Immigration Status in Ireland: What do I need to know?

Working for equality

Immigrant Council of Ireland
Secure immigration status allows people from a migrant background to fully take part in life in Ireland. You need immigration status if you want to go to college, get a job, social welfare or housing.
The need to register

All people who are citizens of countries outside the EEA and Switzerland, and stay in Ireland for longer than 90 days, must have immigration permission to do so.

The European Economic Area (EEA) is made up of all the countries in the European Union as well as Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein.

Persons aged 16 years or over must register with the immigration authorities. There are plans to extend this duty to children under 16 in 2018. If proceeded with, details about any such change will be provided on INIS’s website.

Children aged 15 years or younger do not need to register but they must do so as soon as they reach 16 years of age. Until aged 16, children’s immigration status is assumed to be the same as their parents.

Registration is the system used to record a person’s permission to be in the country and to give people proof of their permission to live legally in Ireland.

1 Immigration Act 2004 Section 9; Employment Permits (Amendment) Act 2014 Section 35(b) provides for the extension of the duty of registration to those under 16 years. That provision has not yet been commenced. The 2017 Migrant Integration Strategy commits to enabling registration of “non-EEA migrants aged under 16 years” by 2018. See http://www.integration.ie/website/omi/omiwebv6.nsf/page/JWKY-AJEE6A1021139-en/$file/Migrant_Integration_Strategy_English.pdf at p.23. (Accessed on 22nd June 2017)
If you live in Dublin, you should register at the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) on Burgh Quay in Dublin City. Appointments must be booked online in advance at https://burghquayregistrationoffice.inis.gov.ie/.

If you live outside Dublin, you can register at your nearest Garda immigration officer. Registration offices outside of Dublin are located in certain Garda (police) stations, and are managed by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). A list of registration offices outside of Dublin can be found online at this link: www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/registration-offices.

How do I register?

Where do I go to register?

If you live in Dublin, you should register at the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) on Burgh Quay in Dublin City. Appointments must be booked online in advance at https://burghquayregistrationoffice.inis.gov.ie/.

If you live outside Dublin, you can register at your nearest Garda immigration officer. Registration offices outside of Dublin are located in certain Garda (police) stations, and are managed by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). A list of registration offices outside of Dublin can be found online at this link: www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/registration-offices.

What do I need to bring with me to register?

When you go to register, you must bring:

- [✓] a valid passport (exception for people with refugee status);
- [✓] any letters from the INIS confirming your immigration permission, if relevant;
- [✓] proof of your parents’ permission;
- [✓] any other documentation requested by INIS (if a letter has been received).

Is there a cost to register?

There is a €300 fee for registration.

Children under the age of 18 years do not have to pay this fee.

Certain adults are also exempt. Adults who fall into one of the following categories do not need to pay to register:

- [✓] adults who have refugee status or subsidiary protection;
- [✓] persons who are formally reunified with a family member who is a recognised refugee; and
- [✓] spouses or dependents of EU nationals and Irish nationals who have a residence permit.

If you are required to pay the €300 to register, you can pay by credit or debit card (INIS and some offices outside Dublin) or by bank giro (bank giro forms are available from all regional offices).

USEFUL INFO

Children whose parent or parents have permission to reside in Ireland can present with their parent and their identity documents to register.

Children in the care of the State should present their letter of permission received through correspondence with INIS.

Children whose parent(s) are undocumented should seek legal advice from a specialist immigration solicitor before applying to INIS for permission to reside.

GNIB: The Garda National Immigration Bureau is the immigration office of An Garda Síochána (Ireland’s police force) based on Burgh Quay, Dublin.

INIS: The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) is the Irish government body which is responsible for managing immigration in Ireland. It is an office of the Department of Justice and Equality and manages asylum, immigration, citizenship and visa matters on behalf of the Minister for Justice and Equality.

*https://burghquayregistrationoffice.inis.gov.ie/


Bank giro: A printed form, filled out and given to a bank along with a cheque or cash telling the bank to pay that money into someone’s account.

Check the glossary for more information.
What happens when I go to register?

When you go to register, an immigration officer will meet you and record details about you for example taking your photograph and taking your fingerprints. If you have received a letter from INIS, you should show this letter to the immigration officer.

If you are successful in registering, an immigration officer will give you an immigration stamp which gives you proof of your immigration permission. This stamp will be printed into your passport.

**USEFUL INFO**

Irish Residence Permit: The Irish Residence Permit is what the ‘Certificate of Registration’ is commonly called. It is a credit card-sized plastic card which has a person’s photograph and immigration stamp number printed on it. It acts as proof of a person’s permission to be in Ireland.


Check the glossary for more information.

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**How can I renew my immigration permission and when should I renew it?**

Most immigration permissions are valid for 12 months. If you want to stay in Ireland after your immigration stamp or permission expires, you should begin preparations to renew your permission at least 10 weeks before your immigration permission expires.

Before going to renew your permission, you should make sure your passport is still in date. You should collect all the documents you may be asked to show.

For example: a letter from your school or college to prove that you are still studying in Ireland or a letter from your employer proving you are still working in Ireland.

If you live in Dublin, you should make an appointment online to renew your permission at INIS at http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/registration. You should make this appointment about 10 weeks before your permission expires as it can take several weeks to get an appointment.

If you live outside of Dublin, you should contact your local Garda immigration officer to get a replacement.

Many permissions need you to write to the INIS well in advance of your expiry date to seek renewal.

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**Note:** If you do not have a valid passport, you should still contact Gnib/your nearest Garda immigration officer to let them know that you are in the country. You should also try to get a new passport as soon as possible. See section 3 for more information on steps you should take to get a passport from your country of origin.
What should I do if I realise my immigration permission has expired?

If your immigration permission was not renewed before it expired, you should try to register as soon as possible. If you are not permitted to register, you should write to INIS to seek permission. Becoming ‘undocumented’ affects your ability to work, study and receive State support. Future applications such as applications for Irish citizenship could also be affected by gaps in your immigration permissions.

I am older than 16 years, and just realised that I should have registered at age 16 but didn’t know that I had to – what should I do?

If at least one of your parents has permission to reside in Ireland, you should write to the INIS as soon as possible explaining your personal circumstances, when you came to Ireland, details of your parents’ immigration permission and details of your school attendance and other activities in Ireland. You should seek permission to reside.

If neither of your parents has regular immigration status, you should seek legal advice from a specialist immigration lawyer before proceeding.

If you are in care, you should ask your social worker to write a letter explaining your length of residence in Ireland, details of your Care Order and aftercare plans and other relevant details. When you receive a letter of reply from INIS, you should follow any instructions in the letter or provide any further information requested.

After registering: updating your details

After registering, you should contact INIS if your details change, for example:

- the reasons that you were given permission to live in Ireland have changed;
- if you move house or change your postal address;
- other details change, for example: you change your name.

You should also contact INIS if there is a problem with your documents (for example: If your name was misspelled on your Irish Residence Permit) or if you were granted permission that does not match your circumstances.

USEFUL INFO

http://www.inis.gov.ie/

INIS: The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS).

Check the glossary for more information.

You should write to INIS as soon as possible explaining the delay in renewing your permission, setting out the circumstances of your residence in Ireland, and then make an appointment to register.
What are immigration stamps?

Immigration stamps together with the Certificate of Registration (known as the ‘Irish Residence Permit’) act as proof of a person’s permission to be in Ireland.

The type of stamp someone is given depends on the type of immigration permission which they have. Different conditions attach to the different stamps.

It is important you know which stamp you have and understand the different rules and conditions relating to the stamp. You should ask the immigration officer when you go to register if you have any questions, or if there is anything you don’t understand.

An outline of the different stamps/immigration permissions can be found in the following pages.
What are the different stamps and what do they mean?

Main immigration stamps

This section outlines the main immigration stamps that are used by An Garda Síochána and INIS.

Immigration stamps are important as the stamps and the Certificate of Registration (known as the 'Irish Residence Permit') act as proof of permission to be in Ireland.

Main groups of people this stamp is given to

Below is a list of the groups of people who may be given permission to remain/stay in the country.

This table does not mean that persons from each group will always be given the immigration stamp outlined below.

The Department of Justice and Equality has the right to give or refuse permission to be in the country, or particular immigration stamps, in different cases.

Stamp 0

(Temporary and limited permission)

A person with a Stamp 0 is permitted to remain in Ireland on condition that the holder does not receive any State benefits (social welfare payments) and has private medical insurance.

A person with a Stamp 0 must be fully financially supported by a sponsor in the State and/or be able to financially support themselves independently.

A person with a Stamp 0 is not allowed to work or engage in a trade, business or profession unless permission is given in a letter from the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS).

• A worker sent to Ireland by a company from another country to carry out particular work for a limited time
• An extended visit in exceptional humanitarian circumstances
• Visiting academics
• A non-EEA (European Economic Area) retired person who can provide for themselves financially

Stamp 1

A person with a Stamp 1 is permitted to stay in Ireland on condition they do not start working unless their employer has obtained a permit, do not engage in any business or profession without the permission of the Minister for Justice and Equality and do not stay in the country later than a certain date.

• Non-EEA national who is given a work permit
• Non-EEA national who is given a Green Card Permit
• Non-EEA national who has been granted permission to run a business in the Republic of Ireland
• Working Holiday Authorisation holder
### Main immigration stamps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp 1A</th>
<th>Main groups of people this stamp is given to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person with a Stamp 1A is permitted to remain in Ireland for full-time training with a particular company or organisation until a specified date. Other employment is not allowed.</td>
<td>Non-EEA national studying accountancy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp 2</th>
<th>Main groups of people this stamp is given to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person with a Stamp 2 is permitted to remain in Ireland to study but they must not engage in any business or profession other than casual work (such a person is allowed to work 20 hours per week during school term and up to 40 hours per week during school holidays) and must not remain in Ireland later than a specified date. The person cannot claim any benefits from the State such as social welfare benefits unless otherwise provided.</td>
<td>Non-EEA national attending a full-time course of study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp 2A</th>
<th>Main groups of people this stamp is given to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person with a Stamp 2A is permitted to remain in Ireland to study on condition they do not work, do not engage in any business or profession, cannot claim any social welfare benefits and do not remain in Ireland later than a specified date.</td>
<td>Non-EEA national attending course of study not recognised by the Department of Education and Skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp 3</th>
<th>Main groups of people this stamp is given to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person with a Stamp 3 is permitted to remain in Ireland on condition they do not work, do not engage in any business or profession, and do not remain later than a specified date.</td>
<td>Non-EEA visitor, Non-EEA minister of religion and member of religious order, Non-EEA spouse/dependant of employment permit holder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stamp 4</th>
<th>Main groups of people this stamp is given to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person with a Stamp 4 is permitted to remain in Ireland until a specified date and is allowed to work or enter a trade or profession.</td>
<td>Non-EEA family member of a citizen of one of the countries in the European Economic Area, Non-EEA husband or wife or civil partner of an Irish citizen, Refugee, Non-EEA person granted family reunification under the Refugee Act 1996, Programme refugee, Non-EEA parent of Irish-citizen child where parent was granted permission to remain in the State, Non-EEA family member of a European Union citizen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Getting a passport and other important documents from your country of origin

You will need your passport and birth certificate to prove your identity in many different situations. You should therefore make every effort to obtain your birth certificate and passport at the earliest possible opportunity.

When registering, you must present a valid passport from your country of origin in order to prove your identity. Having a valid passport is also necessary as immigration stamps are printed on a person’s passport.

People who have been granted refugee status do not need to have a valid passport. The Irish Government will give them a temporary travel document.
I do not have a valid passport. What should I do to get a passport from my country of origin?

You should firstly contact the nearest embassy or consulate of your country of origin to find out what documents are needed to get a passport, and to find out about any other steps which you need to follow to apply for a passport.

Contact details for your nearest embassy or consulate can be found through an internet search. If your country of origin does not have an embassy in Ireland, you will need to contact the closest embassy or consulate to Ireland. The closest embassies or consulates for some countries are in cities such as London, United Kingdom or Paris, France.

As well as providing documents, people will also usually need to fill out a passport application form and pay a fee before they get their passport. The cost of getting a passport depends on the country issuing the passport, but the embassy or consulate will tell you this before you apply.

The types of documents which are often required for a passport application include:

✓ an original copy of your birth certificate OR an attestation of birth (an attestation of birth is a legal document which confirms your birth details including your date of birth);
✓ an original valid national identity card from your country of origin (if relevant);
✓ original versions of your parents’ birth certificates and national identity cards.
How can I get my birth certificate or nationality identity card?

Depending on the country, it can sometimes be difficult for people to get documents from their country of origin. This is why it is very important to find out what documents you need, and to try and get those documents as soon as possible.

In some countries, you may only be able to get documents from a government office in a specific town or city and you may need someone to go to the office on your behalf to get the documents. Often, it can be helpful for people if they have trusted friends or family still living in their country of origin who are willing to collect documents for them which they can then send to Ireland. There is usually a cost to get these documents.

Sometimes representatives from an embassy or consulate of a country that does not have an embassy in Ireland come to Ireland for a short visit to issue national identity cards or passports to its citizens living in Ireland. You can find out whether a visit is planned by contacting the embassy or searching their website regularly.

If an embassy or consulate of your country of origin comes to Ireland, it is very important that you:

- find out in advance what documents you will need to bring with you;
- what the cost will be to get a national identity card; and,
- if you need to make an appointment beforehand.

Note

It is very important to keep a record of any efforts you make to try and get a passport or documents needed for a passport application from your country of origin. This includes:

- copies of any emails sent or received;
- copies of any letters sent or received;
- any proof of postage such as a registered post receipt;
- copies of any forms completed;
- proof of any application fees paid; and
- a record of any telephone calls made or received (the date and time that the call was made/received, the full name of the person that you were speaking to and the name of the organisation where they work as well as a note of what was said during the telephone call).

This is important as INIS may ask you for evidence you have been trying to get a passport or identity documents from your country of origin.
Higher or further education: does my immigration permission entitle me to free fees and a student grant?

To be entitled to the Irish Government’s ‘Free Fees’ Scheme for higher or further education, and to receive a student grant from SUSI, a student must be an Irish, EU/EEA or Swiss Federation national or hold certain immigration permissions.
If a student is not an Irish, EU/EEA or Swiss national, they may be eligible for funding under Student Grant Legislation if their immigration status or leave to remain, under the Department of Justice and Equality, is one of the following:

- refugee;
- subsidiary protection;
- permission to remain as the family member of an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen under the relevant EU laws;
- permission to remain because of marriage/civil partnership with an Irish citizen or as dependent child of an Irish citizen;
- humanitarian leave to remain granted before the Immigration Act 1999 came into effect;
- permission to remain following a decision not to deport under Sections 3 of the Immigration Act 1999; or
- permission to remain as a dependent child of a person who has acquired Irish Citizenship by naturalisation, residing in the State.

**USEFUL INFO**

**Refugee status**: Refugee status is held by persons who have been formally recognised as refugees under Irish law.

**Subsidiary protection**: Subsidiary protection is a form of international protection which is given to some people, who do not qualify for refugee status, but who are viewed as being in need of protection. See the rights listed under the definition of "refugee". Check the glossary for more information.

Young people from outside of the EEA who fall outside of the eligibility criteria for the ‘free fees’ and student grants schemes must usually pay international student tuition fees. For many courses, these fees can be up to and above €20,000 per year. In certain cases, some institutions may allow young people from outside of the EEA to pay European Union fees which are lower. For more information about fees for specific courses, you should contact the relevant college or university.

In 2016 and 2017, the Department of Education and Skills ran a Pilot Support Scheme which gave free fees and student grants to young people in the protection (asylum) process, who are at the asylum or ‘leave to remain’ stage of the application process (not the deportation order stage), and who meet certain other criteria. More information is available from the Department of Education and Skills.

Some of the universities also offer a limited number of scholarships per year to students who are in the asylum process, subject to the students meeting certain criteria. Dublin City University, the National University of Ireland, Galway and the University of Limerick are the universities which offer this type of scheme at the time this guide was published.

You should contact the third level institution you wish to attend to find out whether there are any scholarships or other forms of funding available.
When young people register with An Garda Síochána at age 16, the type of immigration stamp they are given usually depends on the type of immigration permission or stamp their parent(s) have been given.
There are no Department of Justice or GNIB guidelines on the right immigration status for children who are in care. Children in care are children who are living in foster care, or in a residential care centre placement, or who may be cared for by a family member under an agreement made with social workers or the courts. Social workers for young people in care should write to INIS to seek permission for them to reside in Ireland when a child turns 15, at the latest. There are no specific forms, procedure or guidance as to content and replies are not time-bound, but letters of application should provide details and evidence of the length of time a child’s been living in Ireland, attendance at school, family circumstances, care order and other relevant issues. These applications are granted by the Minister for Justice and Equality.

It is common for young people in these cases to be granted a Stamp 4 “on a discretionary basis”.

**USEFUL INFO**

**GNIB:** The Garda National Immigration Bureau is the immigration office of An Garda Síochána (Ireland’s police force) based on Burgh Quay, Dublin.

**INIS:** The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) is the Irish government body which is responsible for managing immigration in Ireland. It is an office of the Department of Justice and Equality and manages asylum, immigration, citizenship and visa matters on behalf of the Minister for Justice and Equality.

**Stamp (immigration):** An immigration stamp acts as proof of a person’s permission to be in Ireland for longer than 90 days. It gives an indication of some of the rights a person has when living in Ireland, for example all Stamp 4 holders are allowed to work or engage in a business or trade in Ireland.

**SUSI:** Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is the body which awards all student grants for higher and further education in Ireland. SUSI offers funding to eligible students in approved full-time third-level education in Ireland and also, in some cases, funding for students studying outside the State. For more information regarding eligibility for student grants, see [https://susie.ie/eligibility](https://susie.ie/eligibility)

Check the glossary for more information.

Young people given a Stamp 4 on a discretionary basis are allowed to live and work in Ireland without restrictions. However, while young people with a discretionary Stamp 4 are allowed to study, they are not currently entitled to free college fees for further education and they are not entitled to a student grant from SUSI (www.susi.ie).

It is therefore important you seek advice regarding the best possible immigration permission available to you. If you are unsure what to do, you should ask your social worker or foster parent to help you.

If you need further information, you should contact an organisation such as the Immigrant Council of Ireland for specialised advice (see Section 7 for contact details).
People can become Irish citizens through birth, descent (Irish parents, grandparents or great-grandparents) or naturalisation at the absolute discretion of the Minister for Justice and Equality.
Children born in Ireland are not automatically Irish citizens. Since a referendum in 2004, the Irish Constitution limits Irish citizenship by birth to persons with at least one parent who “is an Irish citizen or entitled to be an Irish citizen” and to those in respect of whom citizenship is provided for “by law”. A child born in the island of Ireland since 2004 to non-Irish nationals will be entitled to Irish citizenship by birth where one of their parents has been legally resident on the island of Ireland for at least three of the previous four years. Time spent undocumented or resident with an international student permission does not count. Children who are entitled to Irish citizenship on birth can apply directly to the Passport Office in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for an Irish passport.

Citizenship by naturalisation

Adults can apply for Irish citizenship through naturalisation when they have spent five of the previous eight years of “reckonable” residence (this means time spent in Ireland lawfully with specific immigration permissions; Stamps 1, 3, 4 and 5 are “reckonable”. Stamp 0, 1A, 2 and 2A are not “reckonable”). They must have had one year continuous reckonable residence in the State in the year before they submit the application. Refugees can apply after three years. Adults complete ‘Form 8’.

Children and young people can apply for naturalisation when either of their parents has naturalised first (Form 2), if he or she is of Irish descent or has Irish associations (Form 10), and where a child was born in the State and their parent has acquired five years reckonable residence (Form 11). ‘Irish associations’ means ‘related by blood, affinity or adoption to a person who is an Irish citizen’. Children cannot apply for naturalisation independently. The application must be made by their parent or guardian.

USEFUL INFO

Stamp (immigration): An immigration stamp acts as proof of a person’s permission to be in Ireland for longer than 90 days. It gives an indication of some of the rights a person has when living in Ireland, for example all Stamp 4 holders are allowed to work or engage in a business or trade in Ireland.

Refugee status: Refugee status is held by persons who have been formally recognised as refugees under Irish law.

Check the glossary for more information.

Dependent young adults

Young adults aged 18-23 years can apply for naturalisation as “dependent young adults” if they meet the requirements for naturalisation as an adult, entered the State legally as part of a family unit, are currently attending secondary school in Ireland, or went directly from secondary school into third level education, and are continuously dependent on their parents. They use Form 8 and can show their parents’ calculation of “reckonable residence”.

If you have problems registering with An Garda Síochána to live legally in Ireland, think you may have been given the wrong immigration stamp or are having difficulty getting identity documents from your country of origin, you can contact an organisation or specialist immigration solicitor to ask for advice.

Organisations which can assist you include:

**Dublin**

The Immigrant Council of Ireland  
📍 2 St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2  
📞 Information service telephone line: (01) 674 0200  
。www.immigrantcouncil.ie

The Irish Refugee Council  
📍 37 Killarney Street, Mountjoy  
📞 Dublin 1  
📞 Phone: 01 7645854  
✉️ info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie  
。www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

**Cork**

Nasc. The Irish Immigrant Support Centre  
📍 Ferry Lane, off Dominic Street, Cork  
📞 Phone: 021 450 3462  
✉️ info@nascireland.org  
.www.nascireland.org

**Limerick**

Doras Luimní  
📍 Central Buildings  
📞 51A O’Connell Street, Limerick  
📞 Phone: 061 310 328  
✉️ info@dorasluimni.org  
.www.dorasluimni.org

**Nationwide**

Citizens Information Centres  
Located nationwide – to find your nearest, centre visit www.cic.ie
Glossary

Important terms: what do they mean?

- **Asylum seeker/asylum process**
  An asylum seeker is a person who is in the process of applying to be recognised as a refugee.

  A person is in the asylum or international protection process if they have applied for a form of international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection), and are awaiting a final decision about whether the Minister for Justice and Equality will grant them refugee status or subsidiary protection. They may also be waiting for the result of an appeal against a decision not to grant them refugee status or subsidiary protection.

- **Bank Giro**
  A printed form, filled out and given to a bank along with a cheque or cash telling the bank to pay that money into someone's account.

- **Country of origin**
  The country of a person’s nationality.

- **EEA**
  The European Economic Area (EEA) is made up of all European Union members as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway.

- **GNIB**
  The Garda National Immigration Bureau is the immigration office of An Garda Síochána (Ireland’s police force) based on Burgh Quay, Dublin.

- **Immigration permission**
  Immigration permission is granted to people for different reasons and allows them to remain in Ireland for a certain length of time. There are different types of immigration permissions which are given based on the reasons why someone is allowed to live in Ireland. Different immigration permissions allow people to do certain things while they live in Ireland. The type of immigration permission someone has decides the type of immigration stamp they are given when they register.
Immigration status

‘Immigration status’ refers to the immigration permission a person has, and can also refer to whether they have been granted permission or if they are still waiting for a decision about whether or not they will be given permission to stay in Ireland.

INIS

The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) is the Irish government body which is responsible for managing immigration in Ireland. It is an office of the Department of Justice and Equality and manages asylum, immigration, citizenship and visa matters on behalf of the Minister for Justice and Equality.

Irish Residence Permit

The Irish Residence Permit card is what the ‘Certificate of Registration’ is commonly called. It is a credit card-sized plastic card which has a person’s photograph and immigration stamp number printed on it. It acts as proof of a person’s permission to be in Ireland.

Refugee status

Refugee status is held by persons who have been formally recognised as refugees under Irish law. If you have previously been granted refugee status under the Refugee Act 1996, as amended, or subsidiary protection under the European Union (Subsidiary Protection) Regulations 2013, your rights are now set out in the International Protection Act 2015, as outlined below.

Under Section 53 of the International Protection Act 2015, people granted international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection) have:

• the right to seek and enter employment in the State;
• the right to carry on any business, trade or profession in the State;
• the right to access education and training in the like manner and to the like extent in all respects as an Irish citizen;
• the right to receive the same medical care and services and the same social welfare benefits, including housing, as an Irish citizen;
• the right to reside in the State for at least 3 years. This is renewable unless there are compelling reasons of national security or public order not to do so;
• the same rights of travel in, or to or from the State as those to which Irish citizens are entitled (note: this is on the basis that the Minister for Justice and Equality issues a travel document); and,
• the right to apply to the Minister for Justice and Equality for permission for a member of their family to enter and reside in the State. Applications for family reunification must now be made within one year of being declared a refugee or declared entitled to subsidiary protection.

Stamp (immigration)

An immigration stamp acts as proof of a person’s permission to be in Ireland for longer than 90 days. It gives an indication of some of the rights a person has when living in Ireland, for example all Stamp 4 holders are allowed to work or engage in a business or trade in Ireland.

Subsidiary protection

Subsidiary protection is a form of international protection which is given to some people who do not qualify for refugee status, but who are viewed as being in need of protection. See the rights listed under the definition of “refugee” above.

SUSI

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is the body which awards all student grants for higher and further education in Ireland. SUSI offers funding to eligible students in approved full-time third-level education in Ireland and also, in some cases, funding for students studying outside the State. For more information regarding eligibility for student grants, see https://susi.ie/eligibility
Disclaimer: This is not a legal document. If you need legal advice, please contact the organisations listed for assistance and appropriate referral.

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