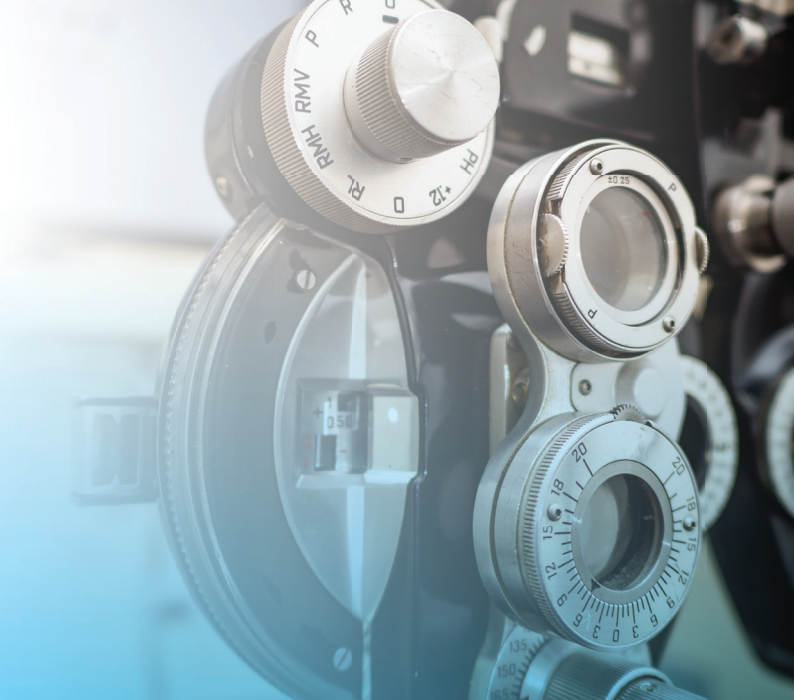


NEW MEMBER APPLICATION 2023



The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) is a non-profit, member-based organisation dedicated to improving public eye health.

Members join a collegial professional community helping to promote the importance of eye health to the public and health professionals, and also gain access to a range of membership benefits.

What does the ACO do?

The ACO is dedicated to providing affordable public eye care for people experiencing disadvantage.

Victorian Eyecare Service

We administer the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES) and Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (VASSS) in partnership with the State Government of Victoria.

Our services include primary eye care and extensive outreach to people who are experiencing homeless, refugees and asylum seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and aged care and supported residential services.

Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The ACO is proud to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service sector, the Commonwealth Government, and community members in reducing avoidable blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We provide eye test equipment and training, comprehensive eye health consultations and visual aids, and referral pathways for primary care services.

National Vision Research Institute (NVRI)

The NVRI is dedicated to research aimed at better understanding the complexities of vision and its disorders. Studies include basic science, translational and clinical. Our goal is to conduct research that will lead to the preservation of sight and the prevention of blindness.

Continuing Education

We provide best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice.

Our Continuing Professional Development program offers flexible, innovative education for optometrists across a broad range of clinical areas. We offer a broad CPD program including clinical workshops, online webinars, refresher courses, advanced certificates, and the ACO National Conference.

Becoming a member of the ACO

Registered optometrists are invited to apply for membership. Members are guided by, and agree to adhere to, the ACO's Code of Ethics and Conduct Standards.

Members of the wider community with a special interest in optometry may apply for an Associate Membership.

First year graduates are offered a complimentary 12 month ACO membership with no voting rights.

Optometry students are eligible for Student Membership which is free of charge. Please visit aco.org.au to download the Student Membership application form.

Voting Members

Classes	2023 Fees AUS	2023 Fees NZ	Class Definition
Member	\$365.00	\$331.82	An optometrist who is registered to practise in Australia or New Zealand
Member working less than 10 hours per week	\$275.00	\$250.00	Registered optometrist eligible for ACO membership but currently working less than 10 hours per week (25% discount)
Non-practising optometrist	\$185.00	\$168.18	Registered optometrist eligible for full ACO membership but currently non-practising due to illness or retired, taking parental or study leave (50% discount)
Affiliate	\$185.00	\$168.18	Resides outside Australia or New Zealand, holds an overseas qualification in optometry and is not currently registered to practise in Australia or New Zealand
Associate	\$65.00	\$59.09	Those with a special interest in optometry or an allied field
Associate (CPD)	\$185.00	\$168.18	Those with a special interest in optometry or an allied field who also want to access continuous professional development.

Non Voting Members

Classes	Class Description
First Year Graduates*	Free one-year membership granted to graduates within 12 months of graduating from an Australian or New Zealand optometry school.
Student*	Free membership for students at Australian or New Zealand optometry schools invited to join the College. No access to CPD points.

Note: all fees include GST. Where a member resides overseas GST is not applicable.

*Student Members and First Year Graduates do not hold voting rights

Membership Benefits

Membership will entitle you to:

- A comprehensive education program including Certificate level courses, on-line seminar series, clinical workshops and the ACO National Conference.
- The online Seminar Series is free for Members, providing up to 10 hours of CPD per year. Members also have access to the previous years seminar program via ACO Core.
- Complimentary annual CPD points statement provided.
- Services and resources from the Nathan Library, including online access to the Australian Medicines Handbook and access to journal articles from Optometry and Vision Science.
- The opportunity to apply for ACO Travel Grants (following 12 months' membership). For more information on eligibility criteria please visit our website aco.org.au.
- The opportunity to apply for Fellowship of the ACO following three years of continuous membership. Fellows are recognised as having significantly contributed to the practice and profession of optometry and to the community.
- Free Member eNews.
- The opportunity to participate in ACO advisory groups and be nominated to serve on the ACO Council (not applicable to First Year Graduates or Student Members).
- Voting rights at the ACO Annual General Meeting.

