

# Information for Emigrants

## United Kingdom

*The United Kingdom continues to be one of the most popular destinations for Irish emigrants.*

### Visa

One of the biggest advantages for an Irish citizen moving to the UK is that you do not need a visa to live and work there; however, it is necessary to obtain a National Insurance number if you wish to work or claim benefits in the UK. A National Insurance number is a reference number for the whole social security system. It ensures that the National Insurance contributions and tax you pay are properly recorded. You will need to give your National Insurance number to your employer. Call Jobcentre Plus on +44 845 600 0643 to apply for a National Insurance number. Lines are open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

### Accommodation

One of the biggest challenges people face in moving to the UK and to London in particular is trying to find good accommodation at an affordable price. Landlords often request two references—a personal reference and a reference from a previous landlord. You should have these documents and a deposit ready so you can act quickly when you find a property you like. You should ask to see a Tenancy Agreement before you hand over any money. It is recommended that people do not arrive in the UK with the intention of applying for social housing as it may take months just to get on the waiting list.



### What to Do Before You Go

- Research job opportunities and begin sending out your CV
- Identify several areas where you may find suitable accommodation
- 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

### Employment

If possible you should begin your job search before you leave for the UK. Start by sending out your curriculum Vitae (CV) to get an idea of the jobs available in your sector. Recruitment agencies may be useful depending on the industry. There are many job websites and these can be a good place to begin your search.

### Health Insurance

If you are ordinarily resident in the UK you will be entitled to free National Health Service (NHS) hospital treatment. You are ordinarily resident in the UK if you are lawfully entitled to be in the UK and you usually live there. You will also have the right to be registered with a GP, but it is up to a GP to decide whether to accept someone onto their list of NHS patients. You may be asked to show that your stay in the UK has a degree of permanence.

### What to Do When You Arrive

- Contact Jobcentre Plus to arrange an interview to get a National Insurance number
- Make contact with the local Irish advice service as the staff there can assist with problems
- Register with employment agencies
- Register with a local GP
- Open a bank account—this may take some time if you do not have proof of address
- Meet people by getting involved in a local activity like a sports team or theatre group
- Register with your local parish and ask if there are other Irish people in the area



## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Support & Assistance

#### The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain

50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB

Phone: +44 20 7482 5528

Website: [www.irishchaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.irishchaplaincy.org.uk)

#### Irish Embassy in London

17 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HR

Phone: +44 20 7235 2171

Website: [www.embassyofireland.co.uk](http://www.embassyofireland.co.uk)

#### The Federation of Irish Societies

Phone: +44 20 7833 1226

Email: [info@irishinbritain.org](mailto:info@irishinbritain.org)

Website: [www.irishinbritain.org](http://www.irishinbritain.org)

### Recruitment Agencies & Job Websites

[www.adecco.co.uk](http://www.adecco.co.uk)

[www.hays.co.uk](http://www.hays.co.uk)

[www.monster.co.uk](http://www.monster.co.uk)

[www.jobsite.co.uk](http://www.jobsite.co.uk)

[www.reed.co.uk](http://www.reed.co.uk)



## Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants

*A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference*

*Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare*

*Tel: 01-5053155 Fax: 01-6292363 Email: [emigrants@iecon.ie](mailto:emigrants@iecon.ie)*