

Preparing to Study in Ireland

Your Irish study application, organised before you begin

A practical preparation route for international students: confirm the right course, build credible financial evidence and assemble a consistent application before opening AVATS.

Apply Up to 3 months before travel	Living funds EUR 833 per month for stays up to 8 months	English study Approved full-time programme required
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1. Choose the route before the paperwork

EU / EEA / Swiss - Free-movement route

You do not follow the non-EEA student-visa process. Check course admission, fees, housing and your healthcare position directly.

Non-EEA - 90 days or less - Short study stay

Check whether your nationality requires a short-stay study visa and prepare evidence for the purpose, funding and duration of the visit.

Non-EEA - over 90 days - Long-stay study route

Choose an approved full-time programme, check whether you need a D visa, and prepare for immigration registration after arrival.

2. Your preparation journey

Step 1: Confirm your immigration route

Check nationality, course duration and whether you need an entry visa as well as study permission.

Step 2: Verify the programme

Confirm the exact provider and course are currently eligible for the immigration permission you need.

Step 3: Read the offer carefully

Check tuition hours, dates, attendance, exam obligations, fees, refunds and learner-protection arrangements.

Step 4: Pay through a traceable channel

Keep compliant bank-transfer or approved payment-service evidence that matches the acceptance letter.

Step 5: Build the financial file

Show genuine access to the required living funds and explain the source, ownership and history of the money.

Step 6: Write your study explanation

Explain why Ireland, why this course and how it fits your real education and employment history.

Step 7: Complete documents and insurance

Resolve gaps, refusals, translations, academic evidence and medical-insurance cover before submission.

Step 8: Apply and protect your plans

Follow AVATS instructions and avoid non-refundable travel until a decision has been made.

3. Document preparation checklist

- Completed AVATS application [required]
- Printed, signed and dated application summary form [required]
- Current passport [required]
- Copies of relevant pages from previous passports [required]
- Two recent passport-style photographs [required]
- Application letter [required] - explains your study purpose and history
- Letter of acceptance from the college [required]
- Course-fee payment evidence [required]
- Financial evidence: bank statements and sponsor documents [required]
- Summary-of-finances form [conditional] - where required by the visa office
- Academic records / qualifications [required]
- Evidence of English ability [conditional] - depends on the course
- Education and employment gap explanations [conditional] - where gaps exist
- Private medical insurance evidence [required]
- Details and original letters for previous visa refusals [conditional]
- Certified translations [conditional] - for documents not in English or Irish
- Additional documents for applicants under 18 [conditional]

4. Financial evidence

For stays of six to eight months, the published requirement is EUR 833 per month - EUR 4,998 for six months or EUR 6,665 for eight months. Longer residence currently requires access to EUR 10,000 for the first academic year. Course fees are additional.

- Do not rely on finding casual work after arrival.
- Explain large or recent lodgements with documents.
- If sponsored, prove the relationship and the sponsor's income.

- Recheck the official amount on the day you apply.

5. Common mistakes to remove early

- Paying before checking the exact programme
- Using inconsistent course dates or fee figures
- Leaving education or employment gaps unexplained
- Treating prospective Irish work as financial support
- Omitting a previous visa refusal
- Booking non-refundable travel before the decision

6. Official sources

Coming to study in Ireland

<https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/>

Long-term study visa

<https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/what-are-my-study-visa-options/how-to-apply-for-long-term-study-visa/>

Student finances

<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/>

English-language requirements

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

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The information available in this guide is for information purposes only. Rules, requirements and processing arrangements can change. Always refer to the official websites listed above before making an application or financial commitment.

Visit aimarketer.ie/student-resources for the online guide, course information and student support resources.