



# POLICY FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION OF APPLICANTS WITH INTERNATIONAL OPTICAL DISPENSING QUALIFICATIONS

## 1. Policy purpose and background

- 1.1. Section 15(2) of the Act provides that the Board may treat any overseas qualification as a prescribed qualification if, in the Board's opinion, that qualification is equivalent to, or as satisfactory as a prescribed qualification.
- 1.2. This policy provides the assessment and registration processes for international graduates from optical dispensing programmes (or their education institution), that are not:
  - 1.2.1. listed as a prescribed qualification leading to registration in the gazetted scope of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ), and
  - 1.2.2. accredited with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB).
- 1.3. This policy revokes and replaces the ODOB's *Policy on assessment of exam eligibility – for dispensing opticians (2015)*.

## 2. The scope of this policy

- 2.1. The policy applies to international graduates from dispensing optician programmes, seeking registration with the ODOB.
- 2.2. This policy does not apply to optometry applicants/candidates seeking registration in the Optometry scope of practice. They are assessed by Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) for eligibility for registration in the provisional optometrist scope of practice. However, it may also apply to optometrists who want to apply for registration in the Dispensing optician scope of practice.
- 2.3. Refer to the *Policy for Registration in the Dispensing Optician Scope of Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand*, and the *Scopes of practice* (Appendix 1) and *Registration pathways* (Appendix 2) documents.

## 3. Acronyms and abbreviations

- 3.1. The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this policy:

NZ	Aotearoa New Zealand
ADONZ	Association of Dispensing Opticians of New Zealand
Board	The governing Board of the Optometrist and Dispensing Opticians Board
CODE	Competency in Optical Dispensing Examination
HPCA Act	Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003
NZQA	New Zealand Qualifications Authority
ODOB	Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board
OCANZ	Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

## 4. Definitions and interpretation

4.1. The following definitions and interpretations are used in this policy:

First language	The language a person learnt to speak first, also known as their mother tongue or home language.
Fitness for registration	To be able to register a practitioner, the ODOB must be satisfied that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the practitioner can communicate effectively and comprehend English sufficiently to protect public health and safety.</li> <li>the practitioner does not suffer from a physical or mental condition which may affect their ability to practise.</li> <li>if the practitioner has a conviction for an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of 3 months or longer, that the offence does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise.</li> <li>if the practitioner is or was under investigation or the subject of professional disciplinary proceedings in NZ (or in another country), that the investigation or matter does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise.</li> <li>if the practitioner is or was subject to any of the following orders, that the order does not reflect adversely on their fitness to practise. That is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an order of a professional disciplinary tribunal in NZ or overseas.</li> <li>an order of an accredited educational institution.</li> <li>an order of an authority or of a similar body in another country.</li> </ul> </li> <li>the ODOB has no reason to believe that the practitioner may endanger the health or safety of members of the public.</li> </ul>
International graduates	Graduates who hold an international (overseas) qualification and not a prescribed qualification of a particular scope of practice in NZ.
Prescribed qualification	As defined in the HPCA Act which states a “prescribed qualification means a qualification for the time being prescribed under section 12 for a scope of practice.” In summary, section 12 outlines an authority must prescribe qualifications for each of its scopes of practice. These prescribed qualifications may designate one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a degree or diploma from an educational institute ODOB has accredited,</li> <li>successful completion of a degree, course or programme accredited by ODOB,</li> <li>a pass in a specified exam or assessment set and approved by ODOB,</li> <li>registration with an overseas organisation that performs functions that correspond with those performed by ODOB, or</li> <li>experience in the provision of a health service of a particular kind.</li> </ul>
Scope of practice	As defined in the HPCA Act which states a “scope of practice: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>means any health service that forms part of a health profession and that is for the time being described under section 11, and</li> <li>in relation to a health practitioner of that profession, means one or more of such health services that the practitioner is, under an authorisation granted under section 21, permitted to perform, subject to any conditions for the time being imposed by the responsible authority.”</li> </ol>

## 5. The process for applicants with international (overseas) qualifications, seeking registration in the Dispensing optician scope of practice with the ODOB

5.1. The **process** includes the following:

- 5.1.1. A **self-assessment** to assist prospective applicants that hold an international qualification in optical dispensing (not a prescribed qualification), in deciding whether to apply for the assessment for eligibility for registration. The self-assessment does not form part of the application process. See Appendix 3.

- 5.1.2. Completion of the **Application for the Assessment of Qualification Equivalence** supported with evidence and pay the required (non-refundable) fee for an assessment. The application and supporting evidence is used to determine whether their qualification is acceptable for the purposes of registration or whether further assessment is required to assess eligibility for registration<sup>1</sup>.
- 5.1.3. All overseas qualifications will be subject to an initial **qualifications assessment** based on the applicant's portfolio to assess the applicant's qualification and quality level, and requisite knowledge and skill, and whether they are fit for registration. This is done using a set of standard criteria that is applied to each assessment (see Appendix 4). These qualification assessments are conducted by an ODOB staff member and recorded on a standard report template: *International Graduates Registration Assessment Report*.
- 5.1.4. Please see Appendix 5 for the **types of ODOB determinations**.
- 5.1.5. The ODOB fees are published on its website (<https://www.odob.health.nz>).

## 5.2. Self-assessment

- 5.2.1. The self-assessment form (Appendix 3) provides a template for the applicant to list the domains/ key competence requirements listed in the ODOB standards.
- 5.2.2. The self-assessment form will assist prospective applicants to assess whether they meet the ODOB standards for dispensing opticians practising in Aotearoa New Zealand, and whether to apply for assessment for eligibility for registration. Applicants are encouraged to complete this form, and to answer all questions honestly and fully.
- 5.2.3. The self-assessment is not intended to form part of the application process, and if submitted with the application, will have no bearing on the ODOB's assessment of the applicant's eligibility for registration.

## 5.3. Application for assessment

- 5.3.1. To complete the application for the assessment of their qualification, applicants/candidate must:
  - a) provide proof of identity as per the ODOB's *Identity policy*.
  - b) provide proof of qualification(s) as per the ODOB's *Registration policy*.
  - c) provide information regarding any issues that may affect their ability to practise safely in Aotearoa New Zealand as per the ODOB's *Fitness to practise policy*.
  - d) providing a verified criminal convictions check, either in NZ and/or an overseas police check where relevant. Convictions will be managed under the ODOB's *Convictions policy*.
  - e) where English is not the applicant's/candidate's first language, they are required to meet the English proficiency requirements as per the ODOB's *English language policy*.
  - f) declare and provide information about any mental or physical health conditions that may impact on the applicant's/candidate's ability to perform the required practise of an optometrist of dispensing optician as per the ODOB's *Health policy*.
  - g) provide evidence of good standing with any other regulatory bodies currently or previously registered with, and details of any disciplinary action taken or pending.
- 5.3.2. The application and portfolio must include, but is not limited to the following information:
  - a) the course book or prospectus published by the qualifying institution relevant to the period when the course was completed. Programme details such as length of course/ programme, length, and type of practical training and how it was conducted must be clear.
  - b) formal full academic record with the official syllabus of each subject of the course including the hours of instruction, content, and prescribed textbooks applicable when the course was undertaken, and/or an international assessment of qualification by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)<sup>2</sup>.
  - c) evidence of any other relevant formal education undertaken.
  - d) evidence of registration with any overseas body that regulates optometry or optical dispensing.

<sup>1</sup> ODOB Fees: <https://www.odob.health.nz/site/fees>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/international/recognise-overseas-qual/apply-iga/>

- e) a detailed curriculum vitae including information on all positions held, the duration of those positions, and tasks undertaken in each position, which may be verified by the ODOB (any gaps in employment must be explained).
- f) any references from employers attesting to the applicant's/candidate's skills and abilities, with contract details of at least two professional references, and
- g) any other information the applicant/candidate provides in support of their application.

5.4. The ODOB Competency in Optical Dispensing Examination (CODE) is a listed prescribed qualification, leading to registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice in NZ.

5.4.1. The ODOB Competency in Optical Dispensing Examination (CODE) is a listed prescribed qualification, leading to registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice in NZ.

5.4.2. The ODOB Competency in Optical Dispensing Examination (CODE) consists of a:

- a) one hour theory-based examination to assess the candidate's underpinning knowledge and skills, and
- b) a three to four-hour practical examination that includes:
- c) An interview to further assess underpinning knowledge and skills using competency-based questions. It also assesses the candidate's ability to communicate effectively within the scope.
- d) Several test stations with one or more role players (i.e., patients, support persons, etc.).

5.4.3. The ADONZ's OptiBlocks Education committee is the approved New Zealand – based testing body, and responsible for examining applicants/candidate with international qualifications in optical dispensing. Associated costs for this examination are paid to ADONZ. The examination centre is based in a practice in Gisborne, New Zealand.

5.4.4. Applicants/candidates must be in New Zealand to sit this examination. They are responsible for all booking, travel, accommodation arrangements and other associated costs for sitting the examination.

5.4.5. The ADONZ OptiBlocks Education Committee will make the decision on the examination outcome and notify the applicant/candidate. The ODOB will also receive a notification of the decision.

5.4.6. A **pass grade (competent)** for the CODE means the applicant/candidate is eligible to apply for registration in the Dispensing optician scope of practice.

5.4.7. If the assessor deems an applicant/candidate **"not yet competent"** (essentially a **failed grade**), it means the applicant/candidate does not yet meet the ODOB's safe standard of competency and care, but the assessor believes they may meet the required level of competency with further upskilling:

- a) If an applicant/candidate is deemed "not yet competent", then the assessor (as delegated by the ADONZ OptiBlocks Education Committee) will make recommendations to upskill in the deficient areas of knowledge. The applicant/candidate will be informed of the assessor's decision and recommendation. The applicant/candidate may make a submission to the Executive Committee who will consider all the evidence and make a final recommendation to the applicant/candidate.
- b) Such upskilling requirements can be:
  - a recognised paper or course, and/or
  - a period of supervision by an ODOB registered and approved practitioner, and/or
  - an opportunity to resit the examination.
- c) All costs involved in the upskilling requirements are at the applicant's/candidate's own costs.
- d) Participation in this process is optional.
  - If the applicant/candidate chooses to complete the upskilling requirements, this must be completed within 12 months after the initial CODE assessment.
  - Applicants who do not provide evidence of successful completion of the upskilling requirements in the required area/s within 12 months, are marked as a failed grade. Any further attempts to sit the CODE will require a new application to the ODOB.
- e) Upon successful completion of upskilling requirements, sufficient evidence/ proof will be considered by the Executive Committee for a determination.

5.4.8. A **failed grade (not competent)** for the CODE, means the applicant is not eligible to apply for registration in the Dispensing optician scope of practice. The ADONZ OptiBlocks Education Committee will inform the applicant that it proposes to decline the application, with reasons

provided. The applicant will then have an opportunity to be heard by and make submissions to the Board in respect of the proposed decision. Please refer to the ODOB's *Assessment policy*.

- 5.4.9. A candidate can only pay for and sit the ODOB Competency in Optical Dispensing Examination (CODE) three times within a rolling 5-year period<sup>3</sup>. If they haven't received a pass grade in this period, they must wait until the full 5-year period is complete before another applicant to sit the CODE will be accepted.

## 5.5. Process for registration

- 5.5.1. Please refer to the ODOB's *Registration policy*, and *Policy for registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand*.

## 6. Related legislation, policies, and procedures

- 6.1. The ODOB's *Registration policy*  
6.2. The ODOB's *Policy for registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand*  
6.3. The ODOB's *English language requirements and tests policy*  
6.4. The ODOB's *Competence to practise policy*  
6.5. The ODOB's *Fitness to practise policy*  
6.6. The ODOB's *Recertification policy*  
6.7. The ODOB's *Assessment policy*.

Revision history			
Version	Changes	Approval date	Next review
v1	Drafted as a result of the ODOB's 2022/2023 transformation programme that included a full review of key policies.	January 2024	2027

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<sup>3</sup> An attempt means the applicant has paid for an sat the CODE and received a final determination from the Executive Committee or Board.

### SCOPES OF PRACTICE

The Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB, the Board) has three scopes of practice for optometrists, and one scope of practice for dispensing opticians.

#### 1. Dispensing Optician Scope of Practice

- 1.1 A dispensing optician registered in the Dispensing Optician Scope of Practice has a qualification prescribed by the Board, is involved in the practice of interpreting and dispensing optical prescriptions, and may perform specified delegated tasks, set by the Board, which are clinical support services for New Zealand registered optometrists or ophthalmologists who provide direct patient care.
- 1.2 A registered dispensing optician in New Zealand:
  - 1.2.1 Is qualified to give advice and instruction in the dispensing of spectacle lenses, spectacle frames (including their fitting), contact lenses, and any other optical device intended for correction of a defect of sight.
  - 1.2.2 May perform the following delegated tasks in support of New Zealand registered optometrists or ophthalmologists who provide direct patient care:
    - a) Operate diagnostic equipment, including but not limited to, automated visual field analyser, auto-refractor, non-contact tonometer, digital imaging devices, colour vision tests, standardised visual perceptual tests
    - b) Administration of pre-test questionnaires and obtaining of health information
    - c) Instruction of treatment plans
    - d) Administration of medicines under a Standing Order
    - e) “Delegated tasks” means activities that are delegated to a dispensing optician by an optometrist or ophthalmologist and which are done under the supervision of the optometrist or ophthalmologist (not necessarily direct supervision). The responsibility for ensuring the dispensing optician has the knowledge and training to perform the delegated task lies with the delegating health practitioner (optometrist or ophthalmologist), as does any interpretation, diagnosis, treatment outcomes and subsequent management of the patient.
- 1.3 Prescribed qualifications for registration in the Dispensing Optician Scope of Practice
  - 1.3.1 The applicant holds the qualification Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing, awarded by the New South Wales Technical and Further Education Commission, or proof of eligibility to graduate from this course, and has submitted a completed and signed record of training book showing evidence of the completion of a minimum of 800 hours of practical experience as specified in the record of training book, within two years of qualification or a period otherwise approved by the Board (Pathway 1 – ‘Dispensing Optician’); or
  - 1.3.2 The applicant holds the qualification Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing, awarded by the Australasian College of Optical Dispensing, or proof of eligibility to graduate from this course, and has submitted a completed and signed record of training book showing evidence of the completion of a minimum of 800 hours of practical experience as specified in the Board’s record of training book, within two years of qualification or a period otherwise approved by the Board (Pathway 1 – ‘Dispensing Optician’); or
  - 1.3.3 The applicant holds the qualification FBDO (UK) (Pathway 1 – ‘Dispensing Optician’); or
  - 1.3.4 The applicant holds the qualification FBDO (Overseas), and has submitted a completed and signed record of training book showing evidence of the completion of a minimum of 800 hours of practical experience, within two years of qualification or a period otherwise approved by the Board (Pathway 1 – ‘Dispensing Optician’); or
  - 1.3.5 The applicant has passed an optical dispensing examination approved by the board (Pathway 1 – ‘Dispensing Optician’).

## **2. Provisional Optometrist Scope of Practice (time-limited)**

- 2.1 An optometrist registered in the provisional optometrist scope of practice provides evidence-based comprehensive eye health and vision care in a professional and ethical manner (excluding the prescribing of therapeutic medicines), in accordance with the HPCA Act, works under supervision, and is in the process of completing Board-accredited training to prescribe therapeutic medicines.
- 2.2 The Provisional Optometrist Scope of Practice is time-limited and registration in this scope of practice will end after three years, or other period as specified by the Board from time to time, or on the successful completion of a Board-accredited therapeutics qualification leading to registration in the Optometrist Scope of Practice.
- 2.3 Evidence of enrolment in a Board-accredited therapeutics course will be required at the time of registration.
- 2.4 The optometrist's registration may be subject to conditions as set out in section 22(3) of the HPCA Act.
- 2.5 These conditions may include:
  - 2.5.1 a requirement to practise under supervision;
  - 2.5.2 a requirement to practise under oversight;
  - 2.5.3 that the practitioner may not perform certain tasks, or that those tasks are only performed under certain circumstances;
  - 2.5.4 a requirement to practise only in a stated capacity, for example as an employee or a nominated person or a person of a stated class;
  - 2.5.5 a requirement to practise only for a specified period;
  - 2.5.6 a requirement to get one or more stated qualifications or further experience of a stated kind; and
  - 2.5.7 a requirement to comply with any condition the Board believes to be necessary to protect the safety of the public.
- 2.6 Prescribed qualifications for registration in the Provisional Optometrist Scope of Practice
  - 2.6.1 The optometrist must provide evidence of a pass in the OCANZ COE (Pathway 2 – 'Provisional').

## **3. Optometrist Scope of Practice**

- 3.1 An optometrist registered in the optometrist scope of practice provides evidence-based comprehensive eye health and vision care in a professional and ethical manner, in accordance with the HPCA Act.
- 3.2 The "practice of optometry" includes:
  - 3.2.1 prescribing any ophthalmic appliance, optical appliance, or ophthalmic medical device intended for remedial or cosmetic purposes or for the correction of a defect of sight;
  - 3.2.2 assessing, diagnosing, treating and managing conditions affecting the eye and its appendages;
  - 3.2.3 prescribing medicines whose sale and supply is restricted by law to prescription by authorised prescribers;
  - 3.2.4 reporting or giving advice in an ophthalmic capacity, using the knowledge, skills, attitudes and competence initially attained for the primary optometry qualification and built upon in postgraduate and continuing clinical education, wherever there could be an issue of patient health or wellbeing;
  - 3.2.5 signing any certificate required for statutory purposes, such as driver licensing eyesight certificates; and
  - 3.2.6 holding out to the public, or representing in any manner that one is authorised to practise optometry in New Zealand.
- 3.3 The practice of optometry goes wider than clinical optometry, and includes teaching, research, optometric or eye health management, in hospitals, clinics, general optometric practices and community and institutional contexts, whether paid or voluntary.
- 3.4 Additionally, clinical practice is defined as any work undertaken by an optometrist that relates to the care of an individual patient. Non-clinical practice is defined as any work undertaken by an optometrist that does not relate to the care of an individual patient.
- 3.5 Prescribed qualifications for registration in the Optometrist Scope of Practice
- 3.6 The optometrist must satisfy all the requirements from one of the following options:
  - 3.6.1 hold a primary optometry degree from a New Zealand or Australian university accredited by the Board for the purposes of registration in New Zealand, and published on the Board's website (Pathway 1 – 'Optometrist'); or
  - 3.6.2 hold General Registration in Australia.

#### **4. Specialist optometrist scope of practice – Ophthalmic Laser Surgeries**

- 4.1 An optometrist registered in the Specialist optometrist scope of practice – Ophthalmic laser surgeries is authorised to perform specified ophthalmic surgical procedures below the mucous membrane or surface of the skin. Specifically, they are authorised to perform:
  - 4.1.1 neodymium:yttrium-aluminum-garnet (Nd:YAG) laser capsulotomy; and/or
  - 4.1.2 neodymium:yttrium-aluminum-garnet (Nd:YAG) laser peripheral iridotomy in an approved hospital setting.
- 4.2 Prescribed Qualification for the Specialist optometrist scope of practice – Ophthalmic laser surgeries
- 4.3 The optometrist must satisfy all of the following requirements:
  - 4.3.1 Hold registration in the Optometrist Scope of Practice and not be subject to any conditions; and
  - 4.3.2 have worked in a hospital ophthalmology department for a minimum of three years with at least 400 hours as a clinician in the relevant cataract and/or glaucoma clinic (as applies); and
  - 4.3.3 have demonstrated their understanding and comprehensive knowledge in the specified areas of competence for the safe delivery of ophthalmic laser surgeries published on the Board’s website (Pathway 4 – Specialist optometrist scope of practice – Ophthalmic laser surgeries) to the satisfaction of their supervising ophthalmologist; and
  - 4.3.4 have satisfactorily observed the minimum required number of surgeries being performed by their supervising ophthalmologist published on the Board’s website (Pathway 4 – Specialist optometrist scope of practice – Ophthalmic laser surgeries), attested to by their supervising ophthalmologist; and
  - 4.3.5 have satisfactorily and independently performed the required number of surgeries under the supervision of their supervising ophthalmologist published on the Board’s website (Pathway 4 – Specialist optometrist scope of practice – Ophthalmic laser surgeries), attested to by their supervising ophthalmologist.



# REGISTRATION PATHWAYS FROM ACCREDITED PRESCRIBED QUALIFICATIONS

## Introduction

The Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB) has four registration pathways:

1. Registration Pathway 1: Dispensing Optician
2. Registration Pathway 2: Provisional Optometrist
3. Registration Pathway 3: Optometrist
4. Registration Pathway 4: Specialist Optometrist – Ophthalmic Laser Surgeries

Each registration pathway lists accredited programmes leading to registration in a specific scope of practice.

## Registration Pathway 1: Dispensing Optician

*Registration in the Dispensing optician scope of practice.*

This registration pathway is for those who hold one of the prescribed qualifications listed below. This will allow registration in the Dispensing optician scope of practice.

To apply for this scope, applicants must hold any one of the listed prescribed qualifications.

### Prescribed Qualifications:

1. Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing, Australasian College of Optical Dispensing (ACOD), Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, or proof of eligibility to graduate from this course; and has submitted a completed and signed record of training book showing evidence of the completion of a minimum of 800 hours of practical experience as specified in the Board's record of training book, within 2 years of qualification or a period otherwise approved by the Board.
2. Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing, New South Wales (NSW) Technical and Further Education (TAFE)/ TAFE digital (conducted by Open Technical Education Network (OTEN))<sup>4</sup>, Australia, or proof of eligibility to graduate from this course; and has submitted a completed and signed record of training book showing evidence of the completion of a minimum of 800 hours of practical experience as specified in the record of training book, within 2 years of qualification or a period otherwise approved by the Board.
3. Level 6<sup>5</sup> Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing (United Kingdom (UK) pathway), Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO), United Kingdom (UK). Graduates are awarded the Fellowship of British Dispensing Opticians (FBDO).
4. The Level 6<sup>6</sup> Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing (Overseas pathway, for students outside the UK), ABDO; and has submitted a completed and signed record of training book showing evidence of the completion of a minimum of 800 hours of practical experience, within 2 years of qualification or a period otherwise approved by the Board. Graduates from this course are awarded the FBDO.
5. The Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing awarded by the RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia) (between 31 May 2009 - 15 September 2022)<sup>7</sup>.
6. An alternative qualification approved by the Board; and the Board may require a pass grade from the Competence in Optical Dispensing Examination (CODE), or another optical dispensing examination as approved by the Board.

<sup>4</sup> NSW TAFE's name has changed to TAFE Digital.

<sup>5</sup> The ABDO programme is mapped at Level 6 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) (England/Northern Ireland) and is recognised by the General Optical Council (GOC). A Level 6 qualification on the RQF may be recognised as a Level 7 qualification on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF), but this would require an assessment by NZQA (<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>).

<sup>6</sup> Level 6 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) (England/Northern Ireland).

<sup>7</sup> Previously called the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) (Melbourne, Australia). Please note, on 20 July 2022, the ODOB has revoked this prescribed qualification. It comes into force on 15 September 2022. Available at: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2022-ps2983>.

## Registration Pathway 2: Provisional Optometrist

*Registration in the Provisional optometrist scope of practice, with a condition.*

This registration pathway is for those who have a pass in the OCANZ's COE, and who are in the process of completing a Board-accredited therapeutics qualification.

Once a practitioner has passed the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)<sup>8</sup> Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)<sup>9</sup>, they are eligible to apply for registration in the Provisional optometrist scope of practice, with a condition (two restrictions) applied that indicates:

- the practitioner must practise under supervision, and
- is in the process of completing Board-accredited training to prescribe therapeutic medicines.

Once both restrictions on the condition are met, the practitioner is eligible to be registered in the Optometrist scope of practice. The provisional optometrist scope of practice is a time-limited scope and registration in this scope will expire in 3 years if a practitioner does not meet the conditions in the given period.

To apply for this scope, applicants must hold this prescribed qualification:

### Prescribed Qualification:

1. A pass grade in the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) Competency in Optometry Examination.

## Registration Pathway 3: Optometrist

*Registration in the Optometrist scope of practice.*

This registration pathway is for those who hold one of the prescribed qualifications listed below. This will allow registration in the Optometrist scope of practice.

To apply for this scope, applicants must hold any one of the listed prescribed qualifications.

### Prescribed qualifications:

1. Bachelor of Optometry, Auckland University, Aotearoa New Zealand (from 2006 onwards)<sup>10</sup>
2. Bachelor of Vision Science/ Master of Optometry, Deakin University, Australia (from 2013 onwards)<sup>11</sup>
3. Bachelor of Science (Vision Science) & Master of Optometry, Flinders University, Australia (2010 onwards)<sup>12</sup>
4. Bachelor of Vision Science/ Master of Optometry, Queensland University of Technology, Australia (from 2023 onwards)<sup>13</sup>
5. Doctor of Optometry, University of Melbourne, Australia (2011 onwards)<sup>14</sup>; or the Bachelor of Optometry, UoM (2006 onwards)<sup>15</sup>
6. Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Clinical Optometry, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia (2017 onwards)<sup>16</sup>; or the Bachelor of Optometry (Honours)/Bachelor of Science (2011 onwards)<sup>17</sup>; or Bachelor of Optometry (2010 onwards)<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ocanz.org/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ocanz.org/examination/competency-in-optometry-examination/>

<sup>10</sup> Any student that has completed their Bachelor of Optometry from 2006 onwards (conferred as of December 2006 or later), may register with the ODOB in the current Optometrist scope of practice, without any conditions prohibiting prescribing.

In 2005, and the Board developed a scope of practice "Optometrist (TPA) Endorsement" (Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agent (TPA) Endorsement) to allow those optometrists who were appropriately trained and qualified to practice as designated prescribers. When the Medicines Amendment Act 2013 and Misuse of Drugs Amendment Regulations 2014 came into effect, there was an expansion of prescribing rights for New Zealand optometrists in 2014. This legislative change recognised that optometrists in New Zealand were, by 2014, appropriately skilled to undertake prescribing of medication in their own right and did not require formal upskilling from the 2005 therapeutic (TPA) scope of practice. The Board no longer has a TPA endorsement on its optometrist scope of practice. Instead, the current Optometrist scope of practice specifies that all registered optometrists may (amongst other things) prescribe medicines. Practitioners who chose not to upskill by 1 April 2007, were registered in the Optometrist scope of practice, with a condition that they may not prescribe medication in accordance with the 'Grandfather clause'.

<sup>11</sup> Initial accreditation date.

<sup>12</sup> This programme was first accredited in 2010 as the Bachelor of Medical Science (Vision Science) and Master of Optometry. In 2023, the programme name changed to the Bachelor of Science (Vision Science) & Master of Optometry.

<sup>13</sup> The date from when students graduated with ocular therapeutics as a part of their undergraduate course.

<sup>14</sup> Before 1994, this was the Bachelor of Science in Optometry. In 1994, it changed to the Bachelor of Optometry. In 2011, the programme changed to the Doctor of Optometry, with its first cohort graduating in December 2014.

<sup>15</sup> The date from when students graduated with ocular therapeutics as a part of their undergraduate course.

<sup>16</sup> The Bachelor of Optometry was first introduced in 1996. In 2011, the programme changed to the Bachelor of Optometry (Honours)/Bachelor of Science. In 2017, it changed to a Bachelor of Vision Science & Master of Clinical Optometry.

<sup>17</sup> Initial accreditation date.

<sup>18</sup> The date from when students graduated with ocular therapeutics as a part of their undergraduate course.

7. Bachelor of Vision Science / Master of Optometry, University of Canberra, Australia (2019 onwards)<sup>19</sup>
8. Doctor of Optometry, University of Western Australia (from 2021 onwards)<sup>20</sup>
9. For applicants who hold an international optometry qualification which is not one of the prescribed qualifications listed above:
  - (a) a pass grade in both the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)<sup>21</sup> Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)<sup>22</sup> and the Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT); or
  - (b) a pass grade in both the OCANZ COE and a pass in an OCANZ-accredited ocular therapeutics qualification. These qualifications currently include:
    - i. Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics, Australian College of Optometry, Australia (from 2013 onwards)<sup>23</sup>
    - ii. Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics, Queensland University of Technology, Australia (conferred between 2006 and 2017)<sup>24</sup>
    - iii. Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics, University of New South Wales, Australia (from 2007 onwards)<sup>25</sup>.

Please note, each application for registration is assessed individually and conditions on a practitioner's scope may apply.

## Registration Pathway 4: Specialist Optometrist – Ophthalmic Laser Surgeries

*Registration in the Specialist optometrist scope of practice – Ophthalmic laser surgeries.*

This registration pathway is for those already registered in the Optometry scope of practice and who have successfully completed the Board-approved training programme (prescribed qualification) for performing specific laser surgeries.

This will allow for registration in the Specialist optometrist scope of practice. Optometrists registered under this scope are authorised to perform specified ophthalmic surgical procedures below the mucous membrane or surface of the skin, specifically:

- capsulotomy; and/or
- laser peripheral iridotomy.

To apply for this scope, applicants must hold the following prescribed qualification:

Prescribed qualification:

1. This prescribed qualification is an internship-based training programme. The prescribed qualification for the registration pathway in the Specialist Optometrist Scope of Practice – Ophthalmic Laser Surgeries requires applicants:
2. To hold registration in the Optometrist Scope of Practice and not be subject to any conditions.
3. To have worked in a hospital ophthalmology department for a minimum of three years with at least 400 hours as a clinician in a Board-approved clinic (as applies).
4. To have demonstrated their understanding and comprehensive knowledge in the following specified areas of competence for the safe delivery of ophthalmic laser surgeries to the satisfaction of their supervising ophthalmologist:
  - a. Comprehensive knowledge of the relevant anatomy and physiology of the eye and adnexa
  - b. Knowledge of the physics of light and laser, and the penetration of light through ocular tissues
  - c. An understanding of the interaction of light and living tissue including thermal effects, photocoagulative effects, photoablative effects and photodisruptive effects
  - d. Knowledge of the wavelengths and powers utilised in ophthalmic lasers for the specific surgery
  - e. Knowledge of required sterile techniques for performing laser surgery

<sup>19</sup> Initial accreditation date.

<sup>20</sup> Initial accreditation date.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.ocanz.org/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.ocanz.org/examination/competency-in-optometry-examination/>

<sup>23</sup> Initial accreditation date.

<sup>24</sup> This programme has been discontinued.

<sup>25</sup> Initial accreditation date.

- f. Knowledge of surgical procedure and specialised equipment
  - g. Knowledge of the risks and benefits for each surgery
  - h. Knowledge of appropriate management plans for adverse outcomes.
5. To have satisfactorily observed a minimum of 20 Nd:YAG capsulotomies and/or Nd:YAG laser periphery iridotomies (as applies) being performed by their supervising ophthalmologist, attested to by their supervising ophthalmologist.
  6. To have satisfactorily and independently performed a minimum of 20 Nd:YAG capsulotomies and/or 10 Nd:YAG laser periphery iridotomies (as applies) under the supervision of their supervising ophthalmologist, attested to by their supervising ophthalmologist.

## APPENDIX 3

# SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM FOR APPLICANTS WITH INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN OPTICAL DISPENSING (NOT A PRESCRIBED QUALIFICATION)

This document is not part of the application and if provided with the application will have no bearing on the Board's assessment.

It is intended to provide applicants with an understanding of the competencies required to practise as a dispensing optician in New Zealand, and to assist applicants in determining whether they wish to apply to have their eligibility assessed.

This is a working document and should be read in conjunction with the ODOB's:

- Standards of clinical competence for dispensing opticians
- Standards of cultural competence and cultural safety
- Standards of ethical conduct.

All these documents can be found at: <https://www.odob.health.nz/site/standards-guidelines>.

### Instructions

Work through each of the relevant listed documents and assess whether:

- you have received formal training and was examined in this area of practice
- you have done this work in practice, and
- Consider examples of how you have applied the knowledge or skill in practice.

Name of standard:	Standards of Clinical Competence		
Unit/domain and Elements	I received formal training and was examined in this area of practice	I do this work in practice	Examples of how I apply this skill and knowledge in practice.
<b>Interprets Optical Prescriptions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyses optical prescriptions.</li><li>• Measures inter pupillary distance.</li><li>• Takes relevant measurements to suit the design of an optical appliance (excluding contact lenses).</li><li>• Adjusts lens power to account for altered vertex distance (VD), base prism, vertical imbalance, or spectacle lens design.</li><li>• Provides advice on optical appliances including lens types,</li></ul>			

frame selection, contact lens care and maintenance regimes.			
<b>Dispenses Optical Prescriptions<sup>26</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verifies optical appliance matches the prescription as ordered using a focimeter, lensometer or by any other recognised means (excluding contact lens).</li> <li>• Duplicates optical appliances using a valid prescription (excluding contact lens).</li> <li>• Verifies visual acuity (excluding contact lens).</li> <li>• Fits, adjusts, and adapts optical appliances to the face (excluding contact lens).</li> <li>• Dispenses contact lenses using a valid prescription (insertion and removal techniques).</li> <li>• Certifies a written script from optometrist records.</li> </ul>			
<b>Maintains Records</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures that all dispensing data is documented in a legible, secure, accessible, permanent, and unambiguous and timely manner.</li> <li>• Maintains confidentiality of patient records in accordance with the Privacy Act.</li> </ul>			
<b>Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicates with the patient in an effective manner.</li> </ul>			
<b>Practice Management / Professional Responsibilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands the principles of planning, establishment, development, and maintenance of an optometric practice.</li> <li>• Understands the legal obligations involved as a registered health practitioner.</li> </ul>			
<b>Delegated Tasks<sup>27</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May perform delegated tasks in support of NZ registered optometrists or ophthalmologists.<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>			

<sup>26</sup> *Statement on Release and Receipt of Patient information.*

<sup>27</sup> These are tasks that are delegated to a dispensing optician by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, and which are done under the supervision of the optometrist or ophthalmologist (not necessarily direct supervision).

<sup>28</sup> The responsibility for ensuring the dispensing optician has the knowledge and training to perform the delegated task lies with the delegating health practitioner (optometrists or ophthalmologist), as does any interpretation, diagnosis, treatment outcomes and subsequent management of the patient.

Name of standard:	The standards of cultural competence and cultural safety		
Unit/domain and Elements	I received formal training and was examined in this area of practice	I do this work in practice	Examples of how I apply this skill and knowledge in practice.
<p><b>The ability to demonstrate and apply the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have knowledge of the interrelationship of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Board’s standards of ethical conduct, clinical competencies, relevant legislation, and their application in practice.</li> <li>• Have knowledge of various appropriate culture-specific approaches.</li> <li>• Have knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, its principles, and its relevance to the health of Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand.</li> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge of health status of ethnic groups.</li> <li>• Understand Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its relevance to the health of Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand.</li> <li>• Understand how Aotearoa New Zealand’s colonial history, systemic bias, and inequities have impacted Māori and Māori health outcomes, and ensuring that your interactions with and care of patients do not perpetuate this.</li> <li>• Acknowledge that general cultural information may not apply to specific patients and that individual patients should not be stereotyped.</li> <li>• Showing respect for your patients’ cultural beliefs, values, and practices.</li> <li>• Understand that your patients’ cultural beliefs, values, and practices influence their perceptions of health, illness and disease; how they respond to and manage their health; and their treatment decisions and interactions with doctors, other</li> </ul>			

<p>health care professionals and the wider health system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that culture is dynamic and evolves over time, extends beyond ethnicity, and that patients and their whānau may identify with multiple cultural groupings at any one point in time</li> </ul>			
<p><b>The ability to establish and maintain a level of self-awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish and maintain a level of self-awareness.</li> <li>• Awareness is about how one's own and the patient's cultural heritage, gender, class, ethnic-racial identity, sexual orientation, institutional or organisational affiliation, practice orientation, disability, and age-cohort help to shape personal values, assumptions, judgments, and biases related to identified groups. Awareness also includes the ability to accurately assess one's own cultural competence, including knowing when circumstances (e.g., personal biases; stage of ethnicity identity; lack of requisite knowledge, skills, or language fluency; socio-political influences) are negatively influencing professional activities and adapting accordingly (e.g., professional development, supervision, obtaining required information, or referring to a more qualified provider).</li> </ul>			
<p><b>The ability to incorporate cultural knowledge into practice and values, to positively impact on patients</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge when an ability to provide care is inhibited and seeks alternative means of ensuring patient's cultural safety.</li> <li>• Can conduct practice in a culturally competent and safe manner.</li> <li>• Processes are in place for cultural safety training and support, especially when advising trainees, colleagues and employees.</li> <li>• An understanding that patients' cultural beliefs, values, world view and practices influence perceptions of health, health maintenance, well-being, lifestyle choices, access</li> </ul>			



<p>to health services, interactions with health care professionals and the healthcare system, and treatment preferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honour people’s flexibility in self-identification.</li> <li>• Have knowledge of various appropriate culture-specific approaches.</li> </ul>			
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Name of standard:	Standard of Ethical Conduct		
Unit/ domain and Elements	I received formal training and was examined in this area of practice	I do this work in practice	Examples of how I apply this skill and knowledge in practice.
<p><b>Respect patients by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing services in a way that respects individual dignity and independence.</li> <li>• Not discriminating on any prohibited ground, including age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or employment status.</li> <li>• Interacting with patients with courtesy and integrity.</li> <li>• Being sensitive to individual needs, values and beliefs and different cultures.</li> <li>• Involving family and whānau in accordance with the wishes of the patient.</li> <li>• Listening to patients and communicating effectively with them.</li> <li>• Giving patients all the information they need to make decisions.</li> <li>• Respecting patient choices about treatment and services.</li> <li>• Always maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.</li> <li>• Avoiding conflicts of interest and disclosing any personal interest in recommended options.</li> <li>• Treating information about patients as confidential and respecting their privacy.</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respecting a patient’s right to make a complaint and responding promptly and fairly.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Care for patients by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practising safely and effectively.</li> <li>• Taking good care in assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and referrals.</li> <li>• Taking steps to alleviate patients’ symptoms and distress, whether or not a cure is possible.</li> <li>• Maintaining a high level of professional competence and looking after their own health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Accurately describing their skills and competencies.</li> <li>• Recognising and working within the limits of their competence.</li> <li>• Referring to another practitioner when appropriate.</li> <li>• Supporting a patient’s right to a second opinion.</li> <li>• Delegating care only when appropriate and ensuring adequate supervision.</li> <li>• Ensuring that incentives, targets, and financial gain do not affect their clinical judgement, actions, or recommendations.</li> <li>• Protecting patients by acting on concerns a colleague may not be practising safely, including by notifying an employer or appropriate authority.</li> <li>• Being open and honest when an adverse event occurs.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Work collaboratively with others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating clearly and effectively</li> <li>• Facilitating co-ordination and continuity of care</li> <li>• Supporting teamwork and co-operation in the patient’s best interests</li> <li>• Assigning clear roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Appropriately acknowledging and respecting the role and expertise of others.</li> <li>• Treating professional colleagues with fairness, honesty, courtesy, respect and understanding.</li> </ul>			

<p><b>Contribute to improving the health of the community by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Using health care resources wisely</li><li>• Promoting eye health through disease prevention and control</li><li>• Supporting community education and screening</li><li>• Promoting equitable access to services for Māori</li><li>• Advocating for improved eye health care for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, people with disabilities and people unable to access necessary care (e.g., people in remote, rural areas or affected by poverty).</li></ul>			
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## APPENDIX 4

### QUALIFICATION EQUIVALENCY: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

<b>Qualification Equivalency: Assessment Criteria (AC)</b>		
<b>Nr</b>	<b>Assessment criterion</b>	<b>Performance criterion</b>
1.	1.1 The applicant has completed the requirements of the qualification.	1.1.1 The applicant has successfully completed all components of the programme of study with the qualification being proposed for registration.
2.	2.1 The qualification leads to registration or licensure and/or allows the practitioner to practice in the profession for which they are seeking registration.	2.1.1 The applicant's qualification enables them to apply for registration (or licensure) and/ or allows them to practice without condition or restriction as a dispensing optician (health practitioner) in the country where the programme of study was completed.
3.	3.1 Education institution is subject to and meets external quality assurance.	<p>3.1.1 Education institution that awarded the qualification was externally accredited during the period the applicant undertook their studies. That is, during the relevant period of study the education institution was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Subject to regular review by an external quality assurance agency; and</li> <li>b. Registered or accredited by that agency.</li> </ul> <p>3.1.2 The external quality assurance body must have publicly available standards that are comparable to the arrangements for quality assurance in tertiary education in New Zealand</p>
4	4.1 The programme of study is/ was externally accredited.	<p>4.1.1 The programme of study was externally accredited and provided successful graduates with a qualification in optical dispensing that may lead to registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice.</p> <p>4.1.2 Accreditation must be based on published and publicly available accreditation standards that are comparable to accreditation for the profession in New Zealand.</p>
5	5.1 Education level of qualification	<p>5.1.1 The qualification is equivalent to the relevant NZ Qualifications Framework (NZQF) level.</p> <p>5.1.2 The optical dispensing programme is equivalent to an NZQF qualification level.</p>
6.	6.1 The core content of the programme is focused on the key competencies (knowledge, skills and application) that will enable the applicant to meet the ODOB's competencies standards for dispensing opticians in New Zealand <sup>29</sup> .	<p>6.1.1 The curriculum content included core health practitioner and specified optical dispensing practice knowledge and skills that is/was focused on contemporary practice, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Theory of general optics (anatomy and physiology)</li> <li>b. Theory of abnormal ocular conditions</li> <li>c. Theory of ophthalmic lenses</li> <li>d. Theory of contact lenses</li> <li>e. Optical standards and dispensing practices, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispense optical appliances</li> <li>• Provide advice on contact lens wear</li> <li>• Provide advice on optical appliances</li> <li>• Process and manage optical appliance orders</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.odob.health.nz/site/standards-guidelines>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of standing orders</li> <li>• Assessment and management of refraction errors</li> </ul> <p>a. Specialised optical dispensing, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatric dispensing</li> <li>• Dispense atypical prescriptions</li> <li>• Low vision (including magnifiers, additional visual aids, and training)</li> </ul> <p>b. Communication with the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver and monitor a service to customers</li> <li>• Lead effective workplace relationships</li> <li>• Lead team effectiveness</li> <li>• Communicate and work in health or community services.</li> </ul> <p>7 Cultural competence and culturally safe care, with topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with diverse people</li> </ul> <p>8 Practice management, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in workplace health and safety</li> <li>• Analyse and achieve sales targets</li> <li>• Control inventory</li> <li>• Coordinate merchandise presentation</li> <li>• Sell products and services.</li> </ul> <p>6.1.2 At least 75% of the content of the programme is specifically related to the particular scope of practice in which the applicant is seeking registration.</p> <p>6.1.3 The curriculum and core content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. is based on current and best available evidence</li> <li>b. is applied across the human lifespan</li> <li>c. ensure public health and safety is maintained, and</li> <li>d. include professional development, ethics, research and evidence-based practice throughout the course content.</li> </ol>
7.	7.1 Applicant provides evidence of relevant clinical practice in addition to academic learning	<p>7.1.1 The programme of study included clinical training to meet the practice requirements of doing a minimum of 100 hours, under the supervision of a registered health practitioner in the country of registration. The clinical training component of the study programme may equate to 10 credits (1 credit is equivalent to 10 notional hours) at NZQF level 4 (or equivalent), with the focus on the scope of practice for which registration is being sought. <i>(Note: This would exclude the ODOB’s requirement for supervision additional 800 hours logged activity (Record of training) to register with the ODOB. This is called the “Post-qualification experience requirements”).</i></p> <p>7.1.2 The clinical training involved is either specific simulation exercises (i.e., hypothetical), or workplace experience that demonstrates clinical competence (as per the NZ competencies). It must include any eight of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice on spectacles</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide advice contact lenses</li><li>• Dispense single vision lenses</li><li>• Dispense myopia control lenses</li><li>• Dispense occupational lenses</li><li>• Dispense bifocal lenses</li><li>• Dispense progressive lenses</li><li>• Dispense atypical lenses</li><li>• Transpose prescriptions</li><li>• Placing orders</li><li>• Verification of orders</li><li>• Spectacle deliveries (check acuity and fitting).</li></ul> <p>7.1.4 The programme includes an assessment of graduates' clinical competence.</p>
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## ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

The following assessment options are available to the ODOB and will be subject to the individual application. One or more options may be considered, and reasons would be provided.

	Qualification Equivalency: Assessment Criteria							Qualification deemed equivalent?	Fitness for Registration <sup>30</sup>			Post-Qualification Clinical Experience <i>(800 hours of logged activities in a record of training)</i>	Possible determinations <sup>31</sup>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Y/N	English Language	Good Standing	Convictions		
<b>A</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	Level 4 Equivalent	✓	✓	Y	✓	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	Unconditional registration
<b>B</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	L4	✓	✓	Y	X	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	6-months to re-submit evidence of English proficiency. If still not met, application declined.
<b>C</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	L4	✓	✓	Y	✓	X	✓	Does not meet any of the post-qualification experience scenarios	Decline

<sup>30</sup> Refer to the ODOB's *Fitness for registration policy*.

<sup>31</sup> Subject to decision by the Executive Committee.

<b>D</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	L4	✓	X	N	✓	✓	✓	Post- qualification experience is older than 3 years.	Registration with condition (such as supervision <sup>32</sup> )
<b>E</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	L4	✓	X	N	✓	✓	✓	Post- qualification experience is older than 3 years.	Passing the ODOB CODE, and Supervision will be an additional requirement
<b>F</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	L4	X	N	X	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	6-months to re-submit evidence of English proficiency. If still not met, application declined.
<b>G</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	L4	X	N	✓	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements	Passing the ODOB CODE, and Supervision will be an additional requirement
<b>H</b>	✓	✓	✓	Unable to provide evidence of qualification details due to length of time since qualification gained.				N	✓	✓	✓	Post- qualification experience is older than 3 years, and within the recognized countries <sup>33</sup>	Decline

<sup>32</sup> Conditions determined by the Executive Committee.

<sup>33</sup> Countries that do not have a regulated profession in the relevant scope of practice.



											Post-qualification experience is less than 3 years, within one of the specialize countries	Passing the ODOB CODE, and Supervision will be an additional requirement	
									X	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements.	6-months to re-submit evidence of English proficiency. If still not met, application declined
									✓	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements.	Passing the ODOB CODE, and Supervision will be an additional requirement
I	✓	✓	✓	✓	L3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Meets the post-qualification experience requirements.	Passing the ODOB CODE, and Supervision will be an additional requirement

## NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NZQF) LEVELS AND CREDITS<sup>34</sup>

<b>NZQF Level 7</b>			
<b>Level</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Credit Requirements</b>
<b>Bachelor Degree Level 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic and coherent introduction to body of knowledge of a specialise major subject(s) as well as to problem-solving and associate basic techniques of self-directed work and learning.</li> <li>• At least one sequential study programme in which content is progressively developed to form basis for postgraduate study and/or professional practice.</li> </ul>	Graduates can demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intellectual independence, critical thinking, and analytical rigour.</li> <li>• Self-directed learning.</li> <li>• Knowledge and skills related to the ideas, principles, concepts, chief research methods, problem-solving techniques of a specialize major subject.</li> <li>• Skills needed to acquire, understand, and assess information from a range of sources.</li> <li>• Communication and collaborative skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 360 credits from levels 5 to 7</li> <li>• Minimum of 72 credits are level 7 or higher.</li> <li>• 360 credits equivalent to circa 3600 learning hours.</li> <li>• 72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Diploma Level 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualifies individuals with specialized and technical knowledge and skills within a professional context.</li> </ul>	Graduates can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in one or more fields or work or study.</li> <li>• Analyse and generate solutions to unfamiliar and sometimes complex problems.</li> <li>• Select, adapt, and apply a range of processes relevant to the field of work or study.</li> <li>• Demonstrate advanced generic skills and/or specialist knowledge in a professional context or field of study.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or above</li> <li>• Including minimum of 72 credits at level 7 or above</li> <li>• 120 credits equivalent to circa 1200 learning hours</li> <li>• 72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours.</li> </ul>

<sup>34</sup> New Zealand Qualifications Framework. Available at: <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Studying-in-NZ/New-Zealand-Qualification-Framework/requirements-nzqf.pdf>

NZQF Level 6			
Level	Purpose	Outcomes	Credit Requirements
Diploma Level 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualifies individuals with theoretical and/ or technical knowledge and skills in specialized/ strategic contexts</li> </ul>	Graduates can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate specialized technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in a field of work or study.</li> <li>Analyse and generate solutions to familiar and unfamiliar problems.</li> <li>Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study.</li> <li>Demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within dynamic contexts.</li> <li>Demonstrate responsibility for leadership within dynamic contexts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 120 credits level 5 or above</li> <li>Including minimum of 72 credits at level 6 or above</li> <li>120 credits equivalent to circa 1200 learning hours</li> <li>72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours.</li> </ul>

NZQF Level 5			
Level	Purpose	Outcomes	Credit Requirements
Diploma Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills within a specific field of work or study</li> </ul>	Graduates can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate broad operational or technical and theoretical knowledge within a specific field of work or study.</li> <li>Select and apply a range of solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems.</li> <li>Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant of the field of work or study.</li> <li>Demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within defined contexts.</li> <li>Demonstrate some responsibility for the management of learning and development of others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 120 credits level 4 or above</li> <li>Including minimum of 72 credits at level 5 or above</li> <li>120 credits equivalent to circa 1200 learning hours</li> <li>72 credits equivalent to circa 720 learning hours.</li> </ul>

<b>NZQF Level 4</b>			
<b>Level</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Credit Requirements</b>
<b>Certificate Level 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualifies individuals to work or study in broad or specialized field(s)/areas.</li> </ul>	Graduates can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate broad operational and theoretical knowledge in a field of work or study.</li> <li>• Select and apply solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems.</li> <li>• Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study.</li> <li>• Apply a range of communication skills relevant to the field of work or study.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the self-management of learning and performance under broad guidance.</li> <li>• Demonstrate some responsibility for performance of others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 40 credits at level 4 or above.</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 5

### ODOB DETERMINATIONS

ODOB can make any of the following **determinations**:

Determination	Reasons and process
<p>Applicant is eligible for registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice, with or without a condition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant’s qualification is deemed to be equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, a prescribed qualification leading to registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice.</li> <li>• The applicant’s application and supporting documentation provides sufficient evidence of holding the required knowledge and skills to safely practice in the dispensing optician scope.</li> <li>• The applicant is therefore eligible to apply for registration. This <u>may</u> include a specific condition or multiple conditions on their scope of practice.</li> <li>• The applicant is advised they may progress with an application for registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice.</li> <li>• The ODOB’s Executive Committee to consider any subsequent registration application and decide on registration.</li> <li>• Requests for review of decisions are referred to the Board.</li> </ul>
<p>Applicant must sit a competency assessment as determined by the Board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Executive Committee identifies one or more deficiencies in the evidence that cause it to doubt in the knowledge or skills of the practitioner to practice safely within the required scope, it may request the practitioners to do an additional assessment.</li> <li>• Applicants seeking registration in the Dispensing optician scope of practice, may be asked to do a Competency in Optical Dispensing Examination (CODE) (conducted by Association of Dispensing Opticians of New Zealand (ADONZ) OptiBlocks), or an assessment as determined by the ODOB.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The applicant is advised that they may contact the ADONZ OptiBlocks Education Committee to sit the CODE.</li> <li>b. A letter of recommendation will be sent to the ODOB by the ADONZ OptiBlocks Education Committee advising if they have passed and/ or other recommendation.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• The applicant is eligible to apply for registration if they pass the CODE. This <u>may</u> include a specific condition or multiple conditions on their scope of practice.</li> <li>• The applicant is advised they may progress with an application in registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice.</li> <li>• The ODOB’s Executive Committee to consider any subsequent registration application and decide on registration.</li> <li>• Requests for review of decisions are referred to the Board.</li> </ul>
<p>Applicant is not eligible for registration in the dispensing optician scope of practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Executive Committee may determine an applicant is not eligible for registration in the relevant scope of practice. Reasons for this could be that the:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. applicant’s qualification is not deemed to be equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, a prescribed qualification leading to registration in the relevant scope of practice. There are identified gaps in their experience and/ or training.</li> <li>b. applicant’s portfolio does not provide sufficient evidence of them holding the required knowledge and skills to safely practice in the relevant scope of practice. There is one or more significant deficiencies identified.</li> <li>c. applicant’s portfolio does not provide sufficient evidence of them holding the required knowledge and skill to sit a Board approved competency assessment.</li> <li>d. applicant’s evidence does not meet one or more of the ODOB’s fitness for registration requirements.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Should new evidence be presented, the ODOB’s Executive Committee to consider any subsequent registration application and decide on registration.</li> <li>• Requests for review of decisions are referred to the Board.</li> </ul>