

Tax Alert

Ireland

Irish immigration and COVID-19:

Visa applications, Student registrations & Self-isolation on arrival

Contacts

If you require further information, please call your regular contact in EY or contact any of the following:

Jim Ryan, Partner

T: +353 1 221 2434

E: jim.ryan@ie.ey.com

Michael Rooney, Partner

T: +353 1 221 2857

E: michael.rooney@ie.ey.com

Sinead Langan, Director

T: +353 1 221 2443

E: sinead.langan@ie.ey.com

Aislinn Stanton, Manager

T: +353 1 221 1602

E: aislinn.stanton@ie.ey.com

Ireland has commenced a phased approach to exit the COVID-19 lockdown with the final phase due to be effective from 20 July.

The Irish authorities have resumed the processing of Irish visa applications, provided guidance on renewal of residency permission for non-EEA students residing in Dublin and extended the mandatory obligation to complete a Public Health Passenger Locator Form.

To assist with understanding the current process we have addressed common queries below.

EY's guidance in this alert is to update you on recent announcements by the Irish authorities and travel to Ireland during this current pandemic that may impact your non-EEA employee population in the coming months.

Updated Irish visa application process:

The Irish authorities announced the suspension of Irish visa applications on 20 March 2020 except for priority/emergency cases.

Irish Visa application services are beginning to resume, and affected individuals are requested to complete an online application. The Immigration Service Delivery Unit (ISD) has advised that individuals should contact the Visa office at the Irish Embassy/Consulate located closest to their home and establish whether Visa applications are being accepted and if so, the documentation they require to process the application.

I received a Visa and haven't been able to travel due to COVID-19, do I need to apply for a new Visa?

If the validity of a visa has expired, an individual will need to obtain a new visa to travel to Ireland.

ISD has indicated that if an individual holds a Long Stay Visa (such as a Join Family or Employment Visa) which was issued prior to 15 March 2020 and they were unable to travel to Ireland, it may be possible to amend the dates on the approved Visa. To do this they should contact their nearest Irish Embassy or Consulate directly for guidance.

If an individual holds a Short Stay Visa (such as a Business Visa or Tourist Visa) and have been unable to travel to Ireland, then a new visa application will need to be submitted before travel to Ireland is permitted required.

In certain circumstances (such as time passed), the authorities may consider waiving the application fee for new applications.

I reside in Ireland but have been unable to return to Ireland and my Irish Residence Permit (IRP) card is expired. What must I do to return?

Visa required nationals who hold an IRP card which expired after 20 March 2020 must apply for a new Irish visa to return to Ireland. A new online visa application must be completed. In addition, the individual should contact their closest Irish Embassy or Irish Consulate to confirm what supporting documentation must be submitted to facilitate the processing of the visa application.

Non-visa required nationals should be able to return to Ireland with the expired IRP card plus evidence of their continued employment in Ireland for example a valid employment permit or written confirmation of employment from the employer in the State.

Introduction of new online IRP renewal system for non-EEA students:

The Minister for Justice and Equality has announced the introduction of a new online renewal process for non-EEA students based in Dublin. The new online system will remove the in-person renewal appointment requirement for students based in Dublin.

Students will need to complete an application form through a dedicated online portal, upload copies of supporting documents and make payment of the required fee. Following this, they will need to submit their passport and current IRP card via registered post to the Irish authorities. The ISD will check documents received and, if approved, the passport will be stamped and returned to the applicant by registered post and an IRP Card issued by express post.

Students registering in Ireland for the first time, or students residing outside of Dublin, cannot renew their registration via the online portal and should make a necessary appointment to attend the relevant Registration Office at Burgh Quay or their local Garda Station to complete this process (once they re-open).

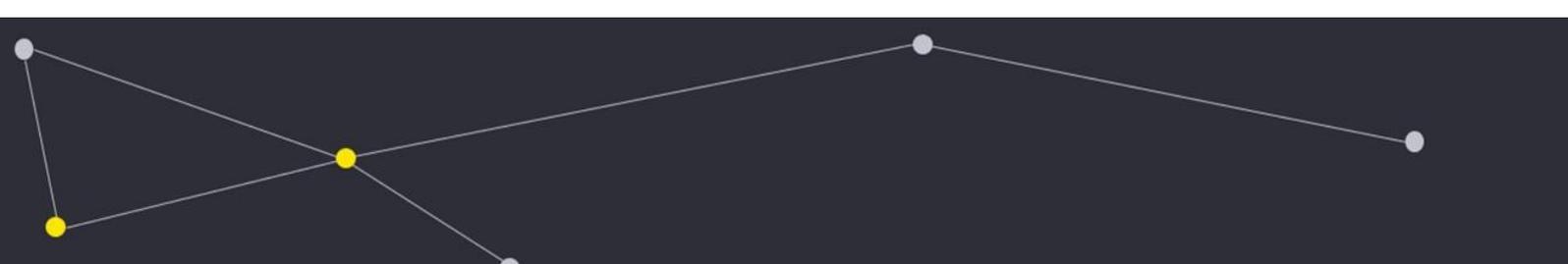
The new system will be kept under review, with the expectation that the online service may be rolled out to other categories of applicants in the coming months.

What restrictions apply to individuals travelling to Ireland?

The Irish authorities continue to advise Irish citizens and residents that all non-essential travel, including travel overseas, should be avoided.

Further to [EY's alert 03/2020](#), the Irish Government ask individuals arriving into Ireland to complete a 14-day period of self-isolation regardless of nationality (including Irish citizens), or country of departure. On arrival in Ireland individuals must complete a mandatory Public Health Passenger Locator Form detailing where they plan to self-isolate. This Form is collected by the Border Management Unit/Garda National Immigration Bureau at the port of entry to facilitate follow up check and contact tracing.

The mandatory requirement to complete the Form upon arrival in the State shall remain in force until 9 July 2020, at which date the requirement will be reviewed. Failure to complete the Form or to provide false or misleading information is a statutory offence. Non-compliance may result in a fine of up to €2,500 and/or imprisonment for up to six months.



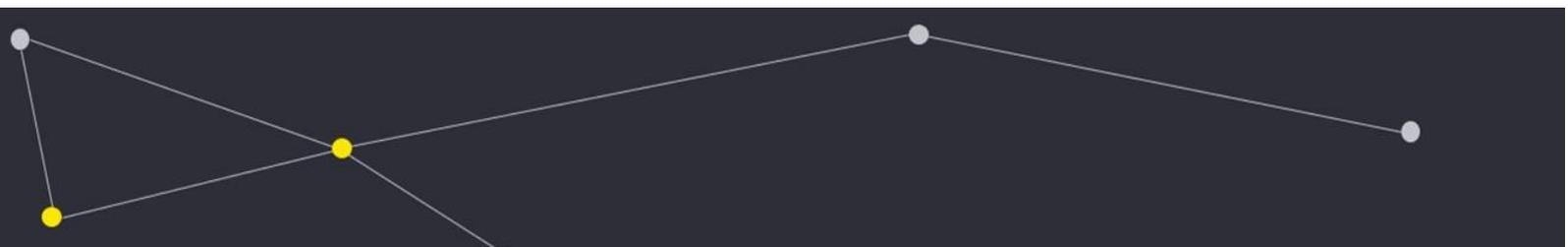
The completion of this Form applies to all passengers who disembark in Ireland including those with immediate onwards travel to Northern Ireland.

The following are exempted from completing the Form and self-isolation:

- Essential supply chain workers such as pilots, hauliers and maritime staff members
- Those transitioning through an Irish airport while in transit to another jurisdiction
- Individuals travelling from Northern Ireland.

Conclusion

The EY Ireland Immigration Team continues to monitor guidance and announcements issued by the Irish Government and Immigration Authorities which impacts Irish immigration and travel into the State. We shall issue updated Alerts outlining any further changes as deemed necessary.



About EY

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

EY refers to the global organisation and may refer to one or more of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. For more information about our organisation, please visit [ey.com](https://www.ey.com).

© 2020 Ernst & Young. Published in Ireland. All Rights Reserved.

The Irish firm Ernst & Young is a member practice of Ernst & Young Global Limited. It is authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland to carry on investment business in the Republic of Ireland.

Ernst & Young, Harcourt Centre, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Information in this publication is intended to provide only a general outline of the subjects covered. It should neither be regarded as comprehensive nor sufficient for making decisions, nor should it be used in place of professional advice. Ernst & Young accepts no responsibility for any loss arising from any action taken or not taken by anyone using this material.

[ey.com](https://www.ey.com)