

General Information for Optometrists

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.

Applications for registration Optometrists trained in Ireland

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

- Formal signed notification from the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) that you have passed the B.Sc. (Optometry) final examinations at DIT, *and*
- 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:

- An original, signed and dated reference from either the Head/or lecturer of the Optometry Department at DIT, and
- An original, signed and dated reference from your supervised practice supervisor
- A copy of your passport, and
- The registration and retention fees (see below)

Fees:

- Registration fee - €250.
- Retention of registration fee for the practice year 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2011 - €300.