

Guide for Overseas Qualified Optometrists

To work as an optometrist in Australia you must be registered with the Optometry Board Australia. As an International Medical Professional, your qualifications must be assessed to determine if they meet Australian standards. The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) assesses overseas qualifications for International Medical Graduates.

Steps:

- ☐ Qualification Check and Competence in Optometry Examination (COE) through OCANZ
 - ☐ 1 - check if your qualification is listed as eligible for direct application to the COE (application process takes 4 weeks)
 - ☐ 2 - non-listed qualifications must be assessed for eligibility (application process takes 8 weeks)
- ☐ Complete the COE (when your qualifications and experience are eligible)
 - ☐ Written Examination: Multiple-choice and short answer
 - ☐ Cultural Safety
 - ☐ Clinical Examination
- ☐ Complete the Assessment in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT):
 - ☐ 1 - complete an approved program of post-graduate study in AUstralia o
 - ☐ 2 - complete the ACOT
- ☐ Apply for general registration with the Optometry Board.

Required Documents:

- ☐ Current and valid passport.
- ☐ Official certificate of your degree from the issuing institution.
- ☐ Evidence of supervised clinical training (a minimum of one academic year full-time equivalent is required).
- ☐ Certificates from all authorities in which you are registered as an Optometrist.
- ☐ Course handbook outlining the units completed in your degree, subject matter, hours completed and a list of prescribed textbooks.

Essential Information:

- Fees:
 - COE: between AUD\$11,600 and AUD\$12000
 - ACOT: AUD\$4100
 - General Registration: AUD\$750
- Time estimates: 18-months to 2-years minimum to complete each step to achieve general registration. The COE is scheduled twice a year. The ACOT is scheduled as required and takes a minimum of 3-4 months to be completed.

Links:

- Optometry Board Australia: <https://www.optometryboard.gov.au/>
- OCANZ: <https://www.ocanz.org/>