

# Optometrists

## 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) to practise as an optometrist in the state.

### **Under the Opticians Acts**

Only registered optometrists (or registered medical practitioners) are entitled to prescribe spectacles (as defined).

Only registered optometrists or registered dispensing opticians (or registered medical practitioners) are entitled to dispense or sell spectacles (as defined).

Registered optometrists may provide orthoptic treatment on the written direction of a registered medical practitioner.

Registered optometrists 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 Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations**

Registered optometrists have access to cyclopentolate hydrochloride, oxybuprocaine hydrochloride, tropicamide and fluorescein sodium for *administration* to patients in the course of professional practice.

# Optometrists

## Applications for registration: optometrists trained in Ireland

### Qualification requirements

#### You will be eligible to apply for registration when the Board receives:

- (i) Formal signed notification from the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) that you have passed the B.Sc. (Optometry) final examinations at DIT, *and*
- (ii) Formal signed notification from the Association of Optometrists of Ireland (AOI) that you have passed the clinical examinations of the AOI.

#### Following these notifications, we will write to you with:

- A form of application and undertaking, *and*
- A form of declaration

#### You should complete and return both forms to the Board's office together with:

- (i) An original, signed and dated reference from either the Head of the Optometry Department at DIT or from a lecturer or tutor in that department, and
- (ii) An original, signed and dated reference from your supervised practice supervisor, and
- (iii) A copy of your passport, and
- (iv) A cheque payable to the Opticians Board for the registration fee and the retention of registration fee (see below)

**You will be notified by letter when your name has been entered on the Register of Optometrists and you will be issued with a registration number. Until you are registered it is illegal for you to practice.**

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

#### Fees:

- The current registration fee is €270.
- The retention of registration fee for the practice year 1 January – 31 December 2010 is €330. For applications made after 1 July 2010, a pro-rata Retention of Registration fee of €165 applies.