

# Achieving Global Consistency and Equitable Access: Early Experiences from the First Year of the Ophthalmology Foundation Exams



Prof Hugh R Taylor AC, Board Member Ophthalmology Foundation

IABP/RANZCO Global Ophthalmology, 7<sup>th</sup> March, Hobart

# OF MISSION:

The Ophthalmology Foundation works with eye care professionals, societies and organizations to enhance and provide ophthalmic education, with special focus on low-resource and underserved countries.

- Helping ophthalmologists become better teachers
- Providing training opportunities through sponsoring fellowships

We commit to strengthening ophthalmic education, with the ultimate goal of improving eyecare and advancing the preservation and restoration of vision for all.



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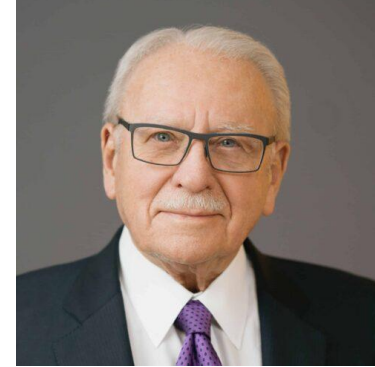
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# OF Four Key Program Initiatives



## Faculty Development

Providing tools, techniques, and resources to optimally train and improve ophthalmologists and eye care professionals through educational activities.



## Accreditation

A review process of ophthalmology resident training programs to improve and meet international standards. For surgical and non-surgical programs.



## Fellowships

Supporting international fellowships for young ophthalmologists from low-resource and underserved countries to refine and develop their skills. Three, six, and 12-month observerships.



## Examinations

We bring the exam to you anywhere in the world. Elevate your knowledge to global standards.

# Internationally Standardized Online Examinations

Discover our new online exams, available at a center nearby, designed to elevate your knowledge to global standards. We bring the exam to you anywhere in the world.

Sessions held twice a year: Registration for **25 March 2026** exams closes **31 January 2026**. September 2026 exams registration opens February 2026.

In partnership with **Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia**, one of the oldest and most prestigious eye hospitals in the world, and **Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore**, which underscores the global relevance of these examinations.



**Wilmer Eye Institute**  
Johns Hopkins Medicine

# About the Exams

- Recognized certification to enhance your professional credentials.
- OF exams are meticulously crafted to align with the **American Academy of Ophthalmology's Basic and Clinical Sciences (BCSC)** standards and the professional requirements in the field.
- Content is created by a pool of 21 international experts from every specialty and 11 countries and is revised periodically.
- Allows comparison of performance with other institutions both nationally and globally.
- Criterion Referenced.
- Angoff Method of Standardization

*Exam candidates in Rwanda, March 2025*



## David and Molly Pyott Foundation Travel Grant

\$10,000 Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology Clinical Sciences Examinations

 **How You Can Use It** – Attend global ophthalmology conferences (RANZCO, ARVO, AAO), specialized training programs, or research opportunities. Covers travel, registration, and accommodation

# Benefits of OF Examinations for Ophthalmology

- High Quality & Low Cost
- Flexible online exams at a location near you.
- Benchmark institutional and trainee performance locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Earn points toward an OF-IOFF fellowship application.  
(Prerequisite Visual and/or Clinical Examination Pass)
- Post-nominal FIOF (Fellow of the International Ophthalmology Foundation) awarded upon passing the Clinical exam.
- Eligibility for the David and Molly Pyott Award.
- Enhances the quality of patient care.



*Exam candidates in Turkey, March 2025*



# Examination Ophthalmology Categories

## Visual Sciences

120 Single Best Answer Questions  
3 Hours

### Subjects

- Anatomy
- Embryology and Development
- Genetics
- Biochemistry and Metabolism
- Pharmacology
- Imaging and Digital Ophthalmology
- Ophthalmic Pathology

## Optics, Refraction, and Instruments

60 Single Best Answer Questions  
1.5 Hours

### Subjects

- Optics
- Refraction
- Instruments

## Clinical Ophthalmology

160 Single Best Answer Questions  
4 Hours

### Subjects

- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- Orbit
- Cornea, and external eye disease
- Uveitis
- Glaucoma
- Cataract
- Retina
- Community and Public Health
- General Medicine related to Ophthalmology



## When to apply:

- We recommend that the Visual Sciences and Optics, Refraction, and Instruments examinations are taken in the first to second year of Ophthalmology training
- We recommend that the Clinical Ophthalmology examinations is taken in the third to fourth year of Ophthalmology training.

# Candidate Experiences



Arnold Mofor Fru-M, Cameroon, March 2025

The Ophthalmology Foundation International Exams has served a very important need **in bridging every known barriers to accessibility and affordability** without compromising international standards of excellence pioneered by giants in the OF faculty, Wilmer and Will's Eye, to reach every potential future leader in Ophthalmology wherever they may be found. Being achieved through innovations such as a computer-based, examination platform proctor monitoring. The pricing cost was very affordable and considerate.

Karuparthi Vasavi, India, March 2025

I took visual sciences and optics and refraction exam and It was a unique experience. The **questions were well-structured, clinically oriented, and really tested both theoretical knowledge and practical understanding** especially optics and refraction questions were very unique. It wasn't just about remembering facts; it was about thinking like a clinician. I'm glad and happy that I have cleared both the exams.



Majdi Abdala, Libya, March 2025

The online examination platform was exceptionally well-organized, intuitive to navigate, and technically reliable. Clear instructions were provided ahead of time, and the interface facilitated a **smooth experience from start to finish**. The technical support team was readily accessible and responsive throughout the exam session, which contributed greatly to a calm and focused environment.

- Bangladesh Society of Ophthalmology
- College of Ophthalmology of Easter, Central and Southern Africa
- Mongolian Ophthalmology Society
- Ophthalmology Society of the West Indies
- Sudan Eye Centre
- Turkish Society of Ophthalmology
- Young Ophthalmology Society of India
  - European Board of Ophthalmology
  - Egyptian Ophthalmology Society
  - Ophthalmology Society of Nigeria
  - Ophthalmology Society of Pakistan
  - Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

## Candidates for the March 2026 Exams – Total 508

- Bangladesh 10
- Cambodia 1
- China 7
- India 38
- Indonesia 13
- Malaysia 5
- Mongolia 9
- Myanmar 1
- Nepal 3
- Pakistan 2
- Philippines 17
- Singapore 0
- Sri Lanka 0
- Thailand 3
- Vietnam 19



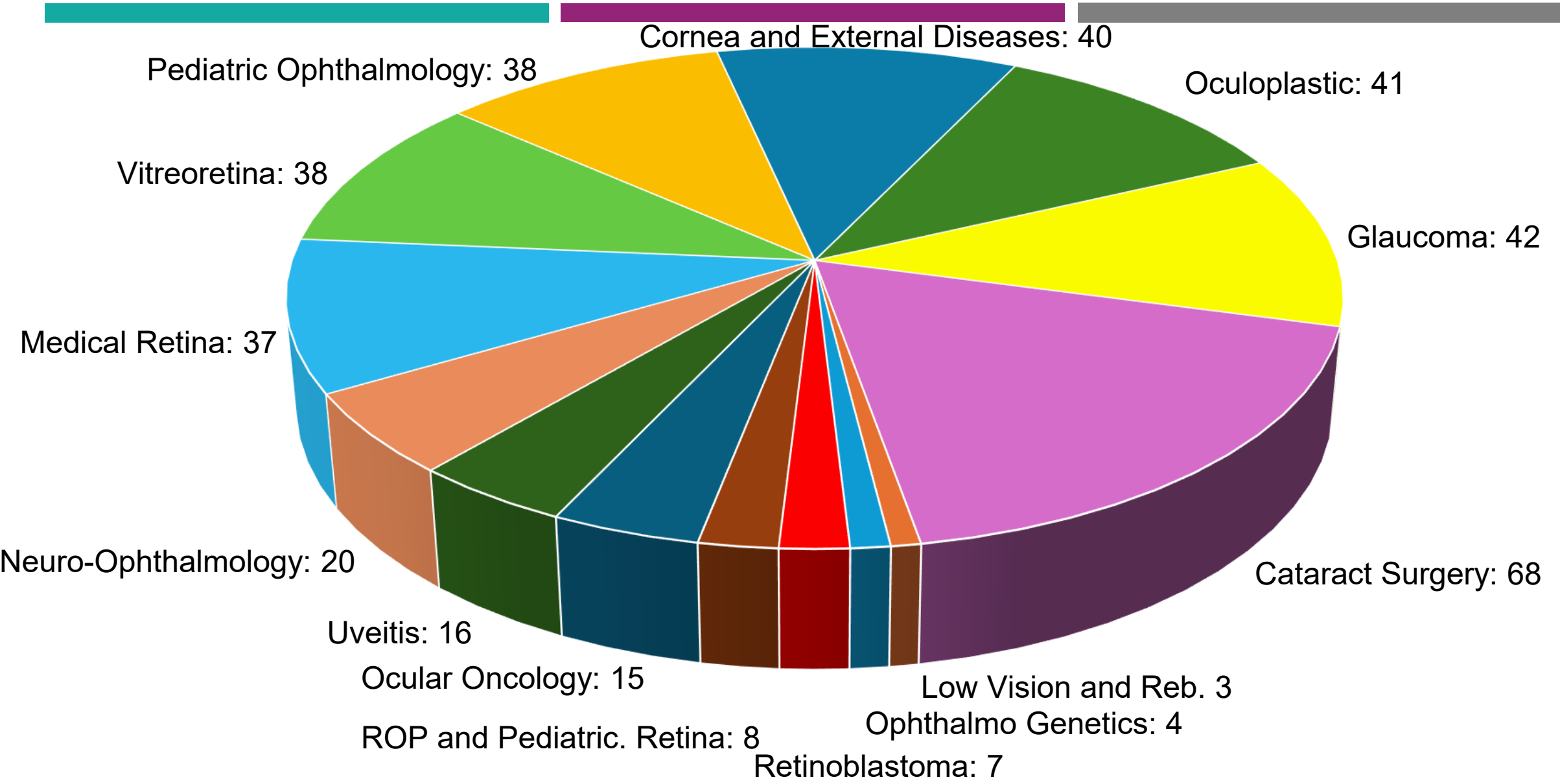


## 31 Host Countries for 377 OF-IOFF-Fellows, 2021-2025

India	86	Cameroon	3
USA	82	Poland	3
Germany	60	Finland	2
UK	45	Iran	2
France	11	Nigeria	2
Australia	10	Spain	2
Honduras/USA	10	Bangladesh	1
Switzerland	8	Israel	1
Turkey	8	Japan	1
Egypt	6	Mali	1
Nepal	6	Netherlands	1
China	5	Pakistan	1
Singapore	5	Scotland	1
Italy	4	Tanzania	1
Portugal	4	Zambia	1
Tunisia	4		-----
			377

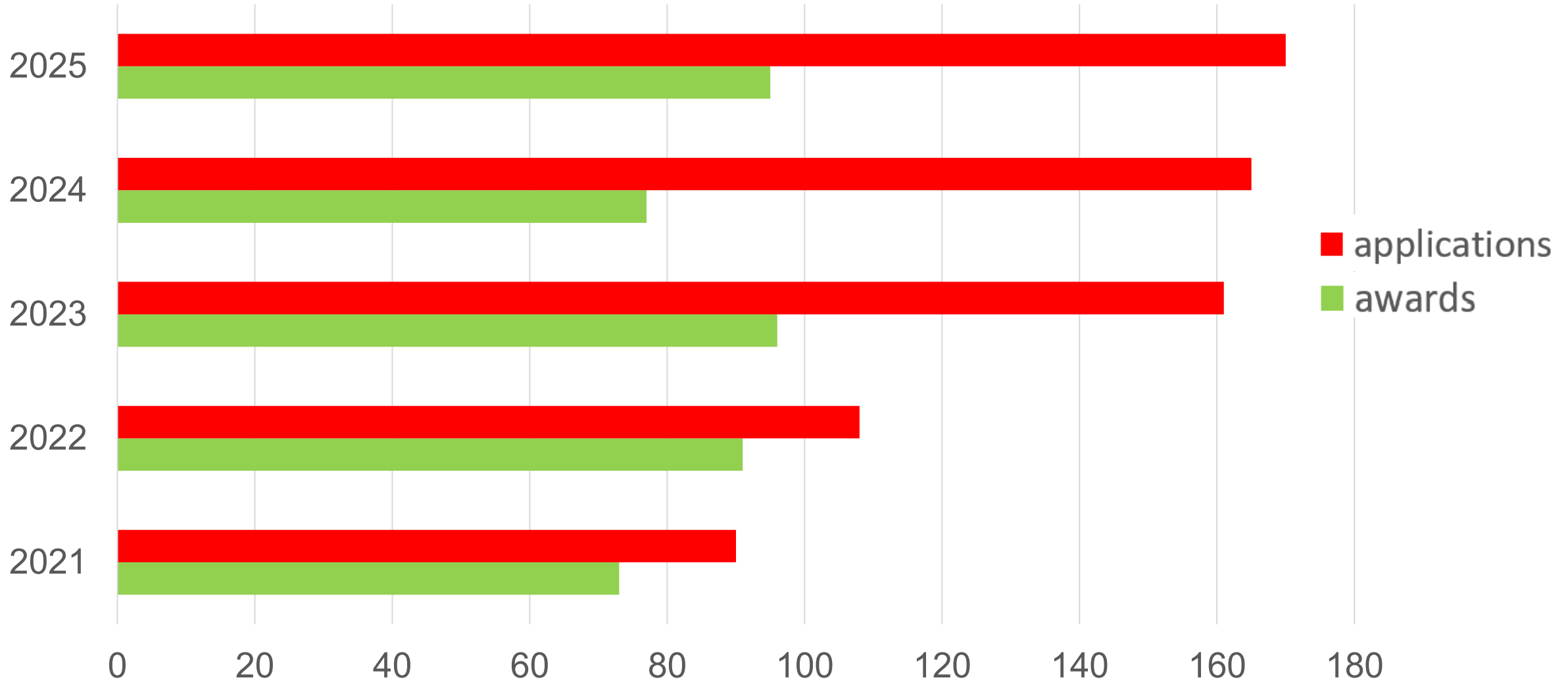
# 72 Home Countries, 2021-2025

Nigeria	39	Palestine	4	Syria	2
Turkey	36	Uzbekistan	4	Tadjikistan	2
India	24	Vietnam	4	Angola	1
Indonesia	19	Bangladesh	3	Benin	1
Ethiopia	18	Burundi	3	Bulgaria	1
Yemen	17	Cameroon	3	Cambodia	1
Nepal	14	Ghana	3	Chile	1
Egypt	13	Libya	3	East Timor	1
Pakistan	12	Malaysia	3	Guatemala	1
Sudan	11	Maroc	3	Haiti	1
Ukraine	11	Mocambique	3	Iraq	1
Mongolia	10	Romania	3	Lebanon	1
Mexico	9	Uganda	3	Malawi	1
Congo	6	Afghanistan	2	North Macedonia	1
Georgia	6	Algeria	2	Peru	1
Philippines	6	Argentine	2	Ruanda	1
Thailand	6	Azerbaijan	2	Russia	1
Colombia	5	Bolivia	2	Senegal	1
Kazakhstan	5	Burkina Faso	2	Serbia	1
Armenia	4	Cuba	2	Sierra Leone	1
Brazil	4	Dominican Republic	2	South Sudan	1
Honduras	4	Kenya	2	Tanzania	1
Iran	4	Myanmar	2	Venezuela	1
Jordan	4	Somalia	2	Zambia	1



- Hold nationality of and are permanently based in a low resource or underserved country
- Under 40 years of age at the time of submitting the application
- Have completed their Residency Training
- Have obtained their Specialist in Ophthalmology degree
- Come with strong recommendation from previous and present chair
- Ideally: hold public services/ teaching positions
- Are committed to resume their position after the training to apply the newly acquired skills and knowledge
- Female Ophthalmologists are strongly encouraged to apply (F-62 / M-38)
- **Ophthalmology Foundation Exams are Important**

1. Information on the program available on [www.ioff.org](http://www.ioff.org)
  2. Online application form with upload of requested documents, then submission for the eligibility determination  
**Special attention: answers reg. motivation, expectations and impacts to gain**
  3. Contact to preferred host from the [IOFF Host Network](#)
  4. Short interview with the host
  5. Host decides and returns duly signed host notice of acceptance form
  6. Processing of application file for expert's review and funding decision
- ➔ Next application deadline July 31, 2026



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