

Authority

This registration standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 26 July 2013 pursuant to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Summary

Section 69 of the National Law refers to limited registration for teaching or research.

The registration standard sets out the requirements for the Board to register optometrists under section 69 of the National Law who are not qualified for general registration. These limited registrants are required to be in an employment relationship with an education provider and/or recognised research facility in order to be eligible for limited registration.

The registration standard sets out both the initial and ongoing requirements of limited registration for teaching or research.

Scope of application

This registration standard applies to overseas-trained optometrists applying for limited registration to fill a teaching or research position under section 69 of the National Law, or for renewal of limited registration for teaching or research under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

Requirements

The Board's requirements for limited registration for teaching and research are:

1. compliance with the eligibility requirements of section 65 of the National Law for limited registration (refer Attachment A)
2. a qualification that provides eligibility¹ to sit the Competence in Optometry Examination conducted by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)
3. evidence of current registration to practise optometry
4. evidence of work practice history that meets the Board's *Recency of practice registration standard*
5. practise only in accordance with the Board's *Supervision guidelines for optometrists* and compliance

with the supervision requirements as set out in an approved supervised practice plan, if required

6. compliance with the following mandatory registration standards, as well as all relevant codes and guidelines of the Board:
 - *Recency of practice registration standard*
 - *Continuing professional development registration standard*
 - *English language skills registration standard*
 - *Professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard*, and
 - *Criminal history registration standard*
7. a written position description for approval by the Board, with verification from the employer of the teaching or research position (inclusive of the details of supervised clinical practice which the limited registrant will undertake)
8. an approved position description may include some supervised practice. The Board's *Supervision guidelines for optometrists* apply for this supervised practice. Private practice and practice not associated with the approved position description is not permitted.

Length of registration period

The length of the limited registration period is related to the period of employment of the registrant in a teaching and research position and the period of registration determined by the Board. In accordance with section 72 of the National Law, the Board can grant limited registration for up to 12 months. The Board will publish the limited registration period on its website. Where the approved teaching or research position ceases or is terminated, the limited registration for teaching and research will end 30 days thereafter.

Ability to renew limited registration

Limited registration, as set out by section 72 of the National Law, must be renewed after a period of 12 months and can be renewed a maximum of three (3) times. After this time, a new application for limited registration can be made and will need to meet the requirements of this registration standard and any other registration requirements as set by the Board at that time.

1 As defined in *Explanatory notes* published on the examination section of the OCANZ website at www.ocanz.org.au.

Board's ability to refuse to renew limited registration for teaching or research

The Board may refuse to renew the limited registration for teaching or research if any one of the following applies:

- a) the registrant's employment ceases or is terminated
- b) the registrant has not complied with or practised in accordance with the approved position description
- c) the registrant has not complied with the requirements of the Board's *Supervision guidelines for optometrists*
- d) the registrant cannot demonstrate compliance with all or any of the terms, conditions or requirements on the limited registration
- e) the registrant has demonstrated unsatisfactory professional performance in the teaching or research position, or
- f) is considered unsuitable to hold limited registration under section 70 of the National Law.

Non-compliance with registration standards

A breach of any of the requirements of this registration standard, or any of the Board's registration standards, may be a basis to consider the breach 'unprofessional conduct' or 'unsatisfactory professional performance' in accordance with the National Law.

Purpose of registration and notation on the Register of Optometrists

Optometrists granted limited registration for teaching or research should note that the registration is granted for the particular purpose, which is the teaching or research employment position in accordance with the approved position description. An optometrist registered under this category of limited registration will not be eligible to undertake private practice. The terms of the limited registration for teaching or research will be notated on the Register of Optometrists and **any practice outside those terms is not permitted.**

The type of notation that will appear on the public register will be, for example:

Limited registration for teaching or research is granted under section 69 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act from <date> to <date> for the purpose of <description of teaching position and/or research role and

supervision arrangements> at <location/s>. Private practice and practice outside these parameters is not permitted.

In addition to the requirements of this registration standard the Board may grant limited registration subject to any conditions for teaching or research, in accordance with section 83 of the National Law. The Board may consider conditions on registration necessary or desirable in the circumstances.

Applications for variation in changed circumstances

If a registrant in limited registration for teaching or research has a **significant change** in circumstances, such as a change in the employment position, they must submit a new application for limited registration. However, registrants can apply to the Board for a variation if there is a minor change to their circumstances, a change in the approved position description or change in their supervisor.

Definitions

Approved position description means a written position description inclusive of the details of practice which the limited registrant will undertake in the teaching or research position, verified by the employer and approved by the Board at the time of granting limited registration. The approved position description may be reviewed by the Board during the period of limited registration.

Private practice, for the purpose of this standard, means any practice outside of an approved position description and/or approved supervised practice plan if required.

Supervised practice plan means a plan that is agreed between the Optometry Board of Australia, the supervisor and the supervisee that sets out the objectives for levels, type and amount of supervision required and how the supervision is to occur.

The supervised practice plan should reflect a balance between the need for supervision, the practitioner's current level of training, competence and scope of practice and the position in which the supervisee will be practising.

Supervision report means a document submitted in the format approved by the Board at intervals agreed in the supervised practice plan, and which details progress against the supervised practice plan.

Review

The Board will review this registration standard every three years from the date of publication.

Date of issue: 2 October 2013

Attachment A Relevant sections of the National Law

Division 4 Limited registration

65 Eligibility for limited registration

- (1) An individual is eligible for limited registration in a health profession if—
 - a) the individual is not qualified for general registration in the profession or specialist registration in a recognised speciality in the profession; and
 - b) the individual is qualified under this Division for limited registration; and
 - c) the individual is a suitable person to hold limited registration in the profession; and
 - d) the individual is not disqualified under this Law or a law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction from applying for registration, or being registered, in the health profession; and
 - e) the individual meets any other requirements for registration stated in an approved registration standard for the health profession.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the National Board established for the health profession may decide the individual is eligible for registration in the profession by imposing conditions on the registration under section 83.

69 Limited registration for teaching or research

- (1) An individual may apply for limited registration in a health profession to enable the individual to fill a teaching or research position.
- (2) The individual is qualified for the limited registration applied for if the National Board established for the health profession is satisfied the individual's qualifications are relevant to, and suitable for, the position.

70 Unsuitability to hold limited registration

- (1) Section 55 applies to a decision by a National Board that an individual is not a suitable person to hold limited registration in a health profession.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a reference in section 55 to general registration in the health profession is taken to be a reference to limited registration in the health profession.

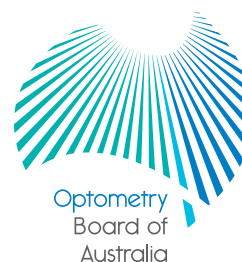
71 Limited registration not to be held for more than one purpose²

An individual may not hold limited registration in the same health profession for more than one purpose under this Division at the same time.

72 Period of limited registration

- (1) The period of registration that is to apply to a health practitioner granted limited registration in a health profession is the period (the registration period), not more than 12 months, decided by the National Board established for the profession and published on the Board's website.
- (2) If the National Board decides to register a health practitioner in the health profession during a registration period, the registration—
 - a) starts when the Board makes the decision; and
 - b) expires at the end of the last day of the registration period.
- (3) Limited registration may not be renewed more than three times.

Note. If an individual had been granted limited registration in a health profession for a purpose under this Division, had subsequently renewed the registration in the profession for that purpose three (3) times and at the end of the period wished to continue holding limited registration in the profession for that purpose, the individual would need to make a new application for limited registration in the profession for that purpose.



² Section 71 of the National Law provides that a practitioner may not hold limited registration in the same profession for more than one purpose at the same time. However, a practitioner may hold a category of limited registration and undertake activities within that registration which relate to another category of limited registration. For example, a practitioner may hold limited registration for teaching or research, but their approved position description may include some supervised practice.