



Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Revised arrangements for non-EEA students in Ireland regarding access to employment and renewal of permission to remain

In accordance with the recommendations of the report on the Internationalisation of Irish Education Services recently published by the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, in conjunction with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, wishes to announce the introduction of new arrangements for access to employment by non-EEA national students in Ireland. New arrangements are also being introduced in regard to renewal of permission to remain in the State by such students.

1. Access to employment

From 18 April 2005 new students granted permission to remain in the State on registering with the Garda National Immigration Bureau will not be permitted access to employment unless they are attending a full-time course of at least one year's duration leading to a qualification recognised by the Minister for Education and Science.

Those permitted access to employment may enter casual employment only (defined as up to 20 hours part time work per week or full-time during normal vacation periods). Access to employment is not permitted to other students.

Students attending a foundation / preparatory course prior to enrolment on such a full-time course will not be permitted access to employment until they have commenced the full-time course.

The entitlement to take up employment will cease upon the expiry of permission to remain as a student. Having been in casual employment will not, in itself, entitle a person to further permission to remain.

This will not affect students who have current permission to remain at the date of introduction (18 April 2005). Their access to employment may continue for the duration of their permission to remain.

2. Renewal of permission to remain

From **1 January 2005** students on courses other than full-time courses of at least one year's duration leading to a recognised qualification recognised by the Minister for Education and Science will be allowed to renew their permission to remain only where the total period of permissions granted and sought does not exceed 18 months.

In the case of students already having permission to remain before that date, the period of 18 months will be calculated from 1 January 2005.

22 December 2004