

Moving abroad to

IRELAND

Quick Expat Guide



Six Miles Away

What to expect from this guide?

Moving to a new country can sometimes be overwhelming. This quick expat guide will provide you with all basic information in order to move abroad to Ireland. It will cover topics on how to live and work in Ireland, including pre-arrangements and once on the spot. Below you can find a short list of the exact content.

Table of Content

Step 1: Applying for a VISA.....	3
Step 2: Applying for a PPS Number.....	3
Step 3: Opening a Bank Account.....	4
Step 4: Finding Accommodation.....	5
Step 5: Finding a Job.....	6
Step 6: Health Insurance.....	7
Step 7: Staying Connected.....	7
Step 8: Miscellaneous.....	7

Step 1: Applying for a Visa

There are different VISA's for different purposes. If you are from one of the countries in the EEA, you don't need to apply for a VISA and can move on to **Step 2: Applying for a PPS Number**. If you are from outside the EEA, you have the following options:

- 1) Short stays (less than 3 months)
- 2) Long stays (more than 3 months)

If you want to stay long term, you will have to include whether you want to study, work or settle permanently. In order to apply for employee permits you can do so online via EPOS (Employment Permits Online System). Check out this user guide for the complete application process.

Step 2: Applying for a PPS Number

What is it?

A PPS Number stands for „Personal Public Service Number“ and is a unique identifier. It allows you to access social benefits and public services.

How to apply?

In order to apply for a PPS number you will need to visit a local registration center. Here you can find addresses of PPSN registration centers per city.

What documents do I need?

Most of the times you will need to bring the following documents along with you:

- Valid passport or national ID card
- Proof of address in Ireland (It is ok, if you are currently living in a hotel/ hostel or with friends. Just get a written proof of that address.)

- Social Security Number of previous country (When filling out the form, make sure to know your previous Social Security Number. They may ask for it.)

Depending on your personal situation and nationality you may be required to bring additional documents. Check out the [table](#) on the following website for required documentation.

Step 3: Opening a Bank Account

There is a big variety of banks to choose from. Of course, each of them have different conditions, so you will have to find the best match for yourself. Find a list of the most popular banks below:

AIB

Bank of Ireland

KBC Bank Ireland

Permanent TBS

Ulster

During your decision it will be worth considering the following topics:

1. Fees & Additional Charges

From my personal experience, I am not used to be charged for every single transaction. No matter if I transferred money, paid with my card or withdrew cash from an ATM machine, I was always charged a small fee. This resulted in a monthly bill around 20-30€. It is worth to double check this information before deciding for a bank. I know that some banks do not charge this fee, if you have a certain amount of income.

2. Online Banking

Some banks make life very easy and offer great apps for transactions, bank statements etc. Other banks still provide TAN machines that you have to carry around with you in order to make a transaction. I personally prefer an

app over a machine but this of course depends on your personal preferences.

3. Contactless/NFC

It is worth double checking if your bank offers contactless payment. First of all it is super fast and convenient (no PIN to remember), second of all it reduces fees per transaction (in case your bank charges) and finally it can only be used up to a certain amount per purchase (e.g. 30€). So, in case your card gets stolen, the thief can only access a low amount of money while you manage to block it.

Step 4: Finding Accommodation

I recommend you looking for an apartment or room once you arrive in Ireland. You can stay in a hostel, Bed & Breakfast or [Airbnb](#) before. Unfortunately, advertisements here in Ireland don't always show the truth. Therefore, it is better to have a look at housing on the spot. There are two main platforms you can look for accommodation:

[rent.ie](https://www.rent.ie)

[daft.ie](https://www.daft.ie)

What to pay attention to?

When searching for and renting a place, pay attention to the following:

1. Mould

When you get invited for viewings, make sure to double check the windows (if they are dense) and bathrooms carefully. Most of the time, bathrooms don't have windows. Therefore, make sure that they have a proper working fan in order to absorb humidity.

2. Rental Period

Rental contracts often stretch out over a one year period. In those cases, make sure you have a break-clausal of 6 or 10 months in order to cancel the contract before, if needed.

3. Additional Costs

In popular cities you can find most apartments furnished. That's why the renting prices are higher as well. However, prices usually don't include external bills such as water, electricity, gas, Internet and refuse. So, be aware of the fact that those will come on top.

- **Water:** Sign up with Irish water (if you have to). Water usually is free in Ireland but this might change. So, double check whether you have to sign up or not.
- **Electricity & Gas:** Sign up with Energia since it is by far the cheapest provider until now. Another option would be Electric Ireland.
- **Internet:** Depends on your location. It could be Vodafone, Virgin Media, Eirbase etc. You can find out the best deal on this comparison website.
- **Refuse:** Check availability with Country Clean, Clean Ireland or Greenstar.

What about rent prices?

Rent prices in Ireland are very high. However, the country just passed a law (Dec. 2016) that landlords can raise the rent by max. 4% per year.

Step 5: Finding a Job

If you are not self-employed or a digital nomad, you will need to find a job in order to finance your stay in Ireland. Useful job websites are the following:

irishjobs.ie

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

monster.ie

indeed.ie

NOTE: The easiest way to find jobs will be in larger cities such as Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick. From personal experience, I can say that Cork is

known for lots of call center and sales jobs, especially if you speak a second language. There are companies of different industries, such as IT, tourism and hospitality. In Cork, you will be able to find companies such as Starwood, Marriott, Amazon, Apple and VMware, to just name a few.

Step 6: Health Insurance

Before signing up with a health insurance, you should find a job. Often employers will pay your health insurance and you just pay a small fee each time you need medical assistance. Find below potential health insurance companies that you can sign up with:

Glo Health

Laya Healthcare

Irish Life Health

VHI Healthcare

For other options, check out the [comparison website](#).

Step 7: Staying Connected

Which mobile provider should I choose?

In order to stay connected, you should get a prepaid SIM card. This way, you won't have problems when leaving Ireland since you are not bound to a contract. Below, you can find the most common cellular providers:

Three

Meteor

Vodafone

Miscellaneous

Irish Citizenship

You can [become an Irish citizen](#) after having lived in Ireland for at least 5 years.