

## General Update for all Migrants from Outside the EEA\*

### 1. Registration fee increase

If you are from outside the European Economic Area\* (EEA) and you intend to stay in Ireland for more than three months, you must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) to receive a GNIB registration card. If you are in Dublin you should register at the GNIB offices in Burgh Quay, Dublin 2. If you are outside of Dublin you should register with your local immigration officer, located in some Garda stations around the country.

- **The fee to be paid when registering is €150.** This has been increased from €100 and coincides with the introduction of fingerprinting of all migrants who register. Payments must be made using a specific bank giro form which can be obtained at all registration offices or by credit/debit card at a number of Garda stations.
- You will **not need to pay** if you: are a convention refugee or you have been granted refugee status in Ireland; you are the family member of a refugee; you are under 18 years of age; you are the spouse, widow or widower of an Irish citizen; or you are the spouse or dependant of an EU citizen who has received a residence permit under EU Directive 38/04.

### 2. Visa application process goes 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 make your visa application via the internet** through the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie>. To find out if you need to do this please check the following first:

- 1) If you need to apply for a visa or not. People from some countries do not need a visa to enter Ireland, while others do. For more information see the Department of Justice's information at: [http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Do\\_I\\_need\\_a\\_Visa](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Do_I_need_a_Visa)
  - 2) If you need to submit your application through the internet or by printing out the application form and filling it in by hand. For a list of countries from which you need to apply online go to: [http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Supported\\_Countries](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Supported_Countries)
- For information on **how to make an online visa application** and what supporting documents you need go to: [http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Information\\_on\\_completing\\_your\\_online\\_application](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.
  - To make a visa application online go to: <https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/avats/OnlineHome.aspx>
  - If you are applying for a visa from a country where the online application facility is not yet available you can download the application form from: [http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/If\\_country\\_Online\\_not\\_available](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/If_country_Online_not_available)
  - For a list of **frequently asked questions** on applying for visas go to: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000118>

### 3. Four INIS telephone helplines now available

The following link provides information on the four helplines now available from the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Bureau – depending on what type of query you have: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP08000090>

## Update on Rights of International Students

### 1. Rules when applying for student visas

If you are making an application for a student visa, your application must now contain proof of payment to the relevant college in the form of a copy of an Electronic Transfer of Funds from you the applicant to the Irish bank of the college. This should show details of the school/college's name, address, bank details and also the same details for you the applicant.

### 2. New regulations regarding children of international students from outside the EEA\*

The following are current immigration arrangements regarding the children of students from outside the EEA\*:

- **First-time students from outside the EEA with children:** If you are a first time student from outside the EEA registering with GNIB you will be asked to confirm that you are not accompanied by children and do not intend to have your children join you later on.
- **Unaccompanied Students:** If you are an unaccompanied child (minor) from outside the EEA, who was studying in Ireland during the 2007-2008 school year in a State school, you will be allowed to continue your schooling for the 2008-2009 year. Extension of permission to stay after this will only be allowed with the written approval of the Department of Education and Science.
- **Children of non-EEA students already in State schools:** If you are a student from outside the EEA whose children were in education for some or all of the 2007-2008 school year, and you the parent can demonstrate that you have partially completed your own course, your child will be permitted to remain in education until the completion of your own course, provided that your (the parent's) course is finished on or before July 2010. Parents may not enrol in new courses or transfer between courses. Where the parent's course ends in the middle of a school year, the parent's registration cannot be extended solely for the purpose of allowing the child to finish the school year.
- For more information on this issue go to: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP08000025>

\* The EEA stands for the European Economic Area and includes the countries of the European Union as well as Norway Iceland and Liechtenstein. Swiss nationals (while not members of the EU or EEA) are also afforded many of the same rights as EEA citizens e.g. freedom of movement for employment purposes.

## Update on Family Reunification Rights

### 1. Residency rights of migrants from outside EU who are family members of EEA\* nationals

In 2008 the European Court of Justice ruled that a non-EU spouse of a European Union citizen **does not need to have lived in another EU member state** before qualifying for residency in Ireland. Also, **it does not matter where the marriage took place or how the non-EU spouse entered the country**. In response to this ruling the Irish Government changed its regulations. Now, if you are a non-EU family member of an EEA national and you apply for residency in Ireland, the Government no longer needs you to show evidence that you have lived in another EU country before coming to Ireland. While you are waiting for a decision (applications can take up to six months) you (the non-EU family member) will most likely be granted a temporary residence card with the right to work (Stamp 4). For more information see the INIS website section on EU Treaty rights:

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/EU%20Treaty%20Rights%20FAQs>

### 2. Applying for residency on basis of relationship with a) non-EEA, b) Irish or c) EU partner in Ireland

- a) If you are **from outside the EEA** and you want to apply to live in Ireland on the basis of your (unmarried) relationship with your **non-EEA partner** who is already living in Ireland, you need to provide evidence of your relationship lasting at least **four** years. If you are given permission to stay in Ireland and you need to work, you will need to have a valid work permit or green card. For more information please see website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000278>
- b) If you are **from outside the EEA** and you want to live in Ireland on the basis of your (unmarried) relationship with your **Irish partner** you need to provide evidence of your relationship lasting at least **two** years. If you are given permission to stay in Ireland and you need to work, you may need a valid work permit or green card. For more information please see website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000278>
- c) If you are **from outside the EEA** and in a durable (unmarried) relationship with an **EU national** you may be entitled to live with your (unmarried) partner in Ireland. If you are already in the country you can apply for a residence card by submitting the EU1 form (available on [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)) along with evidence that the partnership has existed for at least **two** years. If you are currently outside Ireland and need a visa to enter the country you must make a D-Visa application in order to come to Ireland. You should state in your visa application that you wish to join your EU partner who is living and working in Ireland.
- You should enclose the following documents with the above applications:
  - Current passports of both partners, evidence of finances of both partners, as well as evidence that your relationship has lasted the required period (i.e. tenancy agreement, utility bills, bank statements, etc). When applying with the EU1 Form original documents are requested. Please see the form for further information.

## Update on Residency & Citizenship Rights

### 1. Citizenship Applications

- **Waiting times:** In our experience processing times at present for citizenship applications can take between 18 months and two years, however the ICI is aware that some applications are taking longer to process. For more information on making citizenship applications see: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Contact%20Details%20for%20Citizenship%20Section>
- The **address and contact details** for citizenship applications or related correspondence is: Citizenship Division, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Dundrum Road, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary. The email address is: [Citizenship\\_Mail@Justice.ie](mailto:Citizenship_Mail@Justice.ie).
- **Citizenship application forms** are now available online: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000108>

### 2. Long Term Residency

- INIS now has details regarding the long term residency process on its website at: [http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Long\\_Term\\_Residency](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Long_Term_Residency). This information covers: who is eligible and ineligible to apply, how to apply, documents required etc

### 3. Non-Economically Active People Applying for Residency

- If you do not need a visa to enter Ireland and you are not earning an income (not economically active), and not a student, but want to stay in Ireland for longer than three months, then you must be able to prove that you are self sufficient in the country. To do this you need to provide your local Immigration Officer (or the GNIB in Dublin) with: 1) evidence of sufficient money to cover your stay in the country without the need to apply for State financial support, services or State benefits, and 2) evidence of private medical insurance to cover your stay in the country.
- At present it is government policy that people who need a visa to travel to Ireland and who are allowed to enter the country on a 'C Visa' are not allowed to stay longer than 90 days. If you want to stay longer than 3 months you should apply for a 'D-visa'.

**Please see the ICI's factsheets or website ([www.immigrantcouncil.ie](http://www.immigrantcouncil.ie)) for more information.**

**The ICI's Information and Referral Service is available by phone only on +353 1 674 0200**

**Days: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays**

**Times: 10am-12.30pm & 2pm-4.30pm**

**People with complex enquiries may be offered an appointment with ICI staff, depending on the nature of that query.**

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