

Guidelines for International Candidates

Application Criteria

- Education: Graduated from a minimum 4-year optometric degree program, including teaching to the World Council of Optometry (WCO) level 3 scope of practice.
- Clinical Practice: Currently practice to a minimum of WCO level 3 scope of practice.
- Licensing/Registration: Attainment of licensure/registration at the highest level permitted by law in countries /jurisdictions where applicable.
- World Council of Optometry level 3 scope of practice includes the broad competencies of:
 - Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames, and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system.
 - Investigation, examination, measurement, recognition, and correction/management of defects of the visual system.
 - Investigation, examination, and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose, and manage disease.

For more information, please view the WCO Global Competency report at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1udElkVmtDjVYDC9iwMcLkQyooy-gOrEW/view?usp=sharing>.

Application Process

The following information and documents are required to complete your application:

1. Completed application form.
2. Current resume or CV – please include at a minimum your work history for the past five years and optometric continuing education courses.
3. Payment of appropriate fees.
4. A copy of your passport information sheet (only pages that have your picture and information).*
5. Notarized or original copy of optometric certificate, diploma, or degree (translated to English).*
6. Notarized or original copy of current optometric license or registration where applicable (translated to English).*
7. If you are not currently practicing in your country of education, a letter from the regulatory body stating that you are eligible to be licensed in the country of your education where applicable.*
8. Notarized or original copy of diploma, certificate/degree from any other post-secondary/university level educational programs.*
9. Notarized or original optometric academic transcripts.*

Application Submission

- Applicants from countries at WCO level 3 or higher only need to submit items 1-6.
- All others must provide items 1-9.
- Items 1-3 must be submitted through the online candidate portal.
- Items denoted with a * must be submitted directly to your Subcommittee Chair once you have been assigned.

In certain circumstances, some educational institutions within a country might meet the registry criteria and others might not. In cases where an applicant believes they have graduated from a 4-year program of optometry, trained to a WCO level 3 or higher, and are able to practice at a WCO level 3 or higher, they may appeal for a special exemption allowing them to provide only items 1-6.

See the online Appendix C at the following link for guidance:

https://worldcouncilofoptometry.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/wco_global_competency_model_2015.pdf.



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of **OPTOMETRY**