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.

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

- **Create** your application online via AVATS, then print and sign the completed application form;
- **Arrange** your appointment with Visa Facilitation Service (VFS) and pay the visa fees;
- **Compile** your supporting documentation;
- **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 submission and fees instructions:

Our website also expands on the application process, visa fees and payment methods.

Separately, Irish student visa policy and document requirements are available on the Irish immigration website.

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 will be returned unprocessed.

We recommend you apply as soon as you have your offer and your supporting documents compiled. The onus is on each applicant to ensure they apply in good time. No exceptions will be made.

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

3 Additional VFS services

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

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 test 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 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.

If full fee payment is not required by your education provider at time of visa application, then you must show that you have paid:

- At least €6,000, if the overall fee is under €12,000;
- At least 50% of total first year fees, if the overall fee is €12,000+.

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 cost of living (COL) expenses.

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1 [https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-options/a-third-level-course-or-a-language-course/](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](https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/AVATS/OnlineHome.aspx)
3 See footnote 3.
4 [https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/applying-for-irish-visa/](https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/applying-for-irish-visa/)
5 [https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/](https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/)
8 [https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/applying-for-irish-visa/](https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/applying-for-irish-visa/)
9 [https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/](https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/)
10 Ready access means that the finances will be available when required. 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 be included in your Financial Summary Form (see section 7).

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 in 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 wherever 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 FSF. 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 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 The financial summary form
The FSF16 seeks to provide clarity to the visa office in relation to your required finances and your declared finances. The FSF is available on the Irish Immigration website and is a required document.17

8 Processing times
Processing times are listed on the NDVO website.

In addition, every Tuesday evening and Friday morning a report detailing all visa decisions made during the reference period is posted online.18

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 decision date. Please note that, due to incoming application volumes, student appeals can take longer to assess than the initial application.19

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

10 Post-study pathways
The Third Level Graduate Scheme, allows students who have successfully completed their studies to work in Ireland, for up to two years, without the need for an employment permit.20

11 Frequently asked questions
An FAQ is available on the Irish Immigration website.

12 Checklist before you submit

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Have you printed, signed and dated the AVATS application form?</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Have you submitted your current, and all previous passports? If you are unable to submit your previous passports, you must provide an explanation.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>If applicable, have you disclosed details of any adverse immigration history, such as previous visa refusals, deportations, leave curtailment or refusal of entry?21</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Have you submitted your course offer letter?</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Have you submitted relevant qualifications to show you have the academic ability to follow your chosen course?</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Have you submitted your English language results?</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Have you provided evidence of course fee payment, including the Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs)?</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Have you fully completed the Financial Summary Form and provided documentary evidence of all declared finances?</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Have you provided private medical insurance cover?</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Have you provided all required police clearance certificates?</td>
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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/alternative]

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/]

16 [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/]

17 See footnote 4.

18 [https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals]

19 Ibid.

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

21 [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/]

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