

Visa Application Guidelines for Non-EU/EEA Students at Griffith College

Studying abroad is an exciting journey, but before you can pack your bags and begin your adventure at **Griffith College**, there's one important step—getting your **Irish study visa**.

If you're from a **non-EU/EEA country**, you may need to apply for a visa before traveling to Ireland. To help you navigate the process smoothly, we've put together this **step-by-step guide**, covering everything from application forms to financial requirements.

Do I need a Visa?

Visas and Immigration matters are managed by the Irish Immigration Service – (ISD). You can check if you need a visa by visiting the Irish Immigration Service website: <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/coming-to-visit-ireland/visit-ireland-travel-path/>

- ✓ If **you need a visa to enter Ireland** you apply online for the visa
- ✓ **If you don't need a visa to enter Ireland**, you register with the Irish Immigration Service when you get to Ireland
- ✓ If you have an EU/EEA/Swiss/UK Passport, you don't need to apply for a visa or register with Immigration

When Should I Apply?

Visa processing times vary per country. To avoid last-minute delays, we advise students to apply **at least three months before their programme start date**. Visa processing can take several months, and applying early ensures you have plenty of time to prepare for your move to Ireland.

How do I Apply for an Irish Study Visa?

Online Visa Application

You apply for your visa through the Irish Immigration Service **AVATS online system**.

Gather Your Documents

It is essential that you include all required documentation. Missing documents can lead to **delays or even refusals**, so double-check everything before submission.

Visa Checklist

Step 1: Complete the Application Form and Gather all necessary documents.

Please note that you should only submit original documentation and everything should be on official letterhead where relevant.

1. Application Form

- **Completed and signed** visa application form from **AVATS**.

2. Application Letter

The letter should include the following information:

- Your full name and postal address.
- Why you chose **Griffith College** and your reason for studying in Ireland.
- Your expected arrival dates
- The duration of your programme of study
- A commitment to:
 - a. Adhere to all visa conditions.
 - b. Not rely on Irish public services (such as social welfare or healthcare benefits).
 - c. Not overstay in Ireland past the relevant expiry date.
- Details of any family members in Ireland or the EU.
- Postgraduate students - if your proposed programme of study is in a different field from your primary degree, you will need to explain why.

3. Passport-Sized Photographs

- Two **recent** passport-sized photos (taken within the last six months).
- Your **name and visa reference number** are written on the back of each photo.

4. Passport and Travel History

- Current **passport valid for at least 12 months** after your arrival in Ireland.
- Copies of **all previous passports** (if applicable).

5. Proof of Course Enrolment

- Letter of Acceptance from Griffith College – the “**Invitation to Register**” letter
- Details of the course, including **tuition fees paid and due**.

6. Educational History

- **CV/Resume**, listing past education and any employment history.
- **Statement of Purpose**, a statement explaining why you have chosen Ireland for your studies, how it fits with your longer-term goals and explaining any gaps in your education history.

7. Proof of Tuition Fee Payment

- **A copy of your Electronic Transfer of Funds (ETF)** to Griffith College’s bank account.
- **Official receipt** from Griffith College.

8. Academic Qualifications

- Copies of your **previous academic transcripts and certificates**.

9. English Language Proficiency

- A valid English language test certificate such as:
 - a. **IELTS** (Minimum score depends on the course).
 - b. **TOEFL, PTE, or Duolingo English Test**.

10. Private Medical Insurance

- Proof of **medical insurance** that covers you for your first year of study in Ireland. Griffith College recommends providers such as Study and Protect -- www.studyandprotect.com to arrange the medical insurance

11. Previous Visa Refusals (if applicable)

- If you've been **refused a visa before**, include a letter explaining the refusal and any supporting documents.

12. Financial Evidence (Proving You Can Afford to Study in Ireland)

- Personal **bank statements from the last six months** (for both you and your financial sponsor(s) if relevant).
- **Proof of access to at least €10,000** for living expenses for one academic year.
- Evidence of **tuition fee payment for the first year**.
- If your programme lasts more than one year, proof that you have access to funding for subsequent years.
- Any **large or unusual transactions in your account must be explained** (e.g., lump-sum deposits).

13. Summary of Finances Form

- A completed **Summary of Finances Form**, which provides an overview of your financial status.

Step 2: Pay the Visa Application Fee

Visa fees may vary depending on the type of visa you apply for:

- **Single entry visa:** €60
- **Multiple entry visa:** €100*

You will receive payment instructions when completing your AVATS application.

**We advise students to apply for a multiple-entry visa so that in case of any difficulties in Ireland, you can leave and come back without difficulty*

What Happens After I Apply?

Tracking Your Visa Application

Once submitted, you can **track your visa application** online.

Processing Time

Visa decisions can take **up to three months, or more**, depending on where you are applying from, and the overall volume of applications.

Visa Interview (if required)

In some cases, applicants may be called for a visa interview. If this happens, be prepared to discuss your study plans, finances, and reasons for choosing Ireland.

Arriving in Ireland & Immigration Registration

Once your visa is approved and you get the visa stamp in your passport, you're ready to travel. When you land in Ireland, you will pass through **Border Control** at the Airport and they will check the following documents upon arrival:

- **Passport with study visa.**
- **Griffith College acceptance letter** – your **"Invitation to Register" letter**.
- **Proof of accommodation**

When you go through Border Control at the Airport, your passport will be stamped. You must register with the Irish Immigration Service (ISD) in Dublin City before the date in that Landing Stamp.

When you register with the Irish Immigration Service you will receive your **Irish Residence Permit (IRP)**, which shows that you are legally entitled to reside in Ireland.

Need Help?

Griffith College's International Office is here to guide you through the visa application process.

- **Email:** international@griffith.ie
- **Phone:** +353 1 415 0400

For official Irish visa guidelines, visit:

- **[Irish Immigration Service](#)**

Applying for a study visa may seem overwhelming, but by following this guide and preparing your documents in advance, you can avoid unnecessary delays and ensure a stress-free move to Ireland. Griffith College is here to support you every step of the way.

Start your journey today—see you in Ireland!