

Dispensing Opticians

General Information

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.

Dispensing Opticians

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 or experience 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

Dispensing Opticians

Applications for registration – Dispensing Opticians trained in Ireland

Training requirements for Irish-trained Dispensing Opticians are set out in the Board's Rules:

- a two year full-time course followed by a period of three months practical training with a registered optician approved by the Board prior to the final examination; or
- a three year in service course of training under the supervision of a qualified registered optician with attendance at a course of training on a two day per week or equivalent release basis

There is currently no approved course for the education & training of Dispensing Opticians in the state. 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

Applicants must apply on form [EUN DO 2006.pdf](#) which may be downloaded from this site, or obtained from the Opticians Board office. Completed applications should be returned to the Board's office together with the following:

- Passport photograph
- Passport & photocopy of same
- Original degree/diploma certificate & photocopy of same
- Original Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) certificate
- Photocopy of ABDO certificate
- A letter from the GOC certifying that you are currently registered in good standing and have not been guilty of professional misconduct, and that there is no outstanding disciplinary action pending against you
- A letter from the ABDO certifying that you are currently registered and in good standing.
- A cheque payable to the Opticians Board for the Registration fee and the Retention of registration fee (see below)

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Applications for registration – Dispensing Opticians trained in Ireland

Applicants are required to attend in person at the Board's offices for completion of the EU identification form (EU4) included on the application form and for certification of copies of original documents.

Alternatively, applicants may attend at the offices of the General Optical Council (GOC) in London to have the EU identification form (EU4) completed, and to obtain certified copies of original documents for inclusion in the application.

Applicants attending at the Board's offices should telephone first to arrange an appointment. Office hours are 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday. Before making an appointment, applicants should ensure they have all necessary documentation.

Fees:

- The current Registration fee is €210
- The Retention of Registration fee for the practice year 1 January – 31 December 2006 is €180
- For applications made after 1 July 2006 a pro-rata Retention of Registration fee of €90 applies