



Applying for a visa to study in Ireland

Information note for persons resident in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, who are applying for a visa to study in Ireland

1 How to apply

The New Delhi Visa Office (NDVO), part of the Embassy of Ireland in India, is responsible for processing visa applications from students resident in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka or the Maldives, who have an offer to study an eligible course in Ireland.¹

The visa application process is as follows:

- **Create** your application online via AVATS,² then *print* and *sign* the completed application form;
- **Arrange** your appointment with Visa Facilitation Service (VFS)³, if applicable, and pay the visa fees;
- **Compile** your supporting documentation;⁴
- **Submit** your documents to VFS or the Embassy of Ireland;
- **Wait** on your visa outcome.

Currently, VFS submission is only available if you are resident in India or Nepal. Otherwise, please read the *How to apply* section of our website for information on document submission and fee payment.⁵

A comprehensive overview of Irish student visa policy, and required documents, is available on the Irish immigration website.⁶

2 When to apply

You can submit your visa application four months in advance of your course start date.

The latest we will accept an application is three weeks prior to your course start date. Applications received less than three weeks prior to the course start date can be returned unprocessed.

We recommend you apply as soon as you have your offer and your supporting documents. The onus is on each applicant to ensure they apply in good time.

Please note, as per our website, it may take a number of days for your application to transit from a VFS to the NDVO.⁷

3 Additional VFS services

To strengthen your application and improve your VFS experience, you can avail of additional VFS Services.⁸

Residents of India can avail of their *Check and Verify* service, while residents of Nepal can avail of their *In-depth Verification* service.

4 English language requirements

The submission of an approved English language test⁹ is compulsory for all student visas.

Failure to submit a test will result in visa refusal.

5 Financial requirements

A student must show that they will have the required finances to support themselves for the full duration of the course, and without dependence on casual employment in Ireland.

Importantly, if you are undertaking a multi-year course, at time of visa application, you show *immediate access to course fees and cost of living expenses for year one, plus ready access*¹⁰ to the required amounts, in both categories, for all subsequent years.

5.1 Course fees

Your course offer letter will provide information on the level of first year fees that you are required to pay and when payment is required.

Unless your provider requires full fee payment, prior to visa application, you must show the following:

- If **course fees are €6,000 or less**, you must pay them in full before visa application; or
- If **course fees are more than €6,000**, you must pay at least this amount before visa application.

5.2 Cost of living expenses

You are required to show that you have sufficient finances to reside in Ireland as a student, for the duration of your course, *without* depending on casual employment. This is known as your cost of living (COL) expenses.

¹ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-options/a-third-level-course-or-a-language-course/>.

²

<https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/AVATS/OnlineHome.aspx>.

³ <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/applying-for-irish-visa/>.

⁴ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-visa->

<options/how-to-apply-for-long-term-study-visa/#guide>.

⁵ See footnote 3.

⁶ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-visa-options/how-to-apply-for-long-term-study-visa/>.

⁷ <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/>.

⁸ <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/irl/additional-services>.

⁹ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/english-language-requirements-for-study-visas/>.

¹⁰ *Ready access* means that the finances will be available when required in future. This can be evidenced by loans, savings and projected income from sponsors.



The COL threshold is stated on the Irish immigration homepage.¹¹

The threshold can be met by personal or sponsored finances, using accepted financial evidence outlined under section 6.

5.3 Financial sponsorship

Anyone offering financial support to your studies in Ireland is considered a sponsor and *must* consent to the sponsorship via your Financial Summary Form (see section 7), or via a separate signed declaration.

6 Financial evidence

Personal and sponsored finances can be evidenced in many ways, such as bank accounts, fixed-deposit accounts, loans, bonds, provident funds etc.

We do not accept market-linked funds – such as crypto, stocks, shares or mutual-funds – nor do we accept gold valuations or chit-funds. If you wish to have gold valuations considered, the gold must be liquidated into a bank account¹² or converted to a gold loan.

We recommend that you simplify your finances as much as possible. Having your financial evidence spread across multiple sponsors and multiple holdings increases the risk of refusal, due to unclear financial evidence. Consolidate your finances where possible.¹³

Remember, applicants must submit six months of their own bank statement plus six months of any declared sponsor. Verifiable income tax return (ITRs) acknowledgments should be submitted for all appropriate parties.

6.1 Student loans

If you are availing of a student loan then you must submit original documentation in relation to that

loan. The sanction letter on its own is not sufficient.

Where property is guaranteeing a loan, the deeds of that property *must* be submitted. Where the source of funds is the sale of an asset (e.g., house or land) evidence of the sale *must* be submitted.

The guarantor of a loan is a sponsor and therefore must be declared in the Financial Summary Form.

The principle amount loaned to the applicant *must* be consistent with the availability to repay, based on existing income levels and terms of the loan. Potential income increases cannot be considered for the availability to repay the loan.

6.2 Education bonds

Education bonds, such as *EduBond*,¹⁴ are accepted as long as the source of funds used to pay for them is accounted for.¹⁵

7 Financial summary form (FSF)

The FSF¹⁶ seeks to provide *clarity* to the visa office in relation to required finances and *assistance* to the applicant in structuring their financial evidence.

8 Processing times

Processing times are listed on the NDVO website.¹⁷

In addition, every Tuesday evening and Friday morning a report detailing all visa decisions made during the reference period is posted online.

9 The appeals process

Where an application is refused and the rights of appeal granted, the appeal *must* be submitted within two months of the initial refusal date.

Please note that, due to incoming application volumes, student appeals can take longer to assess than the initial application.¹⁸

Applicants should focus on submitting a quality first time application, as there is no guarantee that an appeal will be processed in time for your course start date.

If, at date of decision, your course has started and no extension is provided, your application will be refused.

10 Post-study pathways

The *Third Level Graduate Scheme*, permits graduates to work in Ireland, for up to two years, without the need of an employment permit.¹⁹

11 Frequently asked questions

Further queries may be answered by the FAQ on the Irish Immigration website.²⁰

12 Checklist before you submit

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Signed AVATS application form | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | All passports (missing passport must be fully explained) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Letter of application/statement of purpose, outlining the reasons for selecting Ireland, your provider and your course. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Course offer letter from your provider. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Evidence of course fee payment, including electronic fund transfers (section 5.1). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | All previous qualifications, including certificates and semester mark sheets. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | English language test results (section 4). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Evidence of required finances (sections 5 and 6). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Financial summary form (section 7). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Private medical insurance. ²¹ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Police clearance certificates. ²² | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | If applicable, a letter disclosing all previous visa refusals with the original refusal letters. ²³ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

¹¹ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-options/a-fee-paying-private-primary-or-secondary-school/information-on-student-finances/>.

¹² Large deposits in bank accounts must be fully declared and explained in your financial summary form.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ <https://educationbondireland.com>.

¹⁵ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-options/a-fee-paying-private-primary-or-secondary-school/information-on-student-finances/>.

[school/information-on-student-finances/#/alternative](https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-options/a-fee-paying-private-primary-or-secondary-school/information-on-student-finances/#/alternative).

¹⁶ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-visa-options/how-to-apply-for-long-term-study-visa/#guide>

¹⁷ <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/>.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/my-situation-has-changed-since-i-arrived-in-ireland/third-level-graduate-programme/>.

²⁰ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/frequently-asked-questions-for-students/>

²¹ <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-options/a-fee-paying-private-primary-or-secondary-school/private-medical-insurance/>.

²² For all countries in which you held residence permission in the five years prior to the date of your visa application.

²³ Failure to disclose will result in a refusal and ban from future applications.