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44th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

VISA AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Before travelling to Dublin or anywhere in Ireland, make sure you understand the visa and entry requirements that apply to your nationality.

Do I need a visa to enter Ireland?

Citizens of certain countries require a visa to enter Ireland. You can check whether you need a visa on the official Irish Government website here.

If you are a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you do not need a visa to enter or live in Ireland. If you are a citizen of a visa-required country, you must apply for an Irish entry visa before travelling.

How to apply for a visa

Visa applications are processed by the Irish Immigration Service (INIS). You can start your application online via the <u>AVATS Visa Application System</u>.

Once your online application is submitted, you will be instructed to send supporting documents (such as your passport, travel plans, proof of accommodation, and financial means) to your nearest Irish Embassy or Consulate. You can find the contact details for Irish embassies and consulates worldwide here.

Processing time

Visa processing times vary depending on the type of visa and where you apply from. It is recommended to apply at least 8 weeks before your planned travel date.

Types of visas

There are several visa categories depending on the purpose and length of your stay:

• Short Stay 'C' Visa (up to 90 days) – for tourism, short business trips, or visiting family/friends.

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- Long Stay 'D' Visa (over 90 days) for studying, working, or joining family in Ireland.
- Transit Visa required by certain nationalities when passing through an Irish airport en route to another destination.

More details on all visa types can be found <u>here</u>.

UK and Schengen visa holders

Ireland is not part of the Schengen Area, and a Schengen visa does not allow entry to Ireland. However, certain visitors holding a UK short-stay visa may travel to Ireland without an Irish visa under the British–Irish Visa Scheme. More information is available here.

Arriving in Ireland

When you arrive in Ireland, an Immigration Officer at border control will decide how long you can stay. You may be asked to show proof of accommodation, onward travel, and sufficient funds for your visit.

For full, up-to-date details on visas, entry rules, and immigration procedures, please visit the <u>Irish Immigration Service official website</u>.