



June 2022

Registration Data Report

Opticians of Manitoba



Fair Registration Practices Office

Manitoba 

Introduction

The Fair Registration Practices Office issues this report as part of its mandate and oversight responsibility under The Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Amendment Act. Section 14(2b) stipulates the Director of Fair Registration Practices is responsible to conduct research and analysis regarding the registration of internationally educated applicants (IEAs). This report presents registration data for the Opticians of Manitoba (OOM) for the period of 2011 to 2021. There is no discussion of fairness issues or matters of compliance to fairness duties under the Act.

Manitoba self-regulated professions supply registration data to the FRPO in accordance with section 15(2) of the Act. Each year, regulated professions subject to the legislation provide records on the key steps in the assessment and registration process for IEAs, and less detailed, aggregate application and outcome information for domestic applicants (DAs). Regulated professions have been providing IEA data since 2011; DA data has been supplied since 2012.

OOM received twenty IEAs over the 2011 to 2021 reporting period. A cautious reading of the data is needed. Timelines to registration are partially dependant upon the applicant, and reasons for extended timelines vary as much as each individual's circumstance – initial settlement, family, financial pressures, etc. all impact the process on an individual basis. The impact of individual circumstance on registration outcome and timeline figures may also be more significant than it would be with larger application numbers, providing a potentially unrepresentative statistical picture. Additionally, data presentation is limited by the need to address privacy concerns of this small sample size.

Reading the numbers

Optical science programming in Manitoba is produced by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and administered by the Opticians Association of Canada. It is a combination of online theory courses and extensive on-the-job clinical training. There is no in-class program in Manitoba.

The Opticians of Manitoba uses a prior learning assessment and recognition process to assess applicant competencies. They are able to assess individuals with related education and experience, providing an alternative career option for applicants with varying levels of exposure to the field. The majority of IEAs who apply to OOM are trained abroad as optometrists. Although a small profession, OOM has a history of supporting applicants to address gaps through supervised practice opportunities. Online course work is also available for this purpose. Many international optometry programs provide a base in optical sciences, making this a natural alternative for those not wishing or able to pursue the costlier, largely out-of-province registration process for optometrists.

At the end of the reporting period, five IEAs were still in process. Should they all register, the percentage of IEA registrations will increase from 50 to 75 per cent.

The quality of OOM's registration data is strong; registration pathways, outcomes and timelines are captured throughout the process. There is no need at this time to introduce new elements to capture missing events or dates in the assessment and registration pathway.

Registration Data 2011-2021



Registered Members:

296

As of December 2021

Applications

internationally educated applicants



2011-2021

domestic applicants



2012-2021

Registrations 2012-2021

internationally educated applicants



50%

domestic applicants



100%



IEA median time to registration:

483 days



countries of education:

5