

Immigration and Student Visa Procedures for Ireland

Immigration Requirements for Visiting US and Non-EU Students:

Immigration is permission to reside in a country. It is necessary for any non-Irish citizen, wishing to live in Ireland for more than 90 days to obtain an Immigration Card. US citizens are not required to have a student visa to study in Ireland.

Passport and Immigration Control:

At the port of entry into Ireland, all students must pass through immigration. To receive official permission to enter Ireland you will need the following documents:

- **A valid US passport.** Because you are an American citizen, you are not required to have a visa to enter Ireland. You must have a valid passport confirming your citizenship.
- **Proof of acceptance.** You must show evidence of your acceptance as a full-time student to a recognized university in Ireland, so carry your acceptance letter from your host university with you.
- **Proof of funds.** You should provide evidence that you are able to cover your stay in Ireland. This could be a bank statement, copy of a credit card, or letter from a parent or sponsor stating their wish to fund you. All must be notarized.
- **Evidence of private medical insurance.**
- **Evidence that you intend to leave** Ireland at the end of your studies. Please pay attention to this information:
 - You must have a roundtrip ticket with a departure date that is within 90 days. The reason being is that you must apply for permission to stay in Ireland once you have been permitted to enter. Because of this technicality, purchase a plane ticket that you are able to change!
 - You can request for permission to stay at the Department of Justice in Dublin. Otherwise, contact your university for the nearest place that you are able to apply for this type of permission. It will probably be a police station. See the information under “Immigration Registration”.

► **Attention:** This list may not be all-inclusive! Verify this information with the consulate, as the application process can change or may even vary by consulate.

Do not enter Ireland as a visitor and then attempt to change status to Student.

All non-EU students will have their passports computer swiped and date stamped by the Immigration Officer. You will be required to register with the Immigration Office before the date stamped expires. It is usually within one month of entry. Details of how to register with Immigration are outlined under the Immigration Procedures section.

Please treat Irish Immigration Officers with the respect that their Office deserves. Behave in a polite and courteous manner at all times.

Immigration Registration

With the exception of EU students, all international students are required to register with Immigration within one month of arrival in Ireland. Immigration registration takes place at the Garda Síochána (police barracks). You will be issued with an Immigration Card (green card/residency permit). For this permit you will need:

- **Completed immigration form** - available during the Orientation Programme and from the International Office at your host university,
- **Valid passport**
- **Student Identity card** from your host university
- **Evidence of financial support** such as a bank statement (from an Irish Bank Account), or a letter from sponsoring body/university confirming your financial status. If you are part of an exchange, meaning you pay tuition to your home university, then show a letter confirming this agreement (e.g., your acceptance letter from us and your host university).
- **Evidence of permanent residence** in Ireland
- **Immigration Card Fee - €150**. This fee is subject to change. Please refer to the following website for updated fee rates: www.citizensinformation.ie

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Cost of an Immigration Card

As and from May 29th 2006 there will be a €150 charge for all Immigration Cards issued by the Garda National Immigration Bureau. Payment will be by bank giro (issued at the Garda Station only), or by credit card.

If you pay by bank giro you will have to make two visits to the Immigration Office. On your first visit you will submit all your documents and collect your bank giro form. You will be advised of the duration of processing times, approximately one week. Take the bank giro form to your bank, make the payment and retain your receipt. Return to the Immigration Office, with the bank giro receipt after the appropriate processing time has elapsed. Provided that your documentation is in order you should be able to collect your Immigration Card.

Those making credit card payments will have their Immigration Cards processed immediately, if all the documentation is in order.

Please remember that you are a guest in Ireland and the issuing of your Immigration/Residency/Green Card is at the discretion of the Irish government. Please ensure that you treat Immigration Officers with the respect that they as individuals and their Office deserve.

Final note, do not forget to book a plane ticket that you are able to change once in Ireland.

