

INITIAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Optometrists and Opticians Council

This document outlines the criteria for registration as an optometrist with the Optometrists and Opticians Council.

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1. Introduction

This document outlines the requirements for registration with the Council for Optometrists and Opticians as an optometrist. While this document provides an overview of the criteria for initial registration, each application will be independently assessed based on its own merits.

2. General Requirements

2.1. Application

All applicants must submit an electronic [Health Professional Initial Registration Application](#). All supplemental documentation should be uploaded and attached to the application, with the exception of the [Certificate of Professional Education Form](#) (COPE) and evidence of professional standing from all jurisdictions of licensure. Please review the [Optometrist and Optician Initial Registration Checklist](#) for a list of required documentation.

2.2. Fees

The fee for initial registration as an optometrist is \$380. Payment must be made via credit card after the submission of the electronic application.

2.3. Eligibility to Work

Applicants for initial registration must be eligible to work in Bermuda. Documentation showing eligibility to work must be attached to the application and can include:

- Bermuda or BOTC passport copy with stamp
- Letter of Employment/Job Offer Letter
- Spousal letter
- Valid Work Permit
- Permanent Residency Card

2.4. Proof of Identification

Proof of identification includes a **notarized** copy of a valid passport or birth certificate. If your name has changed and differs from the name on your supporting documentation, notarized name change certification documentation must be provided (i.e., marriage certificate).

2.5. Proof of True Likeness

A digital head shot photo must be attached to your application. You can take the photo yourself if the image of likeness is clear.

2.6. Resume/Curriculum Vitae

A copy of the applicant's resume, or C.V. must be attached to the application and reflect the most up-to-date information.

2.7. References

Two letters of professional reference are required and must be attached to your application for registration. All references must be current (dated within the last 12 months) and on an official letterhead.

3. Education Requirements

To register as an optometrist, applicants must have a recognized degree in optometry. The degree must be from an academic institution accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) in the US and Canada and the General Optical Council (GOC) in the UK, or an equivalent accrediting body approved by the Council.

If not accredited or approved by one of the above bodies (or by a similar national organization of the country of training or other national body governing the profession deemed by the Council to represent a comparable standard) or the standards are significantly different from the above, the Board will request that the applicant submit a UK ENIC Statement of Comparability.

All applicants must have the institution where their professional qualifications were obtained complete the [Certificate of Professional Education Form](#) and email it directly to professions@healthcouncil.bm.

A **notarized** copy of the applicant's professional degree must also be attached to the application.

4. Prescribing Authority

Applicants wishing to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents must be approved to do so by the Optometrists and Opticians Council. Per Section 10 (2) of the [Optometrists and Opticians Act 2008](#), the requirements for such approval are:

- Successful completed a 100-hour course, of which 40 hours must be in a clinical setting dealing with therapeutic pharmaceutical agents, or
- Graduated from an academic programme approved by the Council for this purpose.

5. Overseas Licensure

Evidence pertaining to your professional standing in any jurisdiction in which you are licensed or registered is required. A letter or form attesting to your professional standing must be submitted directly to professions@healthcouncil.bm by the relevant statutory authority.

6. Additional Registration Categories

6.1 Locum Tenens

Applicants applying for authorization to practice optometry in Bermuda as locum tenens must complete the initial application process described above and pay a fee of \$75.