

Melanie Eissens,
Hand therapist MSc,
European Certified Hand Therapist (ECHT)



Melanie Eissens graduated from Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy in 1996. Additionally, she has a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Hand Therapy from the University of Derby. In 2011 Melanie was awarded by the EFSHT with the ECHT (European Certified Hand Therapist).

Before moving to London, Melanie has been working as a hand therapist in several hospitals but the last 14 years in the University Medical Centre Groningen in the Netherlands. She started working at The London Hand and Wrist Unit as a Clinical Specialist in Hand Therapy in 2015. In March 2017, she started working at the Royal London Hospital, NHS Bartshealth, the Major Trauma Center of the UK.

Melanie is co-owner of and teacher at 'the Hand Academy', which organises post-graduate hand therapy courses in the Netherlands. Subsequently, Melanie has presented at EFSHT & IFSHT congresses, published several articles, has written textbook chapters on hand therapy following tendon repair, mirror-box therapy and therapeutic interventions, has been board member for nine years of the Dutch Society of Hand Therapy (NVHT) and chair of the Education Committee of the IFSHT.

In 2012 and 2013 she spent several weeks in Sierra Leone with Doctors of the World, providing hand therapy, training and advice to therapists in Makeni and Masanga. In the beginning of 2019 Melanie had the same experience in Tanzania.

Melanie's areas of particular interest are major (and minor) trauma, soft tissue, pediatric hand, wrist, elbow and sport related hand injuries.