

Visa Information

Helpful information for students who require study visas to travel to Ireland

Studying abroad is an exciting journey, but before you can pack your bags and begin your adventure at **RIAM**, there is one important step - getting your **Irish study visa**.

If you're from a **non-EU/EEA country**, you may need to apply for a visa before traveling to Ireland.

To help you navigate the process smoothly, we've put together this **step-by-step guide**, covering everything from application forms to financial requirements.

Do I need a visa?

Visas and Immigration matters are managed by the **Irish Immigration Service – (ISD)**. You can check if you need a visa by visiting the **Irish Immigration**

Service website: <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-visit-ireland/visit-ireland-travel-path/>

- **If you need a visa to enter Ireland**, you apply online for the visa.
- **If you don't need a visa to enter Ireland**, you register with the Irish Immigration Service when you get to Ireland.
- **If you have an EU/EEA/Swiss/UK Passport**, you don't need to apply for a visa or register with Immigration.

When should I apply?

Visa processing times vary per country. To avoid last-minute delays, we advise students to apply **at least three months before their programme start date**. Visa processing can take several months, and applying early ensures you have plenty of time to prepare for your move to Ireland.

How do I apply for an Irish Study Visa?

Online Visa Application

You apply for your visa through the Irish Immigration Service [AVATS online system](#).

Gather Your Documents

It is essential that you include all required documentation. Missing documents can lead to **delays or even refusals**, so double-check everything before submission.

Visa Checklist

Step 1: Complete the Application Form and gather all necessary documents. (click of pdf file "Visa Check Lit")

Step 2: Pay the Visa Application Fee

What happens after I apply?

Tracking Your Visa Application

Once submitted, you can **track your visa application** online.

Processing Time

Visa decisions can take **up to three months, or more**, depending on where you are applying from, and the overall volume of applications.

Visa Interview (if required)

In some cases, applicants may be called for a visa interview. If this happens, be prepared to discuss your study plans, finances, and reasons for choosing Ireland.

Arriving in Ireland & Immigration Registration

Once your visa is approved and you get the visa stamp in your passport, you are ready to travel. When you land in Ireland, you will pass through **Border Control** at the Airport and they will check the following documents upon arrival:

Passport with a study visa

RIAM acceptance letter – your “**letter of enrolment**”

Proof of accommodation

When you go through Border Control at the Airport, your passport will be stamped. You must register with the **Irish Immigration Service (ISD) in Dublin City** before the date in that Landing Stamp.

When you register with the Irish Immigration Service, you will receive your **Irish Residence Permit (IRP)**, which shows that you are legally entitled to reside in Ireland.

Need help?

For official Irish visa guidelines, visit:

[Coming to study in Ireland - Immigration Service Delivery](#)