

## Irish Student Visa Application Guidelines

This document has been prepared by DIFC to assist you in making your visa application and summarises the main areas of importance when preparing your visa application. Please note that you must submit all **original documents**. All documents must also be in **English**.

Full details and guidelines on visa applications can be found on the [Irish Department of Justice website](#)

The Online Visa application form is also available [here](#)

### Your Visa Application should include the following:

- Signed Online Visa Application form
- Passport
- 1 colour passport photo
- Cover Letter (statement of purpose)
- Letter of Support from Sponsor
- Evidence of Finance
- Your Proposed Study Plan
- Your Education & Employment History
- Immigration History
- Additional requirements for students under 18 years of age

### 1. Cover Letter (Statement of Purpose)

You need to write a cover letter for your application, in which you should explain the following:

- *Outline your reasons for coming to Ireland*  
Explain why you want to come to Ireland. One of the main reasons is likely to be DIFC's placement guarantee and you can provide details of what University you are hoping to progress to. Also, by studying in Ireland, you can acclimatise to western study which will prepare you for progression to University. You can also state, that this opportunity is not available in your home country.
- *Intention to return to your home country*  
Be clear about your intention to return to your home country, whether its to take over the family business or improve society in your home country – you need to state that you intend to return home once you have completed your education.
- *Details of any members of your family who are in Ireland or the EU*  
If you are intending to come and live with a family member, or already have a support network here in Ireland, this is important to note in your cover letter.
- *Details of any visa refusals from any country*  
This is very important! You must be honest about this – otherwise your visa will automatically be refused. Provide the reasons for the refusals in your letter.
- *Details of any visa applications you have made for other countries*



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- *Details of medical insurance*  
DIFC will provide you with this in your Final Acceptance Letter
- *Index of supporting documents*  
The easier you make it for the visa officer to find all the relevant information – the better your chance of visa approval. Include an index of supporting documents and number the documents accordingly.

## 2. Letter of Support from Sponsor

You are permitted to have 1 or 2 sponsors for your education. If you are being sponsored – by a parent/family member, and/or a third party – you need to include a letter of support from each of them, outlining the following

- What is their relationship to you
- Why they are supporting you in your education abroad
- How much financial support they will be providing
- If they are an uncle/aunty etc, they need to provide details of their own children and demonstrate financial capacity to support their own child/ren's education endeavours whilst support you also

## 3. Evidence of Finances

Demonstrating that you have the means to support yourself during your studies in Ireland is a critical part of your visa application. There are **two ways** for you to do this:

1. *Provide detailed bank statements for the last 6 months showing that you have immediate access to €7,000*

If you have a third party sponsor or your parents are paying your fees, they will need to provide detailed bank statements, as well as a letter from their bank confirming their account details. In addition to this, your parents/sponsor will need to provide

- Explanations for any lump sum deposits or withdrawals
- If they own a business, copies of their most recent tax return and Certificate of Registration for the business by the authorities in your country
- Details of any land/property ownership, including the value and any rental income received from these (confirmation required from real estate agents on headed paper)

2. *Purchase an Education Bond*

If you will have difficulty obtaining all the required financial documentation, you can purchase an Education Bond, which is a scheme supported by the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service. You can find out all the details here <https://educationbondireland.com/>

The Education Bond requires you to transfer €7,000 into a designated account and then once you have arrived and registered in Ireland, Education Bond Ireland will transfer the funds to your Irish bank account.

This is supported by the Irish Naturalisation & immigration Service as an alternative to verifying your financial status before coming to Ireland and is a good option for students who have multiple sponsors or do not have a regular bank account.



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#### 4. Your Proposed Study Plan

You need to include a copy of the Final Acceptance Letter provided by DIFC, which details the following

- the course you are studying, your study plan
- confirmation that the fees have been paid
- medical insurance details

In addition to this, you need to provide proof of your level of English (IELTS Certificate).

#### 5. Education & Employment History

You need to provide **original versions** for all your education/qualifications achieved to date, including

- High School Certificate detailing results
- Diplomas/Degree qualifications academic transcripts

In addition, if you have been working, you need to provide a **detailed CV** outlining both your education history and employment experience. This should include

- Start & Finish dates in MM/YY format
- Any gaps in education and work experience explained
- For each employment, you need to attach a letter from your employer confirming your dates of employment and the salary

Furthermore, if there have been any gaps in your education history, that aren't explained in your work history, you need to include details of what you were doing.

#### 6. Immigration History

As part of your application, you need to provide details on all visa applications you have made for any country, including Ireland – as well as any refusals. This should be outlined in your Cover Letter. In your supporting documents, include:

- Stamps/visas in your passport
- Visa Refusal letters received

#### 7. Additional requirements for students who are under 18 years of age

- You must provide a state issued Birth certificate with your application
- A signed parental consent of both parents – this must be accompanied by a copy of the consenting parent's passport or national identity card showing the bearer's signature

#### Appeals

If you are refused a visa, you may appeal this decision **within 2 months** in writing to:

The Visa Appeals Officer  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform  
13-14 Burgh Quay  
Dublin 2