

Fact sheet: Limited registration

August 2018

Limited registration for postgraduate training and/or supervised practice

Background

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) has developed this fact sheet to assist applicants, limited registrants and their employers in understanding the requirements of the registration standard for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

1. Who does this apply to?

This registration standard applies to overseas trained optometrists and other eligible optometrists applying for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, or renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

2. Why do I need limited registration?

To practise as an optometrist in Australia in any way, you need to apply for and be registered with the Board.

Since 1 December 2014, all new initial applicants are required to hold Board-approved qualifications in ocular therapeutics to be eligible for general registration. This can be achieved via an approved program of study in ocular therapeutics and/or an examination/assessment in ocular therapeutics approved by the Board.

Limited registration therefore allows the Board to register individuals to undertake the required postgraduate training, supervised practice and/or a Board-approved examination/assessment in ocular therapeutics that will then qualify the individual for general registration with an endorsement for scheduled medicines.

3. Where do I find the requirements for an application for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice?

The requirements for an application for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice are outlined in the registration standard on the Board's [website](#).

4. How will I demonstrate my optometric knowledge and skills?

You must firstly hold a relevant qualification in optometry obtained from an optometry education provider outside of Australia and New Zealand.

You must then apply to the [Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand](#) (OCANZ) to complete the [Competency in Optometry Examination](#) (COE).

Once you have successfully passed the COE and if you have not completed training in ocular therapeutics at an undergraduate or postgraduate level, you will then be required to complete a Board-[approved program of study](#) in ocular therapeutics.

Alternatively if you have previously completed training in ocular therapeutics, you have the option of undertaking the [Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics](#) (ACOT) conducted by OCANZ. Otherwise, you may still choose to complete a Board-approved program of study in ocular therapeutics.

5. When do I need to apply for limited registration for postgraduate training and/or supervised practice?

When you need to apply for limited registration will depend on when you wish to begin your practice.

The definition of practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice in this context is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge (working) in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on the safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Limited Registration pathway 1

Limited registration for the purposes of postgraduate training

You may apply for limited registration for the purpose of postgraduate training, when you have provided evidence that you have:

- a. passed both the written and clinical parts of the COE
- b. an enrolment/offer or acceptance in an approved program of study in ocular therapeutics, and
- c. a postgraduate training plan.

You will not be permitted to prescribe ocular therapeutics until you have successfully completed this course and have been granted general registration with an endorsement for scheduled medicines.

Limited registration pathway 2

Limited registration for the purposes of supervised practice

You may apply for limited registration for the purpose of supervised practice, when:

- a. you have provided evidence that you have passed the written component of the OCANZ COE and you wish to practise under supervision while preparing for the clinical part of the COE process. If granted limited registration, you will be required to work under the highest level of direct supervision until you have passed the practical component of the COE. You will not be permitted to prescribe

OR

- b. you have provided evidence that you have passed the COE (written and clinical) and that you have an offer of acceptance to undertake the ACOT conducted by OCANZ. Please note that to be eligible to undertake the ACOT, you must have completed prior training in ocular therapeutics at an undergraduate or postgraduate level. If granted limited registration, you will be required to work under a low level of supervision, as determined by the Board. You will not be permitted to prescribe until you have successfully completed this assessment and have been granted general registration with an endorsement.

OCANZ will inform the Board when you have passed the COE and ACOT. For more information on supervision, please refer to the supervision guidelines for optometrists found on the Board's [website](#).

When no registration is required

If you do not wish to practise in any form in Australia whilst completing the COE process (written or clinical), you do not need to be registered with the Board.

6. Where do I find more information about Board-approved examinations/assessments?

Detailed information about the COE and the ACOT examinations conducted by OCANZ, is found on the OCANZ [website](#).

7. Where do I find the list of Board-approved postgraduate courses in ocular therapeutics?

Board-approved programs of postgraduate study that lead to eligibility for general registration with an endorsement for scheduled medicines can be found on the AHPRA [website](#).

8. Where do I find more information about supervised practice and supervised practice plans?

The Board's *Optometry supervision guidelines for optometrists* are available on the Board's [website](#).

Supervised practice is the practice of optometry carried out in line with a Board-approved supervised practice plan. The terms of the limited registration will be noted on the public register of optometrists and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

9. What does a postgraduate training plan look like?

A postgraduate training plan template can be found at Appendix A.

Postgraduate training is carried out in line with a Board-approved postgraduate training plan. The terms of the limited registration will be noted on the public register of optometrists and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

10. How long can I hold limited registration while undertaking postgraduate training and/or supervised practice?

Limited registration will end after 30 days of the cessation of the purpose for which limited registration was originally granted (i.e. completion of examination, completed or discontinued enrolment in postgraduate training). The Board will publish the period of registration that is to apply to an optometrist granted limited registration on the [public register](#).

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (National Law), the initial period of limited registration cannot be more than 12 months and may not be renewed more than three times. If the limited registration expires after three renewals an applicant will be required to make a new application to the Board for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

11. What if my circumstances change during the postgraduate training or supervised practice period, for example if I have not passed an examination of course?

You will need to notify the Board in writing of any variation to a Board-approved postgraduate training or supervised practice plan.

For more information

- Read more about [limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice](#) on the Board's website.
- Lodge an [online enquiry form](#).
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (in Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers).

Appendix A

Optometry Board of Australia Postgraduate training plan template

- This template has been developed as a guide to record your postgraduate training plan when applying for [Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice](#), for the purpose of postgraduate training
- Before completing this template, you must have passed the [Competency in Optometry Examination](#) (COE) with the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) and enrolled in an [approved program of study for ocular therapeutics](#)
- Attach your postgraduate training plan to the application for [limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice form ALPS-50](#)

Applicant name	Given name and family name	
Details of the postgraduate training course	Name of the Board-approved program of study for ocular therapeutics	<i>[Also attach the evidence of enrolment or offer of acceptance from the education provider]</i>
	Name of the education provider	
	Location of training	
	Purpose of training	
	Content and structure of the training	<i>[Also attach the course outline]</i>
Anticipated duration of the training	Training start date	
	Anticipated training completion date	

I certify that the above postgraduate training plan accurately reflects the nature of the training. In the event that I do not pass the training, I will notify the Board, provide this evidence and will request an extension to the postgraduate training plan, with an anticipated completion date.

Signature of applicant

Name (please print)

Date