



CATEGORIES OF FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BAND A: Full Rate

Foundation Fellow

Affix: FCOptom

Eligibility: Foundation Fellows were appointed when the College was founded in 1980. All Foundation Fellows were, at the time of the College's foundation, Fellows or Members of the British Optical Association or Scottish Association of Opticians or Fellows of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers

Registration with the GOC as an optometrist.

Status: Full voting rights and all membership benefits
May hold office as a member of Council

Fellow by Examination

Affix: FCOptom

Eligibility: No longer open to new applicants.

Registration with the GOC as an optometrist.

Status: Full voting rights and all membership benefits
May hold office as a member of Council

Fellow by Portfolio

Affix: FCOptom

Eligibility: Awarded to successful applicants in accordance with the rules governing Fellowship in force at the time of application. Applicants must have been a member of the College for at least the last 5 years without a break.

Registration with the GOC as an optometrist.

Status: Full voting rights and all membership benefits
May hold office as a member of Council

Member

Affix: MCOptom

Eligibility: Registration with the GOC as an optometrist.

Status: Full voting rights and all membership benefits
May hold office as a member of Council



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BAND B: Reduced Rate

Fellow or Member Part time

Affix: FCOptom or MCOptom

Eligibility: As Fellow or Member
AND working fewer than 50 days a year

All reduced rates are available on request and, subject to eligibility. This change will be applied from the date of notification.

The reduced rate may also apply to Fellows and Members working fewer than 50 days a year and in receipt of a grant or award for research or a higher level qualification. These cases would be considered on an individual basis.

Status: Full voting rights and all membership benefits
May hold office as a member of Council

Fellow or Member Overseas

Affix: FCOptom or MCOptom

Eligibility: Registered with the GOC or the appropriate regulatory authority in the country in which they are practising **AND** resident or practising overseas with an overseas address as their main address.

Automatically assigned when overseas address is advised as main address.

Status: No voting rights
May not hold office as a member of Council
Reduced membership benefits.



Fellow or Member who is no longer in practice

Affix: FCOptom or MCOptom

Eligibility: Those who are working within optometry or optics but are no longer in practice or seeing patients.

By maintaining their membership of the College, Members and Fellows may retain the use of the respective affix.

There is no requirement to maintain registration with the GOC as an optometrist. Previous College membership or fellowship is required.

All reduced rates are available on request and, subject to eligibility. This change will be applied from the date of notification.

Status: No voting rights
Reduced membership benefits
May not hold office as a member of Council

Healthcare professional Associate member

Affix: *No affix*

Eligibility: UK registered healthcare professional, excluding optometrists. For example: Dispensing opticians (registered with: General Optical Council), ophthalmic nurse (Nursing and Midwifery Council), ophthalmologists (General Medical Council), orthoptists (Health and Care Professions Council).

Status: No voting rights
Reduced membership benefits
May not hold office as a member of Council

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BAND C: Overseas & Reduced Rate

Fellow or Member Overseas AND Part-time rate

Affix: FCOptom or MCOptom

Eligibility: As Fellow or Member Overseas
AND working fewer than 50 days a year

All reduced rates are available on request and, subject to eligibility. This change will be applied from the date of notification.

Status: No voting rights
Reduced membership benefits
May not hold office as a member of the Council



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BAND D: Newly Qualified

Newly-qualified Member

Affix: MCOptom

Eligibility: First four years following successful completion of the College's Scheme for Registration.

Registration with the GOC as an optometrist.

Overseas applicants must be registered with the appropriate regulatory authority in their own country or with the GOC.

For those completing the College's Scheme for Registration in July, the first year membership (officially starting on 1 October following the examination) will include August and September in the year of qualification.

Status: Full voting rights and all membership benefits
May hold office as a member of Council

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BAND E: Non-practising

Retired Fellow or Member

Affix: FCOptom or MCOptom

Eligibility: Those who are permanently retired from optometry AND expect to receive no income from optometry during the subscription year.

By maintaining their membership of the College, Members and Fellows may retain the use of the respective affix.

There is no requirement to maintain registration with the GOC as an optometrist. Previous College membership or fellowship is required.

All reduced rates are available on request and, subject to eligibility. This change will be applied from the date of notification.

Status: No voting rights
Reduced membership benefits
May not hold office as a member of Council



Non-practising Fellow or Member

Affix: FCOptom or MCOptom

Eligibility: Those who are taking a career break, on parental leave, unemployed or unable to work due to ill-health or incapacity, AND expect to receive no income from optometry during the subscription year.

By maintaining their membership of the College, Members and Fellows may retain the use of the respective affix.

There is no requirement to maintain registration with the GOC as an optometrist. Previous College membership or fellowship is required.

All reduced rates are available on request and, subject to eligibility. This change will be applied from the date of notification.

Status: No voting rights
Reduced membership benefits
May not hold office as a member of Council

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION BAND F: No annual subscription

Student Associate Member

Affix: *No affix*

Eligibility: UK students
Undergraduate students undertaking a degree course (including a masters course) in optometry from a UK University approved by the GOC
Or EU students completing a conversion course at a UK University approved by the GOC
Or enrolled pre-registration trainees.

AND registered as a Student Optometrist with the GOC.

Irish students
Undergraduate students undertaking the CORU-accredited registerable degree programme in optometry at TU Dublin.

Status: No voting rights
Reduced membership benefits
May not hold office as a member of Council



50 year long service Fellow or Member (practising)

Affix:	FCOptom or MCOptom
Eligibility:	Qualified and registered as an optometrist for 50 years or more, and remained in continuous membership of the College for the last 10 years. Registration with the GOC as an optometrist.
Status:	Full voting rights and all membership benefits May hold office as a member of Council

50 year long service Fellow or Member (non-practising)

Affix:	FCOptom or MCOptom
Eligibility:	Qualified and registered as an optometrist for 50 years or more, and remained in continuous membership of the College for the last 10 years.
Status:	No voting rights Reduced membership benefits May not hold office as a member of Council

Honorary Fellow or Member

Affix:	Hon FCOptom or Hon MCOptom
Eligibility:	Elected by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Standing Order for Election of Life and Honorary Fellows and Honorary Members.
Status:	No voting rights Reduced membership benefits May not hold office as member of Council

Life Fellow (practising)

Affix:	FCOptom
Eligibility:	Elected by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Standing Orders for election of Honorary and Life Fellows and Life Members. Registration with the GOC as an optometrist.
Status:	Full voting rights and all member benefits May hold office as a member of Council



Life Fellow (non-practising)

Affix: FCOptom

Eligibility: Elected by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Standing Orders for election of Honorary and Life Fellows and Life Members.

Status: No voting rights
Reduced membership benefits
May not hold office as a member of Council

SPECIAL CASES

Fellow or Member in reduced circumstances

Eligibility: Any Fellow or Member who, because of illness or any other temporary circumstance, has difficulty in paying the subscription in any year, may, at the discretion of the Chief Executive, pay a reduced subscription or have their subscription waived for the year in which they request special consideration. The Fellow or Member may also or alternatively be referred to the Benevolent Fund of the College and the AOP.

Status: Full voting rights and all membership benefits
May hold office as a member of Council

OTHER SUBSCRIPTION RULES

- The College membership year runs from 1 October to 30 September.
- All subscriptions are due on 1 October each year.
- Any change in category advised by 31 December in any year will be applied to the whole year and any refunds given.
- All reduced rates are available on request and, subject to eligibility. This change will be applied from the date of notification. There will be no subscription fee refunds after 1 December, unless there is a change in membership category.
- New members who join after 1 April will receive a 50% discount on the full annual subscription. This excludes discounted subscription rates and membership for those who have been members in the current subscription year.