



Studying in Ireland | information on the Irish visa system

This leaflet seeks to assist student visa applicants who are applying to the Embassy of Ireland in New Delhi

1 How to apply for a student visa

The New Delhi Visa Office (NDVO), part of the Embassy of Ireland in India, is responsible for processing visa applications from residents of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives; who have been accepted onto eligible study courses in Ireland.¹

The visa application process can be summarised in the following simple steps:

- Create your online application form via AVATS:
<https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/AVATS/OnlineHome.aspx>;
- Print and sign your completed form;
- Arrange your visa appointment with Visa Facilitation Service (VFS), if applicable:²
<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/irl/>;
- Compile your supporting documentation;³
- Submit your documents based on the country-specific instructions on the printed AVATS form;
- Pay your visa fee (country-specific);⁴ and finally
- Await the visa outcome.⁵

Further information on how to apply is available on the Embassy website,⁶ while information on Irish student visa policy is available on the Irish immigration homepage.⁷

2 Additional VFS services

If lodging your application to a VFS centre, you can avail of additional services to improve the chances of successful application, and to improve your VFS experience.

The services available are listed online:
<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/irl/additional-services>.

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

² Only residents of IND and NPL apply to VFS.

³ See *Types of Visa and Documentation*:
<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/applying-for-irish-visa/>.

⁴ Ibid. See *Payment Details*.

The NDVO highly recommends that Indian resident student applicants avail of the VFS *Check and Verify service*, while Nepalese residents should avail of their *In-depth Verification service*.

These services allow VFS staff to verify many of your supporting documents, thereby increasing the likelihood of application success.

3 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 date⁸ will be returned unprocessed.

Please note, as per our website, it may take a number of days for your application to transit from a VFS centre to the NDVO.⁹

The onus is on each applicant to ensure they apply in good time. No exceptions will be made.

3.1 Approval in principle scheme

The Approval in Principal Scheme (AIP) enables students, who have a conditional offer on an undergraduate degree course, but are awaiting to receive their school results in late July or early August.

For post graduates, if you are awaiting your final results from your University in late July or August, you can apply for an Irish visa with your provisional results, along with all other required documentation. The NDVO will require a copy of the final results before issuing the visa.

Under the AIP, applicants applying for a study visa from India and Sri Lanka, and who have been accepted on to a College, University, Institute of Technology or QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland)

approved course at undergraduate level, can apply for a study visa without having to pay the full requisite college fees in advance.

Such persons *must* pay €6,000 towards the cost of the fees when applying under the AIP and pay the remainder when they submit their final results and their confirmed letter of offer.

You can submit your application three months in advance of the course start date. The NDVO will consider your application and inform you if it can be approved in principle.

Once you have received your final results from your school and informed the Education Provider in Ireland, you *must* submit:

- Your final results;
- The updated letter of offer / acknowledgement letter from the Irish Education Provider; and
- A copy of the Electronic Transfer Fee (EFT) showing that you have paid the full fees.

4 English language ability

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. Further information is available on the Irish immigration homepage:

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

5 Financial evidence

Insufficient evidence of course fee payment or financial support capability – i.e. the money you need to support yourself during your studies – is the most common reason for visa refusal.

⁸ Or the extension course start date, where the original start date is delayed.

⁹ <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/>.



5.1 Course fees

Please check with your education provider when the full fee has to be paid. If the education provider requires the full fee to be paid before you apply for your Irish visa, the NDVO will need to see evidence of this.

In all other cases, where the full fee is expected to be paid by the time you enroll on the course, at time of application the NDVO will require to see:

- At least €6,000 paid, if the overall fees are under €12,000; or
- At least 50% paid of the total fees, if the total amounts to more than €12,000.

5.2 Financial support capability

Guidelines on financial support thresholds, and the evidence you *must* provide is listed on the Irish immigration homepage.¹⁰

Applicants should seek to simplify their finances as much as possible. If your supporting finances are spread across multiple sponsors, with multiple bank accounts and loans, then the risk of refusal is higher. Consider consolidating your finances, explaining any recent large incoming bank transactions in your letter of application.

You *must* show you the required sufficient funds to support your stay in Ireland without recourse to public funds, or reliance on casual employment.

If you are using fixed deposits (FDs), or similar products, the source of funds used to purchase the deposit *must* be disclosed.

Market-linked funds, e.g. crypto, shares or mutual funds, and gold deposits or valuations, *are not* accepted.

5.3 Financial sponsors

Anyone offering material support to your application is considered a sponsor and *must* be included in your supplementary application form (SAF).¹¹

The SAF includes details about your parents whether they are your sponsors or not. You *must* include proof of their ID, employment status, address, etc., and evidence of your relationship/link to them. You *must* provide evidence of their income (ITRs and payslips) and savings (bank statements, etc.).

Original FDs etc., *must* be submitted. You cannot say you are self-funded if any

financial support comes from elsewhere. You *must* declare all sponsors.

5.4 Student loans

If you are availing of a student loan then complete original documentation in relation to that loan *must* be submitted. 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.

Any guarantor of a loan is treated as a sponsor and their details *must* be included on the SAF, which should accompany your application. Failure to provide complete information on sponsors can be grounds for visa refusal.

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

5.5 Education bonds

Education bonds such as *EduBond*¹² are accepted, as long as the source of funds used to pay for them is accounted for.¹³

6 How long will the process take

NDVO processing times are listed on our website¹⁴ and regularly updated. The times do not include the time it takes to arrange a VFS appointment.

In addition, the decisions made by the NDVO are posted online every Tuesday and Friday.

7 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 decision date.

The appeal process could take more than a month to assess, given the increased first instance application volumes during the summer peaks. As such, there is no guarantee that any appeal will be processed in time for a course start date.

Do not depend on the appeals process. Take the time to ensure your application is correct first time, and avail of add-on VFS verification services to ensure that documentation is verified where possible.

8 Post-study pathways

The Third Level Graduate Scheme, allows eligible non-visa required nationals who have completed their studies to work in Ireland, for a limited period, without the need for an employment permit:

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

9 Frequently asked questions

Please see the Irish Immigration website: <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/frequently-asked-questions-for-students/>.

10 Checklist before you apply

1. Have you printed, signed and dated the AVATS application form?
2. Have you fully completed the SAF and compiled any documentation requested therein?
3. Have you submitted your current, and all previous passports? If you are unable to submit your previous passports have you provided an explanation?
4. Have you submitted documentation of both your and your parent's income, employment details and finances, even if they are not your sponsors?
5. If applicable, have you disclosed details of any adverse or negative immigration history (previous visa refusals, deportations or leave curtailment)¹⁵
6. Have you submitted your course offer letter?
7. Have you provide evidence of course fee payment, and the Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs)?
8. Have you submitted relevant qualifications to show you have the academic ability to follow your chosen course?
9. Have you submitted your English language results?
10. Have you provided private medical insurance cover?¹⁶
11. Have you submitted Police Clearance Certificates (PCC)?¹⁷

¹⁰ <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/>.

¹¹ See *Types of Visa and Documentation*: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/applying-for-irish-visa/>.

¹² <https://educationbondireland.com>.

¹³ <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>.

¹⁴ <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/>.

¹⁵ Failure to disclose will result in a refusal and ban from future applications.

¹⁶ See <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 One for each country you have resided in, for 12 months or more, in the five years prior to your application date. PCCs must be issued within six months of your application.