OPTIBLOCKS

OptiBlocks is the education division of The Association of Dispensing Opticians of New Zealand Inc (ADONZ). It undertakes the practical assessment of overseas applicants to become registered to practice as a Dispensing Optician in New Zealand.

The courses listed here are currently recognized by the Optometrists & Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB). All other qualifications are assessed on a case by case basis.

- Open Technical Education Network (OTEN) / New South Wales Technical and Further Education Commission's (TAFE) Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing.
- Australasian College of Optical Dispensing's (ACOD) Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing.
- Association of British Dispensing Opticians' (ABDO) Level 6 Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing (FBDO) (United Kingdom (UK)). Graduates are awarded the Fellowship of British Dispensing Opticians (FBDO).
- Association of British Dispensing Opticians' (ABDO) Level 6 Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing (Overseas pathway, for students outside the UK). Graduates are awarded the Fellowship of British Dispensing Opticians (FBDO).

If you hold any of the qualifications listed here you should go directly to the ODOB website and begin the registration process:
https://www.odob.health.nz/site/registration/dispensing-optician

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

- All applicants should contact the Optometrists & Dispensing Opticians Board to begin the assessment process. The ODOB will assess your current qualification for working as a Dispensing Optician in NZ. Once that is done, ODOB refer the applicant to OptiBlocks for the examination.
- Applicants must contact OptiBlocks by email: **optiblocks@adonz.co.nz**
- A **permission form** is required to be completed and returned to OptiBlocks (see the last page).
- Once the form is submitted to the office and your application for the assessment is processed, your particulars will be forwarded to the OptiBlocks examiners.
- You will be contacted by an OptiBlocks examiner to arrange for a formal assessment of your skills.
- A non-refundable fee of **NZD$1950 + GST = $2242.50** is payable prior to the examination. ADONZ will invoice you for this.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- The completed permission form must be submitted to us before we will progress your application for the examination.

OptiBlocks examiners will contact you to arrange the assessment once your form has been processed and you can move on to the next step.

- You will receive details of the available test days, and the venue.
- You will be invoiced and this must be paid in full before you are permitted to undertake the assessment.

THE ASSESSMENT

You will undergo a one hour written theory exam as well as a practical examination. Because the assessment includes a practical component, you must attend in person. This can not be completed virtually.

Test day will consist of a one hour theory examination followed by a 4 - 5 hour practical test.

The theory test is pitched at a level of a practitioner who has been out of study for more than 5 years. It has 10 long answer questions and 10 multi choice questions. It covers understanding lenses and lens designs, abbe values, fitting requirements etc. There are some questions on problem solving for unhappy patients and understanding prism. There is also some basic anatomy.

The practical exam covers:
- Selecting correctly fitting frames and adjusting them.
- You will need to demonstrate appropriate facial measurements to suit individual lens designs.
- You will be asked to identify a range of different lenses including lens material, curves, nominal powers etc.
- This is followed by frame recognition where you will need to identify different frame materials and discuss the pros and cons.
- You will need to take accurate frame measurements.
- We test your focimeter (vertometer) skills both neutralising and final checking lenses
- The final part of the examination is a discussion about a range of prescriptions. This is similar to what you consider when handed a prescription in practice.

Although you use different labs and your lenses have different names the basic principals are the same so you will not be disadvantaged by this.

AFTER THE ASSESSMENT

If you pass the examination, OptiBlocks or their appointed examiner will inform ODOB and you can then register as a Dispensing Optician and apply for your Annual Practising Certificate.

If you do not pass, OptiBlocks or their appointed examiner will contact ODOB and advise what their recommendations are to bring you up to the required standard. This could be anything from recommending the completion of one or two papers on a particular subject, working under supervision for a period of time, to completing the New Zealand accredited course.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- The recommended study material for the exam is **Practical Optical Dispensing** by Dr David Wilson. ADONZ / OptiBlocks has a limited number of text books available. Please contact us for more information.
- Dispensing Opticians are required to hold a current CPR certificate to practice in New Zealand. A valid certificate will be required for the registration process. Please see the ODOB website for further information on the requirements: **https://www.odob.health.nz/site/maintain-registration/recertification/cpr**

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about the process - we are here to help.

OPTIBLOCKS AND ADONZ CONTACT

ADONZ Administrator - Hayley Bendall

optiblocks@adonz.co.nz

+64 7 824 1044

www.adonz.co.nz

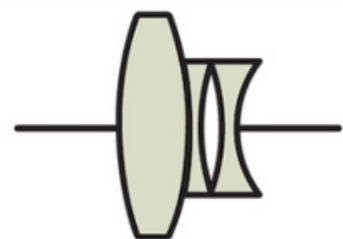To register and for further registration information with ODOB go to:
https://www.odob.health.nz/site/registration

ODOB CONTACT

Chief Executive and Registrar – Elmarie Stander

elmarie.stander@odob.health.nz

+64 4 474 0705

OPTIBLOCKS

OptiBlocks
PO Box 137
Morrinsville 3340
New Zealand

optiblocks@adonz.co.nz
+64 7 824 1044
www.adonz.co.nz

PERMISSION FORM

Please complete and return this form for processing along with any requested documentation to: **optiblocks@adonz.co.nz**

- I confirm that the assessment of my current qualification has been completed with ODOB.

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ADONZ

THE ASSOCIATION OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

ADONZ
PO Box 137
Morrinsville 3340
New Zealand

info@adonz.co.nz
+64 7 824 1044
www.adonz.co.nz