

STUDY IN IRELAND:

A Practical Guide for Overseas Students



Are you considering studying in Ireland?
Great choice, but before you pack your bags,
there are a few important things you need to
understand about the visa and immigration process.

The immigration process can feel like a maze,
so we've broken it down into simple, bite-sized
steps to help you get here smoothly.

Long Term Study Visa



01

Show Me the Money: Financial Proof

Ireland wants to ensure you're comfortable during your stay. Especially Dublin, is a major European hub - It's vibrant and exciting, but the cost of living, especially housing, is high. These funds are your safety net!

You'll need to prove that you have sufficient savings to cover your costs without needing immediate employment.

English Language Courses:

You must show at least €6,665.

Higher Education (Access / Bachelor / BA Honours / Masters):

You'll need at least €10,000.

Financial [Requirements](#)

02

Next, consider whether you need a visa before traveling.

This will depend on your circumstances.

This is the most important check. It depends on your nationality (the country that issued your passport), not where you currently live.

Visa Required Countries:

You must apply for your visa from your home country or where you legally reside before traveling. This can take up to 4 months, so plan!

Non-Visa Required Countries:

You don't need a visa to enter, but you will go through "Border Control" at the airport. You'll still need to bring all your documentation to show the officer.

Check your status / country here:

[Irish Immigration Travel Path.](#)

03

The Application Process (The "AVATS" Step)

If you need a visa, you'll use the online system called AVATS.

Fill it out:

Head to the [Online Visa Application](#). Answer everything honestly.

The Summary Form:

Once you submit, the system generates a summary.

Print, sign, and date this. It will tell you exactly where to send your physical documents.

Find your Embassy:

Check where to submit your papers here:

[Irish Embassies Consulates Abroad](#).

Your Checklist of Documents:

- Passport: Valid for at least 6 months after your arrival.
- Financial Proof: Financial [Requirements](#)
- Enrolment: Letter of Enrolment / Proof of tuition payment.
- Medical Health Insurance: Mandatory for your entire stay in Ireland.
- Accommodation: Proof of booking – at least 2 weeks – will be required specially on border control.
- Return Ticket: Required if your course is less than 1 year. will be required specially on border control.

The immigration authorities assess each application individually on its merits, based on its specific characteristics, and decisions are made independently. Also, the visa officer can request additional information or documentation.

04

Even with preparation, visa refusals sometimes happen. Here's what you should know:

We hope this doesn't happen! Each application is judged on its own merits by a visa officer. However, if a denial occurs:

- **IBAT College Policy:** We offer a refund, minus a **€350 administrative fee** and non-refundable costs like insurance. [Check our full policy here.](#)
- **Partner Agencies:**
- If you are using an agency, check their specific contracts for any extra operational fees they might charge before you sign.

05

Just Landed? Getting your IRP - Irish Residence Permit

Once you arrive in Ireland, the journey isn't over.
Everyone staying longer than 90 days must apply for an IRP.

How to apply:

It's all online now via the [Immigration Portal](#).

The Cost:

€300 (paid during your appointment in Dublin).

The Wait:

Currently, it takes about **90 to 120 days** to process your first residence permit.

06

Realistic Expectations: Housing & Jobs

We want you to have the best experience, so here's some "real talk":

Accommodation:

You must prove you have at least **2 weeks** of accommodation booked for your arrival. The housing market is very tight right now –start looking early, use student groups, and **watch out for scams!** Never send money for a place you haven't seen.

Working:

Most employers will only hire you **after** you have your IRP card. Since that can take up to 4 months, make sure your initial savings can cover you during that waiting period.

PPS:

When you arrive, schedule an appointment to get your PPS – Personal Public Service number – [Apply](#) here.

Leap Card:

The Student Leap Card is a prepaid travel card that offers users 50% of discount in public transport fares [Apply](#) here.

NOTE:

There are specialised visa companies that can assist you if you have more specific or complex questions beyond the information provided. We recommend seeking advice from a qualified specialist if needed.

We hope this information provides you with the guidance you need.

Kind regards,

Sara Dias

Admissions Manager - IBAT Dublin

