

Information Note for Nepalese nationals applying for an Irish Student Visa Application

Visa Application Process

- All applications for an Irish visa must be made by completing an Online Visa Application Form. This online form can be found via the Visa Office website - irelandinindia.com.
- The online form plus accompanying documentation must be submitted through the VFS Visa Application Centre (VAC) in Kathmandu. The address can be found on irelandinindia.com.
- All applications are forwarded to the Visa Office in New Delhi for processing. Decisions are made by Officers of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) based in New Delhi.

Important documents/information - originals and copies of all documentation are required.

- Customary Information (visa fee, photographic requirements, location of VFS VAC etc.) log on to the student page on the Visa Office website - irelandinindia.com.
- Questionnaire to Accompany Student Visa Applications – must be fully completed. This form is available to download from the Visa Office website. Note this form was updated April 16.
- Evidence that you have the academic ability to follow your chosen course - You must provide evidence that you have attained the necessary level of academic achievement required to follow your chosen course. Such evidence will include – exam results, qualifications obtained and certificate/s proving your Level of English.
- No gaps in CV – if there are gaps they must be fully explained.
- Study Plan – details of what, why and for how long you intend to study in Ireland etc. It is strongly advised to personalise your study plan and not submit a generic student plan given to you by an agent or copied from the internet.
- Evidence of your intention to return to Nepal following completion of your studies in Ireland, for example, how do you intend to utilise the qualification upon return to India.

English Language Test

- The submission of an approved English language test is compulsory for all student visas. Failure to submit a test will result in your application being refused - the Visa Officer has no discretion on this requirement. This requirement is applicable to all applicants, including those who have been educated through English.
- Acceptable tests - IELTS, TOEFL (degree courses and above), Cambridge, PTE Academic or ETAPP. Note a test must be issued within 2 years of the date of your visa application.
- Educational Institutions in Ireland cannot waive this requirement for the purpose of a visa application.

Finances

- You must show that you have sufficient funds to support your stay in Ireland without recourse to public funds, or the reliance on casual employment.
- You must show evidence that you have immediate access to at least €7,000. This is the estimated cost of living in Ireland for a student for one academic year.
- You must also demonstrate that you and/or your sponsor(s) have ready access to at least €7,000 for each subsequent year of your studies in addition to course fees for each of those years.
- Evidence of the source of your funding – minimum 6 months savings history.
- Bank loans* can be submitted as evidence of finances. You should be aware that you may be asked to provide additional evidence of finances if that is considered necessary for example source of funds and income.

***Following a recent review of Nepalese student visa application please note the following;**

- Applicants using Education loans submitted from Nabil Bank, Nepal Investment Bank or Everest Bank financing the full course of studies will be assessed more positively.
- Applicants using Education loans submitted from Nabil Bank, Nepal Investment Bank or Everest Bank financing part of the course of studies where courses are 2 years and above (loan should cover minimum 1 year fees and cost of living) will be assessed more positively. For each year not covered by the loan the standard INIS financial requirements are applicable and documentation of same should be submitted.
- It is recommended that any 'source of income' submitted in support of the application be accompanied by a 'Certificate of Tax' payment issued by the Inland Revenue Office for a minimum of two years preceding the application.
- With effect from 1 January 2017 the Visa Office will accept financial documents from only regulated institutions licensed by Nepal Rastra bank (Central Bank of Nepal).

3 Week rule

- Student applications **received** in the Visa Office less than 3 weeks prior to the course start date (not extension date) will be returned unprocessed. Note it could take 3/4 working days for VFS to deliver the application to the Visa Office – visit our website for VFS’s estimated delivery/collection schedule to/from the Visa Office. The onus is on each applicant to ensure this timeframe is met, **no exceptions will be made.**

Processing times

- A student application cannot be submitted more than 4 months prior to the course start date. If an application is received it will be returned unprocessed.
- We would strongly advise student visa applicants to submit their application at least 6 weeks prior to the course start date. Please note the processing time can depend on the complexity of the application and also depend on the number of applications submitted. Processing times are updated regularly on our website.
- In order to ensure that all student visa applicants receive fair and equal treatment, student visa applications are processed in strict chronological order.

Decisions

- Visa decisions are published twice a week on our website, on the page called “Weekly Decision Reports”. You can check a decision by entering the Visa Reference Number.

Refused – submitting an Appeal

- All refusals are issued with a letter giving the full reasons for refusal. Appeals may be submitted to this office within 2 months of the date of refusal. Appeals can only be made by post.

The above requirements are intended to act as a guideline only and do not limit the discretion of the Visa Officer in determining individual applications. The Visa Office reserves the right to request further documentation to assist in processing a visa application.

Where to find more information

For more information on the visa application process and documentation required;

- Visit our website irelandinindia.com.
- Email us at ndvi@dfa.ie (98% of queries are replied to within 24 hours).

Alternatively;

- Visit www.inis.gov.ie – Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service website.

- Contact VFS: You can contact VFS via their visa helpline telephone or by email. Details can be found on www.vfs-ireland.co.in.