

Life in Ireland

A practical guide for overseas students — what to expect, how to get around, where to live, and how to work part-time after your visa is granted.

Verify before you rely on this. Fares, rules and websites change. Confirm on the official sources listed at the end of each section. AIMarketer.ie is not an immigration or housing adviser.

1. Public transport — TFI (Transport for Ireland)

Ireland's national transport brand is **Transport for Ireland (TFI)**. It covers Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann (intercity/regional), Go-Ahead Ireland, DART (Dublin commuter rail), Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail), and the Luas tram in Dublin.

Getting a Leap Card

- Buy a **TFI Leap Card** at Payzone shops, train/Luas stations, or order online. Tap on and off to pay reduced fares.
- Order a **Student Leap Card** (age 18+, in full-time third-level education) for ~50% off adult fares. You'll need a photo, student ID or letter of acceptance, and a valid ID.
- Top up online via the TFI Leap app or at Payzone/ticket machines.

Fares and journey planning

- Plan any journey: journeyplanner.transportforireland.ie
- Fares and Leap Card info: about.leapcard.ie
- Student Leap Card: studentleapcard.ie
- Irish Rail tickets: irishrail.ie
- Luas (Dublin tram): luas.ie

2. Finding accommodation

Accommodation in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick is competitive. Start searching at least 6–8 weeks before arrival, and be prepared to view several places.

Where to search

- **Daft.ie** — Ireland's largest property portal for rentals and student accommodation: daft.ie
- **Rent.ie** — rent.ie
- **MyHome.ie** — myhome.ie
- **University accommodation offices** — most universities have a dedicated student accommodation team; contact them as soon as you receive your offer.
- **Purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA)**: Yugo, Uninest, Aparto, and Nido operate in Dublin, Cork and Galway.

Renting basics

- Expect to pay **1 month's deposit + 1 month's rent** upfront.

- Ask for a written tenancy agreement and a receipt for the deposit. Landlords should register the tenancy with the **Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)**.
- Know your rights: [rtb.ie](https://www.rtb.ie) and threshold.ie (free tenant advice).
- Beware of scams — never transfer money before you've viewed the property (or had a trusted person view it) and seen a written contract.

3. Working part-time as a student

Non-EEA students on a Stamp 2 permission (registered on an eligible course on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes) can work:

- **Up to 20 hours per week** during term time.
- **Up to 40 hours per week** during official holiday periods (typically June–September and 15 Dec–15 Jan).
- You must have a valid **IRP card (Stamp 2)** and a **PPS number** to work legally.

Getting set up to work

- Apply for a PPS number: mywelfare.ie (search for 'PPSN').
- Register for tax with Revenue: revenue.ie/myaccount
- Check current employment permission for students: irishimmigration.ie

Where to look for jobs

- **Indeed Ireland** — ie.indeed.com
- **Recruit Ireland** — recruitireland.com
- **IrishJobs.ie** — irishjobs.ie
- **Jobs.ie** — jobs.ie
- University careers office — nearly every Irish university runs a jobs board for students (retail, hospitality, tutoring, campus roles).

Typical student jobs: retail, hospitality (cafés, restaurants, hotels), delivery/couriers, warehouse/stock, campus roles, tutoring, and customer support. The national minimum wage for adults (age 20+) is **€13.50/hour** from January 2025 (verify current rate on citizensinformation.ie).

4. First-week checklist

- Register with immigration and get your **IRP card** within 90 days of arrival.
- Apply for a **PPS number** (needed for work, banking, and healthcare).
- Open an Irish bank account (AIB, Bank of Ireland, Revolut, N26). Bring passport, IRP, proof of address (utility bill or university letter).
- Get an Irish SIM (Vodafone, Three, GoMo, 48). eSIM options available.
- Register with a GP near your accommodation.
- Read the citizens' guide for newcomers: citizensinformation.ie

Useful official sources

- [Transport for Ireland](#)
- [Irish Immigration Service](#)
- [Citizens Information](#)
- [Residential Tenancies Board](#)
- [Revenue Commissioners](#)

Compiled by AIMarketer.ie. Information accurate as of publication — always verify on the official sources above before making decisions.