

Canadian Students Frequently Asked Questions

I am interested in applying to an Optometry school outside of Canada and the United States. Do you have a list of pre-approved schools?

No. We are unable to provide a list of non-ACOE schools that would be equivalent to the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science professional program. Any school that is not ACOE-accredited (including those outside Canada and the United States) would require a credential assessment to be completed in order to assess its equivalency.

If I chose to attend an Optometry school outside of Canada, what is the process to register to work in Canada once I graduate?

The process is the same for returning Canadian graduates and international graduates. You will need to have an assessment of your Optometry program in comparison to the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science professional program successfully completed, then pass the Internationally Graduated Optometrists Evaluating Examination (IGOEE), and only then will you be able to challenge the Canadian board exam. **Application at any stage is not a guarantee of success.**

My friend graduated from the same international Optometry school I am at and is now working as an Optometrist in Canada, doesn't that guarantee my success too?

No. Programs change from year to year, and the scope of Optometry practice in Canada is also expanding. This means that while one graduate may apply one year and complete all the steps in the pathway to registration, another who attended the same school but applied in another year may not. In addition to schooling, there are other requirements needed that must also be met by each applicant, and these are subject to change as well. Current requirements are listed on the International Graduates page. We suggest you check back on this page closer to your date of graduation to see what the requirements are at that time.

The only guaranteed way to be eligible to start the process to become a registered (licensed) Optometrist in Canada is to graduate from an ACOE-accredited Optometry program.