

VISITORS' VISAS

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1. European Economic Area* (EEA) national. What do I need to do to visit Ireland?

EEA and Swiss nationals do not need a visa to enter Ireland for any reason.

2. Non-EEA/Swiss national. What do I need to do to visit Ireland?

If you are not an EEA/Swiss national, you can visit Ireland for a period of three months without having to register with the immigration authorities.

If you are from a country whose citizens need a visa to enter Ireland, you must obtain this visa before you enter the country. The website of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INIS) within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform gives information on the countries that need a visa to enter Ireland. Link to further information: http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Do_I_need_a_Visa

3. Applying for a visa to enter the country

The Irish visa application process has now gone online. If you are applying for a visa (from abroad) to come to Ireland, and if your country has the online visa facility, **you must now make your visa application via the internet** through the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie>

* The EEA stands for the European Economic Area includes the countries of the European Union (EU) as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

◆ Do I have to make the application online or not?

Not every country has the facility to use the online visa application facility yet. Before you attempt to do the application online, please check whether you must make the application online or not.

For a list of 'Supported Countries' from which you need to apply online go to: http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Supported_Countries

◆ I have to make an application online, what should I do?

If your country is a 'Supported Country' from where you need to make an online application, you can do this through the INIS website at the following link: <https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/avats/OnlineHome.aspx>

However, BEFORE starting the application, please read the information on the INIS website about the process of making an online visa application and what supporting documents you need to send in. Link to this information: http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Information_on_completing_your_online_application

Information notes can be downloaded from this page in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Turkish and Urdu.

◆ I do not have to make an application online, what should I do?

If your country is not a 'Supported Country' where an online application is possible, you should print out the application form, fill it in by hand and send it, along with all the supporting documents and appropriate fee to the Irish Embassy/Consulate or Visa office in, or accredited to, your country of permanent residence.

You can get further information and guidance on what to include in your visa application and also download the application form from the following link: http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/If_country_Online_not_available

Please note: A visa entitles you to present yourself at the border and seek entry to Ireland but it does not guarantee entry. This is at the discretion of immigration officials at the border.

◆ What do I need to include with my application?

1. Online application

If you are making your application online, please see the following page of the INIS website for information on supporting documents you need to submit: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Documents%20Required%20for%20Visa%20to%20Ireland>

2. Written application

If you are not making your application online, please see the INIS information note on completing a Visa Application Form for full information on what you need to include with your application. The information note is available in different languages at: http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/If_country_Online_not_avail

◆ How will I know if I have been granted a visa?

You can check the status of your visa application by visiting the 'Visa decisions' section on the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service website at <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Visa%20Decisions>. You will need your reference number, which you will have been given at the time of your application.

If you have been granted a visa, you will see 'Approved' in the 'Decision' column of the document.

6. If I am refused a visa

If you are refused a visa, you will see 'Refused' in the appropriate column of the visa decisions document. You will also see one or more abbreviations in the 'Reasons for refusal' column of the document. An explanation of those abbreviations is given on the document. Examples of reasons for refusal are 'OS' (may overstay the visa) or 'NR' (no obligation to return to country of residence).

◆ Can I appeal a visa refusal?

If you are refused a visa, it is possible to appeal this decision based on the reasons given for the refusal. In most cases the appeal will be made to the Visa Appeals Section of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. In making the appeal, you should address the reasons given for the refusal. For example, if the reason given was that you had not shown an obligation to return to your country of residence, you should try to include some evidence that you will be returning within a three month period.

7. I wish to stay in Ireland longer than the permitted three months. Can I extend my stay?

Generally, if you need a visa to enter Ireland you will not be permitted to stay in Ireland after three months. If you feel there are some grounds as to why you should be allowed to remain longer, then you will need to apply in writing to the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, 13-14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2).

It can also be difficult to change your status from visitor to something else with longer permission to stay, while you are in the country.

For more information, please contact the ICI's Information and Support Service.

ICI Information and Support Service contact details:

Contact Details

Our Information and Support Service can be contacted by telephone on **(01) 674 0200 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 4.30pm.** Clients with general enquiries may be referred to another agency for assistance.

Clients with complex cases may be offered an appointment to speak to an Information and Support Officer in person on a confidential basis.

From January 2009, consultations with Information and Support Officers will be **by appointment only.**

Immigrant Council of Ireland
2 St Andrew Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

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