

Information for Emigrants

United States of America

While historically the United States of America was one of the most popular destinations for Irish emigrants visa restrictions can now make it difficult to live and work in the US.

Visa

Obtaining a visa is one of the most challenging parts of emigrating to the US. It is vital that you have a valid visa and only remain in the US as long as your visa permits. Working without a visa may lead to arrest, detention, deportation and a bar from re-entering the US.

Non-Immigrant Visa

A non-immigrant visa allows you to visit, work or study in the US for a temporary period of time. The Visa Waiver Program allows an Irish citizen to travel to the US without a non-immigrant visa provided you are travelling for business, pleasure or transit only and you are staying in the US for 90 days or less.

There are a number of non-immigrant visas available including the following:

- **Student (F-1) Visa:**
A student who wishes to attend a university or other academic

institution in the US requires an F-1 Visa.

- **Summer Work Travel (J) Visa:**

This visa allows post-secondary students enrolled in a full-time course of study at an accredited academic institution located outside the US to come to the US to work and travel during their summer holidays.

- **Temporary Worker (H) Visa:**

The US does not issue work visas for casual employment. To take up a pre-arranged temporary job in the US you must get a petition-based temporary worker visa.

Immigrant Visa

If you wish to live in the US permanently you will need to obtain an immigrant visa. This applies even if you do not plan to work in the US. Usually you can only receive an immigrant visa if someone (an employer or family member) files an immigrant visa petition on your behalf.

There are several categories of immigrant visa:

- **Sponsorship by an Immediate Relative:** applies to a spouse of a US citizen; an unmarried child under 21 years of age of a US citizen; an orphan adopted abroad

by a US citizen; an orphan to be adopted in the US by a US citizen; and a parent of a US citizen who is at least 21 years old.

- **Sponsorship by a Family Member:** applies to brothers and sisters of US citizens; adult or married sons and daughters of US citizens; and a spouse of a US permanent resident.

- **Sponsorship by a Prospective Employer:** this begins with the potential US employer filing a Form I-140 immigrant visa petition for the worker.



Accommodation

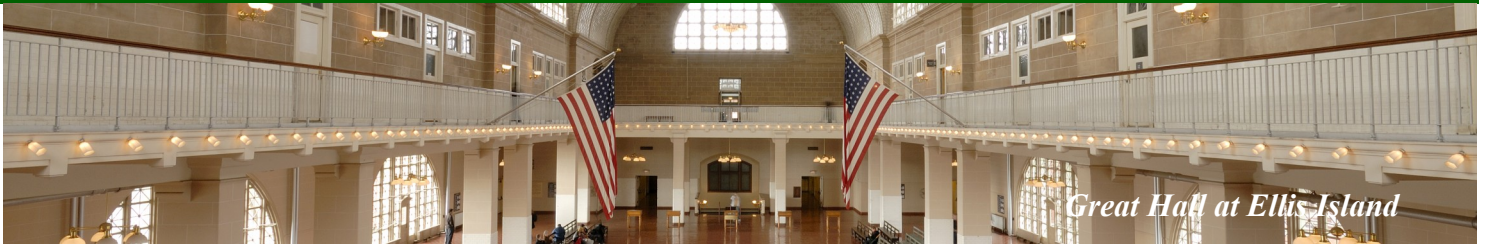
The price of accommodation can vary dramatically depending on where you are living. Big cities, like New York, Chicago and Boston, can be expensive. Apartments are generally rented unfurnished so you will need to include money for furniture in your budget. Many landlords will require you to pay the first months' rent and a deposit in advance.

Employment

When looking for a job you should contact any friends or family that you have in the US. Making contact with the local Irish community is also a good way of networking. You should prepare a one page résumé specifically for the American market. Make sure your résumé is simple and clear. You will need a Social Security number to work in the US. For more information visit www.ssa.gov

Health Insurance

Medical treatment can be very expensive in the US so it is important that you have adequate health insurance. If possible try to get a job that includes healthcare cover. To find information about insurance options visit www.healthcare.gov



What to Do Before You Go

- Learn about the visa categories and apply well in advance for the appropriate visa
- Contact an Irish immigrant support centre as staff there will be able to provide advice on visa categories and eligibility
- Bring sufficient funds to live on until you get paid and to cover additional expenses like rent deposits
- Bring several forms of identification– passport, driver's licence, birth certificate
- Bring references from previous employers and landlords
- Arrange temporary health cover
- Amend your CV and cover letter and bring proof of your qualifications

What to Do When You Arrive

- Contact an Irish immigrant support centre in your area for advice and support
- Get involved with the local Irish community through Irish clubs and organisations
- Arrange adequate health insurance
- Open a bank account-you will need two forms of identification and proof of address
- Register with your local parish and ask if there are other Irish people in the area

USEFUL CONTACTS

Support & Assistance

Irish Apostolate USA

Email: administrator@usairish.org
Website: www.usairish.org

Irish Embassy in Washington

2234 Massachusetts Ave NW,
Washington DC 20008
Phone: +1 202 462 3939
Website: www.embassyofireland.org

US Embassy in Dublin

42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Phone: +353 1 668 8777
Website: <http://dublin.usembassy.gov>

Job Websites

www.monster.com
www.careerbuilder.com
www.careermarketplace.com
www.craiglist.org

Irish Immigration Centres:

Irish Pastoral Centre Boston

15 Rita Road, Dorchester, MA 02124
Phone: +1 617 265 5300
Website: www.ipcboston.org

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

4626 N. Knox Avenue, Suite 308, Chicago, IL, 60630
Washington DC 20008
Phone: +1 773 282 8445
Website: www.ci-is.org

Irish Immigration Pastoral Center San Francisco

5340 Geary Blvd, Suite 206, San Francisco, CA 94121
Phone: +1 415 752 6006
Website: www.sfipc.org

Aisling Irish Community Center New York

990 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704
Phone: +1 914 237 5121
Website: www.aislingcentre.org

Irish Outreach San Diego

2725 Congress Street, Suite 2G, San Diego, CA 92110
Phone: +1 619 291 1630
Website: www.irishoutreachsd.org

Seattle Irish Immigration Support Group

Phone: +1 425 244 5147 Website:
www.IrishSeattle.com

Irish Immigrant Service of Milwaukee

Phone: +1 414 345 8800 Website: www.ichc.net

Irish International Immigrant Center

100 Franklin Street, Suite LL-1, Boston, MA 02111
Phone: +1 617 542 7654 Website: www.iiicenter.org

Emerald Isle Immigration Center

59-26 Woodside Avenue, Woodside, NY 11377
Phone: +1 718 478 5502 Website: www.eiic.org

New York Irish Center

10-40 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101
Phone: +1 718 482 0909 Website:
www.newyorkirishcenter.org

Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia

7 south Cedar Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19102
Phone: +1 610 789 6355 Website: www.icphila.org

Irish Student Outreach Center

1603 Philadelphia Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone: +1 410 520 0344



Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants

A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

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