

# **NEW IMMIGRATION REGIME FOR FULL TIME NON-EEA STUDENTS**

## **Guidelines for Degree Programme Students**

**July 2011**



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## Introduction

The '*New Immigration Regime for Full Time Non-EEA Students*' which will reform the non-EEA student immigration regime was published on 22 September 2010

The key recommendations include;

- capping the length of time a person can spend in Ireland as a student,
- introducing a differentiated system which will facilitate the targeting of incentives towards the upper end of the academic spectrum,
- the introduction of a statutory quality mark for education providers,
- a tighter inspection regime,
- new guidelines on work placement and internship,
- new proposals regarding Post Study Pathways for high end students, including the extension of the Third Level Graduate Scheme to 12 months for graduates pursuing programmes leading to major awards as outlined below at or above National Framework of Qualifications Level 8 (see NFQ "fan diagram" at Appendix 1).

These guidelines outline for full time non-EEA students how the new regime will operate for them should they wish to travel to Ireland in the future for the purpose of pursuing a course of study on the Degree Programme.

Transitional measures for non-EEA students currently in Ireland pursuing a course on the Degree Programme are set out in '*Non-EEA Student Guidelines for Students Registered in Ireland Prior to 1 January 2011*' which are available on this webpage.

## Degree Programme

### ***What is the Degree Programme?***

The Degree Programme refers to full-time, day-time academic courses leading to major awards as outlined below at or above Level 7 of the *National Framework of Qualifications* (see NFQ “fan diagram” at Appendix 1).

There are six types of major award available in Ireland at these levels:

- NFQ Level 7 = Ordinary Bachelor Degree (3 years duration)
- NFQ Level 8 = Honours Bachelor Degree (3-4 years duration)
- NFQ Level 8 = Higher Diploma (1 year duration)
- NFQ Level 9 = Postgraduate Diploma (1 year duration)
- NFQ Level 9 = Masters Degree (1-2 years duration)
- NFQ Level 10 = Doctoral Degree (approximately 4 years duration)

In that regard Degree programme courses are defined as courses which lead to an award of

- o Ordinary Bachelor Degree
- o Honours Bachelor Degree
- o Higher Diploma (after completion of an Honours Bachelor Degree)
- o Postgraduate Diploma (after completion of an Honours Bachelor Degree)
- o Masters Degree
- o Doctoral degree

The ‘award’ as set out above must be made by one of the following types of *awarding body*:

A recognised Irish awarding body i.e.

- o Dublin Institute of Technology
- o Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- o Institutes of Technology with delegated authority to make awards
- o Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- o Universities
- o Other bodies that have statutory powers under Irish law to make awards

Certain ‘awards’ offered by international universities which satisfy the above definition will also be regarded as Degree Programme courses.

The course that you are going to pursue must be included in the Internationalisation Register administered by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) (Visit [www.nqai.ie](http://www.nqai.ie) for more information).

The maximum time a student may stay in Ireland for the purpose of attending courses at degree level is limited to seven years and students are responsible for managing their studies to ensure compliance with this time limit<sup>1</sup>.

It is not permissible for Students who come to Ireland on a Degree Programme course to enrol in a Non Degree or Language Course<sup>2</sup>.

**Note : The primary purpose for a student to be in the State is to study. It is not permissible for a student to come to Ireland to undertake a part-time course, or a distance learning course.**

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<sup>1</sup> An exception to this rule may be made for courses where the programme of study is of such long duration (e.g. medicine) as to make it difficult to complete the course in that time. Also, the Minister may make an exception to the 7 year rule where special circumstances exist (e.g. illness preventing the student from completing their course in time)

<sup>2</sup> Students may be permitted to undertake a foundation language course, if required, where this has been arranged in advance and has been clearly stated in any application for a visa or leave to remain. Such language course may be provided by the Higher Education provider or where this is not possible by Quality Assured English Language providers, with whom the Higher Education provider has established a link. The student should continue to be enrolled on their primary course of study with the Higher Education provider.

## **Travelling to and Arriving in Ireland**

### Conditions for all non-EEA Students

There are conditions that all students (both visa required and non visa required) must satisfy before they will be granted permission to remain in Ireland as a student.

With regard to Degree Programme Courses you must be able to show that -

- You have entered the State to engage in full time study
- You are enrolled on a privately funded course leading to a major award as outlined above in the Degree Programme at Level 7 or above of the National Framework of Qualifications (see Appendix 1), and where you are in receipt of a scholarship you must be able to show evidence of this;
- A Letter of Acceptance from the college, confirming you have been accepted and enrolled on a course of full-time education,
- You must have paid the fees to the college. Where your fees are below €6,000, the full amount of the fees must be paid in advance. Where your fees exceed €6,000 then at least this amount must be paid in advance.
- While at present, certain students may engage in casual employment (see section Working while Studying) you must be able to pay for your course and support yourself, live in Ireland without going into business or getting a job, or availing of any State Benefits (see Appendix 2);
- You must have access to €3,000 at first registration. This is in addition to your course fees;
- Students are required to have private medical insurance, either personally or through a group scheme operated by your college, at time of registration. Thereafter at every subsequent registration students are required to have proof that they were in possession of private medical insurance<sup>3</sup> for all of the previous registration period by way of a letter of renewal. Travel insurance will not be accepted.

### ***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 in the list of Non-Visa Required countries at Appendix 3 below then you will require a Visa.

Before continuing please read the guidelines for applying for a student Visa by clicking into the Student Visa Guidelines which are available on this website.

**Note : Visa Required students are required to demonstrate access to €7,000 before they may be issued with a visa. In line with the rules set out above such students from 1 April 2011 must have access to €3,000 at first registration.**

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<sup>3</sup> The student is required to have Private Medical Insurance at a level that will cover the cost of hospital accommodation.

## Registration in the State

### ***Am I required to Register and seek Permission to be in the State?***

Yes. It is a requirement for non-EEA students who intend staying in Ireland for more than 90 days to register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB).

This can be done at the main Garda National Immigration Bureau Office at at 13-14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, or with the Immigration Officer in the area in which you are residing.

***Please Note: It is the responsibility of the student to satisfy the requirements set out in this section. Where a student fails to satisfy these requirements then they will not be registered***

### ***What happens when I register?***

#### ***First Registration***

When you register with GNIB you will be required to provide proof of the following -

- that the student is enrolled on a privately funded course in the Degree Programme which is included in Internationalisation Register administered by the NQAI;
- a Letter of Acceptance from the college, confirming you have been accepted and enrolled on a course of full-time day-time education;
- you must have proof that fees have been paid to the college. Where your fees are below €6,000, the full amount of the fees must be paid in advance. Where your fees exceed €6,000 then at least this amount must be paid in advance;
- a bank statement, from an Irish bank, showing that you have access to €3,000 at first registration, to support yourself, live in Ireland without going into business or getting a job, or availing of any State Benefits;
- Students are required to have private medical insurance at time of registration. Thereafter at every subsequent registration students are required to have proof that they were in possession of private medical insurance for all of the previous registration period for example by way of a letter of renewal. Travel insurance will not be accepted.

Upon successful registration a student will be given a certificate of registration indicating that you have been given an immigration permission allowing you to study in the State.

The registration will be for one year and will be renewable on an annual basis, up to a maximum of 7 years.

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

***Second and Subsequent Registration***

Renewal of registration may be granted if the following conditions are satisfied, and no other adverse circumstances exist:

- A student has been engaging in full time daytime education leading to an award of the type set out above on a course at or above NFQ Level 7
- That a student can show verifiable academic progress (progress to the next year of the course)
- You must have proof that fees have been paid to the college;
- Proof that the student maintained private medical insurance, for the previous registration period for example by way of a letter of renewal (see definition of Private Medical Insurance in footnote. A more detailed note regarding private medical insurance is available on the INIS website – [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie) - in the document entitled '*Private Medical Insurance for full-time Non-EEA Students*')

**Note : A person will only be able to renew their immigration permission where there are no concerns about that person in terms of an adverse Garda record or other concerns related to national security, public security, public order or public policy ("ordre public").**

## **Conditions of being a Degree Programme Student**

### ***What are the conditions attached to my student permission on the Degree Programme?***

There are certain conditions a student must satisfy in order to maintain permission on a Degree Programme.

- Students enrolled in courses on the Degree Programme will be required to demonstrate that they are progressing academically i.e. to the next year of the course in order to maintain their permission,
- Students must provide proof that course fees have been paid in full to their school/college,
- Students must not avail of any State Benefits,
- Students are required to plan their educational programme to fit in with the allowable timeframe of seven years,
- It will not be permissible for students to move from the Degree Programme to the Language and Non Degree Programme
- Students must demonstrate that they have maintained private medical insurance, for the previous registration period for example by way of a letter of renewal

### ***What type of immigration permission?***

Your permission is limited purpose permission which allows you take up your course of studies.

It is not reckonable or taken into account in any application for long term residence or citizenship.

The immigration permission is valid for up to 12 months and is a renewable permission up to a maximum of 7 years.

### ***What will happen if I breach one or many of the conditions attached to my Student permission?***

Any breach of the conditions attached to permission to remain in Ireland as a student will be taken very seriously by the immigration authorities. In the event that a student breaches the conditions of their student permission your permission to be in the State as a student may be withdrawn. Such students will be considered illegal in the State and may be required to leave the State.

## **Changing courses or Education Providers**

### ***Can I change course?***

Yes it is permissible for students to change courses. Some conditions however will apply -

- Students will not be allowed to change course during the first year of study<sup>4</sup>;
- Students will only be permitted to change course to a new course of study leading to a major award as outlined above on the same level of the NFQ or a higher NFQ level;
- It will not be permissible for Students to move from the Degree Programme to a Non Degree or Language Course.

It is not permissible for students to renew their registration early in order to change course and by so doing to extend their immigration permission.

The validity of your permission to remain is conditional on you attending the course for which you were permitted to enter the State and/or for which your study visa was granted. The express written consent of the Minister is required if you wish to transfer to another course.

### ***Can I change to a part-time course?***

No. Your immigration permission has been granted for the purpose of allowing you engage in a full time educational course. You cannot transfer to a part-time course.

### ***Can I change from Stamp 2 Student permission to Stamp 1A Trainee Accountant permission?***

The purpose of non-EEA Student Immigration is to facilitate students coming to Ireland for full time studies. It is not intended to support students coming to study part time.

In that regard current non-EEA Degree programme students who have not completed their degrees, and who are within the time limits as set out above, are not permitted to move from Stamp 2 or Stamp 2A Student Permission to Stamp 1A Trainee Accountant permission.

### ***I originally entered the State to complete a 3rd level qualification but I now wish to do a language course instead – can I change course?***

No. You will not be allowed to transfer from a Degree Programme course into a Non Degree or Language course. Also, it will not be permissible for students enrolled on an NFQ Level 8 course to enrol in a course below that level.

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<sup>4</sup> In exceptional circumstances a student may be permitted to change course during the first year of their studies. Each case will be considered on its merits.

If a student requires a foundation English language programme in Ireland to bring them up to the required standard, this should be arranged in advance and be clearly stated in any application for a visa or leave to remain.

Where foundation courses are required and where Higher Education providers are not in a position to offer such courses, Higher Education providers are encouraged to form links with Quality Assured English Language providers to deliver these courses.

The student should continue to be enrolled on their primary course of study with the Higher Education provider

***My Education Provider's approval to deliver my chosen course has been removed – what can I do?***

In exceptional circumstances such as these, it will be possible for you to transfer to a new education provider so long as the course to which you transfer leads to a major award as outlined above at the same NFQ level, or higher as the course you originally attended.

In such cases a student should contact the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service for further advice and information about this.

## **Working while Studying**

Since April 2001 non-EEA nationals with permission to remain in the State as students, on immigration Stamp 2 permission and enrolled on courses with education providers listed on the Internationalisation Register, have been afforded the opportunity to work.

This allows non-EEA Students to take up casual employment to supplement their income while studying in Ireland. During term time non-EEA Students can work up to 20 hours per week and during normal college holiday periods non-EEA Students can work on a full time basis up to 40 hours per week.

This has been and continues to be a valuable concession to students especially in the current more difficult economic climate. For 2011 non-EEA students will be permitted to take up employment in accordance with the rules set out below.

However, all non-EEA Students should be aware that the student work concession is being reviewed in 2011 and this may result in changes to this concession.

**Note:** Students attending courses not on the Internationalisation Register are not permitted to work and are registered with Stamp 2A permission.

### ***Can I work while I am studying in Ireland?***

It is permissible for Degree Programme students to engage in casual employment where they are

- Registered with Stamp 2 permission,
- Enrolled on a course listed on the Internationalisation Register,
- Attending a full time course of education at or above NFQ Level 7,
- Undertaking a full time course for a minimum of 25 weeks per annum,
- On a course of at least one year's duration,
- Pursuing a course leading to a qualifications recognised by the Minister for Education and Skills.

Students will also be required to comply with the Universal Social Contribution, Pay Related Social Insurance, employment laws and taxation requirements

Casual employment is defined as up to a maximum of 20 hours part-time work per week during the academic semester, or full time work (up to 40 hours per week) during normal college holiday periods.

### ***Can I work for more than 20 hours per week during term time?***

No. This will breach the conditions attached to your permission. Any breach of the conditions attached to permission to remain in Ireland as a student will be taken very seriously by the immigration authorities. In the event that a student breaches the conditions of their student permission your permission to be in the State as a student may be withdrawn. Such students will be considered illegal in the State and may be required to leave the State.

***Can I conduct business or be self-employed?***

No. This will breach the conditions attached to your permission.

***Can I work full-time in a permanent job while I am studying?***

No. This will breach the conditions attached to your permission.

***I have to do an internship as part of my course of study – is this allowed under the immigration rules?***

Yes. Students enrolled on courses on the Degree Programme (major awards at NFQ Level 7 as outlined above – see Appendix 1) are allowed to undertake an internship where this forms part of their course. This is subject to the following rules.

- The internship or work placement component of the course cannot exceed 50% of the duration of the course e.g. a 4 year course would permit 2 years of work placement. In addition the employment cannot be in a self employed capacity.
- Work placements as part of an academic programme must form an integral part of the course and their completion contribute to the final award.
- Educational establishments must also ensure that the placements are appropriate to the nature and level of the academic programme being pursued

**Note: Outside of the Degree Programme certain named exceptions may be permitted to engage in Internship programmes in relation to EU-funded programmes<sup>5</sup>.**

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<sup>5</sup> For example, established Fáilte Ireland approved and certified training programmes, including those funded under the Leonardo, Comenius and Grundvig Grant Programmes.

## **Family Reunification**

### ***Can I bring my husband, wife, civil partner or children with me?***

No. In general students will continue to have no rights to Family Reunification. Some exceptions to this rule are set out below.

For visa required students your husband, wife, civil partner or child will need to make their own Visa application and this application will be judged on its own merit.

Partners, spouses and/or children will be considered as applicants in their own right but cannot advance their application for entry or residence on the basis of their relationship to another student.

Students will not be permitted to be accompanied or joined by children other than those born during their stay.

### ***Can my children come and visit me in Ireland?***

In general no, family reunification will be achieved by you visiting your children and family during academic holidays.

### ***Are there exceptions to the rules as set out above?***

Exemptions from the policy of no Family Reunification will be considered where;

- The student is pursuing a course at PhD level (NFQ 10). In these cases the student will be required to progress academically (verified by letter from academic supervisor) and to complete their doctorate within 4 years; or
- The student is a participant in an academic programme agreed between the Irish State and another state whereby the student and dependants are sufficiently well funded in respect of all expenses in Ireland, or where any such agreement provides an exemption; or
- The student can demonstrate private means on an annual basis at a level that clearly allows them to support themselves and their family without recourse to public funds and without engaging in employment, and, where children are accompanying the parent, has paid an immigration levy<sup>6</sup> set by the Government as a means of recovering the costs of the child's education; or
- The child is on a short visit to their parent(s) who can show special circumstances and can guarantee that the child will return home at the end of their visit. Failure to comply with this condition could result in the termination of the parent's own permission on the basis that they had breached their immigration conditions

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<sup>6</sup> The immigration levy will be in place from the 2012/2013 school year.

*If my children have been granted permission to accompany me to Ireland, can they attend a State primary/secondary school?*

Any child lawfully in the State is permitted to attend a school for education purposes. However children attending secondary level schooling are required to attend a private fee paying school.

From the 2012 / 2013 school year these rules will change. From the 2012 / 2013 school year children may attend a State primary/secondary school only where the parent has paid an immigration levy set by the Government as a means of recovering the costs of the child's education.

Also the placement of the child in a State School must be expressly approved in writing by the Department of Education and Skills who are responsible for the operation of the education system.

**Note : Children born in Ireland and who are ordinarily resident in Ireland will not be subject to the immigration levy**

## **Post Study Pathways**

### ***Can I extend my stay as a student?***

You may only stay in Ireland as a student for a maximum aggregate time of 7 years.

### ***Can I stay in Ireland after I complete my studies to seek employment?***

It may be possible to stay in Ireland after you complete your studies for the purpose of seeking employment under the Irish Third Level Graduate Scheme. This scheme exists to allow legally resident non-EEA third level graduates to remain in Ireland for the purpose of seeking employment and applying for a green card or work permit.

During the period of permission under the Irish Third Level Graduate Scheme a student can work full time (up to 40hrs per week).

The permission the student will have will remain that of student.

The permission under the Irish Third Level Graduate Scheme is non renewable.

A student can only avail of the Third Level Graduate Scheme in accordance with the rules below.

### **One Year Permission under the Third Level Graduate Scheme Permission**

To be eligible for a one year permission under the third level graduate scheme a student is required to have

- studied in Ireland and completed a qualification at Level NFQ 8-10,
- an award granted by a recognised Irish awarding body (overseas accreditation will not be accepted), i.e.
  - Dublin Institute of Technology
  - Higher Education Training and Awards Council
  - Institutes of Technology with delegated authority
  - Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
  - Universities
  - Other bodies that have statutory award-making powers in Irish law

### **Six Month Permission under the Third Level Graduate Scheme**

A six month permission under the Irish Third Level Graduate Scheme is available to students who have graduated a course at Level 7 of the NFQ.

### **Students who avail of the Graduate Scheme within the 7 year limit as a student**

Students who have completed a qualification in line with the courses as set out above and who are still within the 7 year overall limit for students in Ireland may avail of the Third Level Graduate Scheme starting on the date upon which the person receives their exam results.

If the full time non-EEA Student then re-enters education at a higher level the graduate scheme will count towards their 7 year maximum overall time limit in the State as a student. Where a student is eligible to avail of a one year Graduate scheme permission but only takes six months then the student will only be permitted to take the balance of six months if they then graduate from another course at a higher level.

For example – Student A completes a Level 8 Honours Degree over four years. Student A then avails of the Graduate Scheme for one year. Student A then returns to education to pursue a Masters Degree. The maximum time allowable for Student A to complete that course will be two years.

In addition the Student will not be permitted to avail of the Third Level Graduate Scheme at the end of their Masters course.

Stamp 2 will be issued in this situation.

***Can I switch from Stamp 2 Student permission to Stamp 1A Trainee Accountant permission as a graduate?***

Yes in certain circumstances this is permitted.

Non-EEA graduates, on Stamp 2 or Stamp 2A Student permission who having studied in Ireland complete a qualification (NFQ 7-10) granted by an Irish Authority (overseas accreditation will not be accepted) and who have not exceeded the overall 7 year time limit may transfer to Stamp 1A Trainee Accountant Permission for the balance of the 7 year time limit<sup>7</sup>. To stay beyond the 7 years the graduate would be required to secure an alternative immigration permission from that of a Stamp 2 or Stamp 2A student or Stamp 1A Trainee Accountant (for example as an employment permit holder).

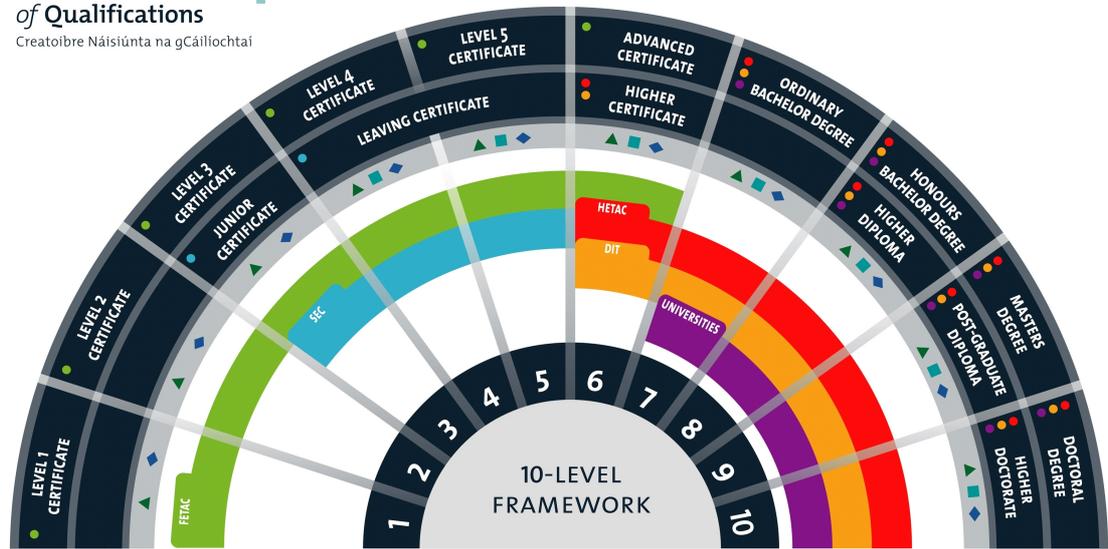
***Can I switch to work permit employment when I am in Ireland to study?***

Permission to work is granted by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Innovation. Check their website for details on how to obtain a working permit. (Available at <http://www.deti.ie>).

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<sup>7</sup> For example a non-EEA graduate who has been registered in Ireland for 4 years and who has completed an honours degree awarded by an Irish Authority, may be permitted to transfer to Stamp 1A Trainee Accountant Permission for a maximum period of 3 years. Renewal of registration will be dependent on satisfying the criteria set out by immigration authorities in relation to Stamp 1A Trainee Accountants.

## Appendix 1 – National Framework of Qualifications



### KEY

- FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education & Science)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology
- Universities

### AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four types of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- Major Awards: are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ◆ Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

## **Appendix 2 –Rules regarding State Benefits**

In Ireland there are many forms of State Benefits that are available to people. These include a range of income related benefits, medical cards and other social welfare benefits.

### ***Can I access State Benefits?***

No it is not permissible for non-EEA Students to access State Benefits and this is irrespective of eligibility. One of the key conditions applicable to a student coming to Ireland is that you must be able to support yourself and live without claiming state benefits.

### ***Why can I not access State Benefits?***

Non-EEA students are admitted to Ireland on the understanding that they will not make claims on State funds and, as outlined above, this is irrespective of eligibility.

From an immigration perspective a person who applies to come to Ireland as a student enters into some form of a contract with the State. Their immigration status is conditional. Moreover the conditions that the State applies are inseparable from the decision to admit them. In other words, the State will only admit the migrant on the basis that they agree to abide by certain conditions. Breach of that "agreement" by the migrant undermines the rationale for admitting them to the State and ultimately the basis of their residence permission.

### ***What happens if I access State Benefits?***

Where a student is found to have accessed state benefits this may lead to a student's permission to be in the State being withdrawn by the immigration authorities, on the basis that they have contravened the decision to admit the student.

### **Appendix 3 – 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  
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