

## Frequently Asked Questions

I am a licensed Optometrist in [country]. How do I get licensed (registered) in Canada?

The process to apply for registration as an Optometrist in Canada involves several steps that are laid out on our website under the heading 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 an evaluating exam, and only then would you be able to challenge the Canadian board exam. **Application at any stage is not a guarantee of success.**

Do I need to be in Canada to apply for a credential assessment?

No, you can begin the process before you come to Canada. However, please note that credential assessment results are only valid for three years. Once they expire, you will no longer be able to continue in this process.

How long does the credential assessment take?

Credential assessments can take from 2-4 months to complete once all required documentation and payment have been received. Once your file is in queue for assessment, you will be given a tentative timeframe for when your assessment is expected to be completed.

I am an Ophthalmologist. Can I apply to FORAC?

Yes. The requirements to apply to FORAC include completion of a 4-year Optometry degree. However, all internationally graduated eye care professionals, whatever their title, can apply as long as their program was at least 4 years in length. Please keep in mind that Optometry and Ophthalmology have very different scopes of practice in Canada, and only education and training related to Optometry will be assessed.

I would like to apply to the Bridging program. How do I do that?

The Bridging program has been discontinued. A new Advanced Standing program is currently being developed at the University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science professional program. You can find more details about this program on their website.

How do I apply to write the Internationally Graduated Optometrists Evaluating Exam (IGOEE)?

Applicants who have had their credentials successfully assessed by FORAC can download the IGOEE referral form, found on our website under Step 6 on the International Graduates page, and e-mail it to [credentialing@forac-faroc.ca](mailto:credentialing@forac-faroc.ca) once complete. When registration is closed referral forms will not be accepted, however you may request to be put on a notification wait-list by e-mail.