

New Immigration Regime

Short-Term Language Students

January 2011



Students on Short stay Language Courses

There is a clearly market for shorter stay courses (<90 days) for non-EEA students, who might also wish to combine the study of English with other tourist pursuits. Having reviewed this matter the Department of Justice and Law Reform accepts that it would be appropriate to simply regard these students as tourists. Essentially the logic is that what the student does in Ireland during their short visit is not of concern to the Department. Whether the student spends their time in study, playing golf or touring is not particularly relevant. What is important is;

- (a) The stated reason for their visit is credible;
- (b) The student/tourist has a return flight and leaves at the end of their stay;
- (c) They can support themselves while here;
- (d) They obey the law;
- (e) They do not engage in work, and
- (f) They are covered by private medical insurance.

Therefore it is proposed that applications from students who can demonstrate that they are enrolled on a short term language course of less than 90 days and that they have paid the course fees in full, will now be treated as educational tourists.

Such students will be subject to visit/holiday visa rules. Guidelines for which may be found on the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) website at www.inis.gov.ie.

Furthermore because they are staying for less than 90 days they will not have to register with the Immigration authorities (i.e. will not need a Garda National Immigration Bureau registration card).

NOTE : Students from some countries coming to Ireland are required to hold a valid Visa. If your country does not appear in the list of Non-Visa Required countries at Appendix 1 below then you will require a Visit/Holiday Visa.

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 DEPENDENCIES
GIBRALTAR
MONTSERRAT
PITCAIRN (Henderson, Ducie and Oneno Islands)
St. HELENA and DEPENDENCIES (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

