

# Academic Year Students on a Study Working Visa for Ireland

You need a visa if you are not a European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) national, or national of some selected countries. Non-EEA students can book a course of 25 weeks or longer, to a limit of 32 weeks, which is the total length of their visa. These students are referred to as Academic Year students. This visa is for non-EEA/EU nationals taking English courses longer than 90 days. List of countries requiring a visa to study in Ireland: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/visa-required-countries>

## Study Working Visa (D visa):

- This visa duration is eight calendar months.
- Students must study for 25 weeks of this time and can take up to 8 weeks break.
- Conditions regarding session breaks are as follows: all breaks must be booked with admissions, breaks cannot be taken in the first 12 weeks of the course, breaks cannot be longer than 2 weeks, breaks that are not booked with admissions will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Available to students of all levels, including Beginner.
- To get a D visa (Study visa), students will need to have:
  - A visa support letter from us which we will send you after receiving full payment
  - Evidence of Finances
  - Medical Insurance: students may book an 8 month package for €100 with GuardMe Ireland through EC at the time of booking
  - Evidence of Education/Employment history
  - Pay a fee of €300 paid by card or bank giro only
  - Full details: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Study>
- After entering the country, students must apply for permission to stay in Ireland and register with immigration at a registration office before the date stamped on their passport at border control.
- This visa can be extended in Ireland.
- Citizens from countries outside the EU/EEA who are registered as full-time students with the Garda Síochána (Irish Police Force) are permitted to work part-time in Ireland. (up to a maximum of 20 hours a week and full-time during specified holiday periods) to support themselves. Holiday periods are: June, July, August and September, and Dec 15th - Jan 15th.
- All visa students are required to attend their courses. Students with an attendance lower than 85% may have problems with a future visa extension/renewal.
- Students may transfer to another course/school? Yes, if that other school is recognised and on ILEP.

## Exit Exam

Academic Year students are required to take an external examination at the end of their course.

- EC will recommend an appropriate exam (IELTS, FCE, or CAE) based on your level and help you register for an exam at a local external testing centre.
- Exam fees must be paid at the time of booking (approx. €200).
- EC will keep a copy of your test results. These may be made available to immigration authorities upon request.
- Please speak to the school academic team if you have any questions about your exam.
- As a member of Marketing English in Ireland, EC guarantees that all students will be able to complete the courses for which they enrol, as they are covered by a recognised learner protection scheme and will be placed in another MEI school should they be displaced in the event of a school closure.

## Working while studying English in Ireland

One of the great advantages of studying English in Ireland is that non-EU and non-EEA, as well as EU citizens, can seek employment. While the Irish job market is competitive, there is still plenty of work to be found, especially in Dublin. We at EC Dublin understand that the adjustment to living in a new country presents many challenges and finding a job can be one of the most difficult. To help you in your search for work we offer FREE:

- Assistance in the translation of your CV
- Help to open a bank account
- Assistance in obtaining a PPS (Personal Public Services) number
- Job skills classes to help with application for jobs and preparation for interviews (available on demand)
- Advice on looking for work

Please note: EU students do not require a visa to work or study in Ireland. For students from other countries the situation varies – to find out more information please visit the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform, Ireland website at [www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie).

## Personal Public Services Number

Academic Year students need a PPS (Personal Public Services) number to work in Ireland. The student must have a job offer before applying for this number. The school can assist in the application for a PPS number by providing information and a letter. The school cannot help students find jobs or work placements, but, subject to demand, will deliver job skills classes to assist students in their job seeking efforts.

## Travel Pass

Academic Year students can qualify for a student Leap Card (public transport travel card) which can show substantial savings on travel costs. The school can provide information and documentation to assist students in obtaining this card.