971

Scope of Practice: unlimited

A degree from an accredited college of osteopathic medicine is required for licensure in Zambia.

Contact: Medical Council of Zambia
PO Box 32554
Lukasa 10101
ZAMBIA

Zimbabwe

Year of Last Request: 1993

Scope of Practice: limited to manipulation

After review of the osteopathic medical curriculum, the Health Professions Council of Zimbabwe denied the AOA's request for full practice rights and instead referred D.O. licensure requests to the Natural Therapists Council.

Contact: Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe
PO Box CY2817
Causeway Harare
ZIMBABWE