

Ireland Student Visa & Immigration Guide

For applicants from **India** applying to a **Doctorate (PhD / Research)** programme.

Issuing authority	Irish Immigration Service Delivery (ISD), Department of Justice
Visa route	Long Stay 'D' Study visa
Apply from	India
Apply before course start	3 months (Ireland)

Verify current details before you apply. This guide was compiled in July 2026 from publicly available official guidance. Visa rules, financial thresholds, fees and processing times change frequently. Always confirm the current requirements on the official department portal:

- **Official department:** Irish Immigration Service Delivery ([irishimmigration.ie](https://www.irishimmigration.ie)) — <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-study-in-ireland/>
- **Embassy of Ireland, New Delhi:** <https://www.ireland.ie/en/india/newdelhi/>
- **Visa Application Centre:** <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/irl>

1. Overview

This guide summarises the Long Stay 'D' Study visa requirements set by Irish Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) for Indian students applying to a full-time doctorate (phd / research) programme in Ireland. It reflects publicly available ISD guidance and is intended as an orientation document — always cross-check the official portal at [irishimmigration.ie](https://www.irishimmigration.ie) before you apply.

2. Who this guide is for

- Applicant nationality: India
- Programme level: Doctorate (PhD / Research)
- Course length longer than 90 days (short courses use the C visa)
- Course listed on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP)
- Full-time attendance at a recognised Irish institution

3. Financial requirements

You must show that you (or your sponsor) can maintain yourself for the duration of your studies without recourse to public funds.

How much you must show

€10,000 per year of study, in addition to the first-year tuition fee paid in full (or the deposit if the college accepts staged payment). If accommodation has already been paid, include the receipts and deduct that amount from the €10,000. PhD candidates funded by a supervisor's grant or an institutional stipend may show the funding-award letter in lieu of personal savings, provided the letter states the stipend value, duration and payment schedule.

Indicative tuition band

PhD tuition typically ranges €9,500 – €18,000 per year for non-EU/EEA students. Many PhD candidates hold a full or partial fee waiver via a supervisor's research grant or an institutional scholarship.

Bank-statement period: 6 months

- Bank statements covering the most recent **6 months** from Indian banks, on official bank letterhead, stamped and signed by the branch manager.
- Statements must show the current available balance and a stable pattern of deposits — a single large lump-sum deposit shortly before application will trigger a source-of-funds request.
- A short signed letter from the account holder (student or sponsor) explaining the source of funds (salary, business income, property sale, education loan).
- If sponsored: sponsor's affidavit of support, sponsor's ID, sponsor's income proof (tax returns / salary slips for 2 years) and a clear stated relationship to the student.
- Education loan sanction letters from a scheduled bank are widely accepted; include the disbursement schedule.

4. Required documents

- Signed and dated ISD visa application summary sheet (printed from the AVATS online form).
- Passport valid for at least 12 months after intended arrival, with two blank pages, plus copies of all previous passports.
- Two recent colour passport photographs, taken within the last 6 months (35 x 45 mm, white background).
- Original Letter of Acceptance from the Irish institution on college letterhead, quoting the ILEP-listed programme, start and end dates and total tuition fee.
- Evidence of tuition-fee payment: bank transfer receipt with the college's Epay / bank reference or an official college receipt.
- Private medical insurance policy covering the full study period in Ireland (many colleges arrange this on your behalf).
- Academic transcripts and degree certificates for all previous qualifications — must be **attested by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and, where required by the college, further verified through World Education Services (WES) or the college's own credential-evaluation partner.
- English-language evidence: IELTS Academic 6.0–7.0 (per programme requirement), TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic or a college-issued English-medium-of-instruction letter.
- Gap explanation letter if there is more than 12 months between your last qualification and this application, with supporting documents (employment letters, internship certificates).
- Signed personal statement explaining why you chose Ireland, why this course, why this college, and your plans after graduation.
- Supervisor acceptance / offer letter naming the research group, project title and duration, plus a copy of your research proposal.

5. Attestation & verification of academic documents

All Indian academic certificates and transcripts should be attested end-to-end: (a) issuing university / board, (b) State HRD / Home Department (or the Ministry of HRD for autonomous institutions), and (c) the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) via CSC / Bhramaans-listed collection points. For institutions that require it, further evaluation by WES, ECE or the college's chosen credential-evaluation service may be needed.

6. Step-by-step application process

- 1** Create an account on the AVATS online application portal at www.visas.inis.gov.ie and complete the Long Stay 'D' Study application.
- 2** Pay the non-refundable visa fee online.
- 3** Print the AVATS summary sheet, sign and date it, and assemble the supporting document pack in the order specified on the AVATS checklist for India.

- 4 Book an appointment at your nearest VFS Global Ireland centre (India) and attend in person to submit documents and give biometrics (fingerprints and photograph).
- 5 Track the application through the AVATS portal and the VFS Global online tracker; you will be emailed when a decision is issued.

7. Visa fees

Item	Amount
Single-entry Long Stay 'D' visa	€60
Multi-entry Long Stay 'D' visa (rare for students)	€100
VFS Global service charge (indicative)	Local currency equivalent of ~€25–€35
Immigration Registration (IRP card) — payable on arrival	€300 per year of residence

Fees are set by the issuing authority and change annually — always confirm the current amount on the official portal before paying.

8. Processing time

Irish Immigration Service Delivery publishes visa-processing weekly statistics for India. As a planning figure, complete Long Stay Study applications from South Asia are typically decided within **4 to 8 weeks** from the date documents are received at the decision office. Apply at least **3 months** before your course start date. Applications are not fast-tracked at the applicant's request.

9. Where to apply — Embassy / High Commission & VAC

Embassy of Ireland, New Delhi

C-17 Malcha Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110 021, India

Phone: +91 11 4940 3200

Email: newdelhiembassy@dfa.ie

Website: <https://www.ireland.ie/en/india/newdelhi/>

Visa Application Centre (biometrics & document submission)

Applications are lodged in person at VFS Global Ireland Visa Application Centres in New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Cochin, Jalandhar, Pune and Puducherry.

Book / track: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/irl>

10. Checking your visa outcome

- Check the weekly 'Visa Decisions' PDF published on [irishimmigration.ie](https://www.ireland.ie/en/india/newdelhi/) for your reference number.
- Track the physical file with the VFS Global reference on the VFS tracking page.
- Approved: your passport is returned to the VFS collection point with the visa vignette; register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau within 90 days of arrival to receive your Irish Residence Permit (IRP).
- Refused: a written refusal letter states the grounds. You have **2 months** to submit a free written appeal to the Visa Appeals Officer, ISD, 13/14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, D02 XK70.

11. Useful official links

Irish Immigration Service Delivery – Study visa hub:

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

AVATS online visa application: <https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie>

Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP): <https://www.eligiblecourses.ie/>

VFS Global Ireland — India: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/ind/en/irl>

Embassy of Ireland, New Delhi website: <https://www.ireland.ie/en/india/newdelhi/>

Disclaimer — This guide is compiled from publicly available guidance published by Irish Immigration Service Delivery (ISD), Department of Justice and is provided for orientation only. Rules, fees, financial thresholds and processing times change frequently. AIMarketer.ie is not an immigration adviser; always confirm the current requirements on the official portal and, where needed, consult a regulated immigration solicitor or your sponsoring university before you apply. Compiled July 2026.