

General Information Dispensing Opticians

Bord na Radharcmhastóirí—the Opticians Board

The Opticians Board is the regulatory body established under the Opticians Acts, 1956 and 2003. It maintains registers of optometrists and dispensing opticians who may practise in Ireland. It is illegal for any person, other than a registered optometrist (or a registered medical practitioner) or a registered dispensing optician to practise as a dispensing optician in the state.

Under the Opticians Acts only registered dispensing opticians (or registered optometrists or registered medical practitioners) are entitled to dispense or sell spectacles (as defined). Registered dispensing opticians are obliged, where in the course of an eye examination, the presence of a disease or condition of the eye is suspected to inform the patient of this and recommend that the patient consult a registered medical practitioner.

Under the Board's rules only dispensing opticians registered with entitlement to fit contact lenses (and issued with the certificate) are entitled to do so. Persons registered in the Board's Register of Dispensing Opticians who can furnish satisfactory evidence of training in the fitting of contact lenses and their aftercare may apply for the certificate of entitlement to fit contact lenses.

Under the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations registered dispensing opticians with entitlement to fit contact lenses have access to fluorescein sodium for *administration* to patients in the course of professional practice.

Applications for registration

There is currently no approved course for the education and training of dispensing opticians in Ireland. Applicants who satisfy the following requirements may currently apply to the Board for registration: successful completion of the UK Association of British Dispensing Opticians course leading to the Fellowship of British Dispensing Opticians (FBDO) qualification, and registration on the Register of Dispensing Opticians of the General Optical Council (GOC).

Applications must be made on the prescribed form.
(obtainable from administrator@opticiansboard.ie)

Fees

Registration fee €200.

Retention of registration fee for practice year 1 January – 31 December 2011 €235.