

Essential Guide for New Visa Students Arriving in Ireland

A clear, simplified guide for international students arriving in Ireland for the first time. This includes what you must do before and after arrival, plus key immigration rules. For full official information, visit the Irish Government website:

Who Needs a Visa?

You need a visa to travel to Ireland if you are not a citizen of:

- The UK
- Switzerland
- The European Economic Area (EEA): EU countries + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein

If you are travelling with children, each child needs their own visa.

Even with a visa, immigration officers at the airport can still refuse entry.

Types of Visas for Students

Long Stay 'D' Visa (More than 3 months)

Students coming to Ireland for study, work, or long-term stay must apply for a D Visa.

If you receive a D Visa and stay longer than 3 months, you must register with immigration and get an Irish Residence Permit (IRP).

Before You Travel to Ireland

You must complete these steps BEFORE arrival:

- Apply for the correct Long Stay D Visa (if required)
- Have private medical insurance
- Prepare evidence of funds (€6,665)
- Have your school acceptance letter
- Book your accommodation (you will need proof of address later)
- Check official visa rules: <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving-country/visas-for-ireland/visa-requirements-for-entering-ireland/>

After You Arrive in Ireland

You must register with Immigration (ISD) to receive your IRP card.

Location: 13–14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2

Steps:

1. Create an account at irishimmigration.ie/burgh-quay-appointments
2. Verify your identity using the ID-Pal app
3. Book your appointment online
4. Prepare your documents:
 - Passport
 - School immigration letter
 - Proof of address
 - Medical insurance
 - €300 fee (card only)
5. Attend your appointment (photo + fingerprints)
6. Receive your IRP card within 10 working days

Stamp 2 – Study & Work Programme

Students on Stamp 2 must follow these rules:

- Study for 25 weeks
- Maintain 85% attendance
- Take an official English exam at the end of the course
- Choose holidays before your GNIB/IRP appointment
- Work 20 hours/week during classes and 40 hours/week during official holidays (June–Sept & 15 Dec–15 Jan)

Attendance Rules

- Minimum 85% attendance required
- 15 minutes late = absent
- Email reception if sick; doctor's certificate required after 2 days
- Low attendance may lead to warnings, reporting to immigration, or expulsion

Required English Exam

You must take one exam at the end of your course. Options include:

- TIE (A1–A2)
- Cambridge PET (B1)
- IELTS (B1+ and above)

The school will help you choose and prepare.

Need More Information?

Official Irish immigration guidance: <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving-country/visas-for-ireland/visa-requirements-for-entering-ireland/>

This guide includes all essential steps before and after arrival. Always check official sources for updates.