Guidelines for non-EEA Students coming to Ireland to study for a Semester

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Introduction

A significant number of students come to Ireland to study with an Irish educational/cultural institution for a single semester as part of a degree programme administered by a recognised overseas university. It is envisaged that this possibility will be retained much as at present and this sort of programme is not significantly impacted by the new rules for full time non-EEA students. It is however appropriate to clarify the rules in this area for the assistance of students and institutions.
Travelling to and Arriving in Ireland

Conditions for all non-EEA Students coming to Ireland for a Semester

There are conditions that all students (both visa required and non visa required) must satisfy before they will be granted permission to come to and/or enter Ireland as a student for a semester.

With regard to students coming to Ireland to study for a semester, the student must be able to show -

- A letter from the receiving institution in Ireland confirming their place on semester programme. The letter must also indicate in brief
  - The start and end dates of the study period;
  - The degree of which the semester is part;
  - The awarding college or university;
  - What the semester entails and how it fits into the overall programme;
  - Whether the receiving institution in Ireland is providing accommodation for the student as part of the programme.

- Evidence of sufficient funds to cover their accommodation and living expenses in Ireland.

- A return air ticket

Visa Requirements

Do I need a Visa to come to Ireland?

Students from some countries coming to Ireland are required to hold a valid Visa.

If your country does not appear on the list of Non-Visa Required countries at Appendix 1 below then you will require a Visa.

It should be noted that ordinarily to obtain a visa the course being pursued during the semester will need to appear on the Internationalisation Register or to meet the other criteria set out below in terms of the schools track record and prestige. Exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis.

Before continuing please read the guidelines for applying for a student Visa by clicking into the Student Visa Guidelines which are available on http://www.inis.gov.ie/
**Type of Course Permitted**

Students who wish to come to Ireland to study for a semester will be required to demonstrate that the semester is an integral part of a degree programme administered by a recognised reputable college/university in another State. The student will be required to satisfy the immigration authorities that this is the case.

In addition, whilst the semester course given in Ireland does not necessarily have to appear on the Internationalisation Register of courses operated by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, preference will be given to

(a) courses on the Internationalisation Register and
(b) courses which while not on the Internationalisation Register are well established in terms of delivering semesters for overseas students as part of their degree studies and in terms of general prestige.

Semester Students are not permitted to work while in Ireland.

**Duration of Stay**

Where the semester is for less than 90 days duration it will not be necessary for the student to register with the GNIB.

Semester students staying in Ireland for more than 90 days are required to register with the immigration authorities and to obtain a Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) Card. A Stamp 2A student permission will be issued.

There is currently a charge of €150 each time you register.

*Can I extend my stay as a student?*

No. You may only stay in Ireland as a semester student for one semester.

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**Appendix 1 – Non Visa Required Countries**
Citizens of certain countries require an entry visa for Ireland.

If you are a citizen of a country that is on schedule 1 below, you do NOT require an entry visa for Ireland. Citizens of countries which are not on the list must apply for a visa before they travel to Ireland.

Please note that a Schengen or UK visa or residence permission is NOT valid for travel to Ireland. If you are a national of a visa-required country you will need to apply for an Irish visa in advance of travel to Ireland.

Transit Visas ARE required by citizens of the countries listed in schedule 2 below.

All citizens of non-EU countries, whether they require a visa or not, are subject to immigration control at the point of entry to Ireland.

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE PASSPORT HOLDERS DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS TO ENTER IRELAND:

ANDORRA
ANTIGUA and BARBUDA
ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BELGIUM
BELIZE
BOLIVIA
BOTSWANA
BRAZIL
BRUNEI
BULGARIA
CANADA
CHILE
COSTA RICA
CROATIA
CYPRUS
CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK
DOMINICA
EL SALVADOR
ESTONIA
FIJI
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
GREECE
GRENADA
GUATEMALA
GUYANA
HONDURAS
HONG KONG (Special Administrative Region) (*See further information below).
HUNGARY
ICELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
JAPAN
KIRIBATI
LATVIA
LESOTHO
LIECHTENSTEIN
LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
MACAU (Special Administrative Region)
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALTA
MEXICO
MONACO
NAURU
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NICARAGUA
NORWAY
PANAMA
PARAGUAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA
SAINT KITTS & NEVIS
SAINT LUCIA
SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
SAMOA
SAN MARINO
SEYCHELLES
SINGAPORE
SLOVAK REPUBLIC
SLOVENIA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH KOREA
SPAIN
SWAZILAND
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
TAIWAN
TONGA
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TUVALU
UNITED KINGDOM & Dependent Territories (noted below)
UNITED STATES of AMERICA
URUGUAY
VANUATU
VATICAN CITY
VENEZUELA

BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

ANGUILLA
BERMUDA
BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY (South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands)
BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES (Chagos Archipelago, Peros Banos, Diego Garcia, Danger Island)
CAYMAN ISLANDS
FALKLAND ISLANDS and DEPENDICIES
GIBRALTAR
MONTSERRAT
PITCAIRN (Henderson, Ducie and Oneno Islands)
St. HELENA and DEPENDICIES (Ascension Island, Tristan Da Cunha)
The SOVERIGN BASE AREAS of AKROTIRI and DHEKILA
TURKS and CAICOS ISLAND
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

*HONG KONG SAR

A person in possession of a Hong Kong certificate of identity requires an entry visa for the State.

Persons who are holders of a **British Hong Kong Passport** who have a right of abode in Great Britain do not require entry visas.

Persons who are holders of a **British Hong Kong Passport** who have a right of abode in Hong Kong only do not require entry visas but they are subject to full foreign national controls in respect of registration, permission to remain, work permits etc.

CONVENTION TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Visas are not required by persons who are holders of Convention travel documents issued by the following countries:

BELGIUM
CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK
FINLAND
GERMANY
ICELAND
ITALY
LIECHTENSTEIN
LUXEMBOURG
MALTA
NETHERLANDS
NORWAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
ROMANIA
SLOVAKIA
SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND.

Applicants who are holders of Convention travel documents issued by EEA states should refer to Article 3 of the Immigration Act 2004 Order 2009 (PDF 109kb) (Short visits only).

SCHEDULE 2

TRANSIT VISAS ARE REQUIRED BY CITIZENS OF THE FOLLOWING:

AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
CUBA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
ERITREA
ETHIOPIA
GHANA
IRAN
IRAQ
LEBANON
MOLDOVA
MONTENEGRO
NIGERIA
SERBIA
SOMALIA
SRI LANKA
ZIMBABWE