While Ireland has visa agreements with various countries besides the United States (which mean that students of certain nationalities will not need an entry visa before traveling to Ireland), we recommend that all international students contact their local Irish consulate/embassy regarding their visa requirements.

Students can check the Irish Naturalization and Immigration Service website (www.inis.gov.ie) for a list of countries that are not visa-required, and for additional information regarding the requirements for a student visa.

Depending on nationality, some students are required to apply for two visas before they travel to Ireland: (i) an Irish student visa from the Irish immigration authorities; and (ii) a UK single/multi-entry visa from the UK immigration authorities. The UK single/multi-entry visa is needed to participate in the Northern Ireland excursion to Belfast/Derry. Any student who wants to travel independently or with a sponsored excursion elsewhere in Europe may also need to obtain a Schengen Visa to enter any of the 26 Schengen countries (e.g., Germany, Italy, France, etc.).

What do I need to lodge my student visa?

1. Passport: Valid for at least 12 months after the student’s proposed date of arrival in Ireland. Please check N.U.in website for arrival date.

2. Welcome letter from university partner

3. N.U.in introduction letter

4. Letter of application

5. Proof of health insurance

6. Finances required

7. Visa fee paid

Please refer to page 2 for more information required.

Important Reminder

The application process is different country to country. Students can check the Irish Naturalization and Immigration Service website (www.inis.gov.ie) for a list of countries that are not visa-required, and for additional information regarding the requirements for a student visa.
Students need the following supporting items to be able to lodge their student visa application (in addition to the application form and application fee)¹

1. Passport (must be valid for at least 12 months after the student’s proposed date of arrival in Ireland).

2. Welcome letter from university partner (University College Dublin) stating the student’s full name, start date, end date, and confirmation of enrollment in full time education with an Irish institution (including a minimum of 15 hours daytime tuition per week), providing details of the course the student will be studying and confirmation of UCD’s fees and that they have been paid in full.

3. N.U.in introduction letter, which describes The N.U.in Program, what is included in the program fee, and the dates of the student’s study period and confirmation that the fees have been paid in full.

4. Letter of application, which explains why the student requires the visa.

5. Proof of health insurance: The letter of enrollment from UCD will be regarded as sufficient proof of private medical insurance cover where it indicates that the student is part of the college group insurance scheme, that the student has paid the fees associated with such a scheme and where it provides a brief outline of the name of the insurance provider, level of coverage etc. Coverage is provided by MediCover Student Private Medical Expenses Insurance. The student can also provide evidence of their own private health insurance policy if they choose to have additional coverage.

6. Evidence in the required form that the student has sufficient funds (€7,000) to support them for the duration of their stay.

7. Fee of €60 for a single entry visa.

8. The student must provide a copy of an electronic transfer of funds to the Irish bank of the college, showing details of the beneficiary’s name, address, bank details and the same details for sender, or a valid receipt showing that the course fees have been lodged to an approved student fees payment service e.g. the electronic fee payment service offered by Pay to Study.

9. For students where English is not their first language, evidence as to their capability to meet the English language requirement for their course may be required.

10. Two colour passport sized photographs not more than 6 months old with the student’s name and visa application reference number printed clearly on the back.

11. Evidence accounting for any gaps in the student’s educational history. Students must provide information to account for any gaps between their last period of full time education and their application to study in Ireland. If any such gap in education has been filled by periods of employment, the student must give full details of your employment history.

12. Evidence that the student has the academic ability to follow their chosen course, e.g. exam results or qualifications.

13. If the student has been refused a visa in the past for any country, they must provide the details. The original letter issued to the student by the authorities of that country must be provided with the application.

¹ The application process is different country to country. Some countries request additional information from students, like birth certificates, contact from host universities to confirm enrollment of student, or host country sponsorship.
Students must obtain a single entry Irish student visa before entering Ireland. Thereafter, all students, regardless of nationality, who intend to stay in Ireland for a period longer than three months must register their presence in Ireland with An Garda Síochana. By registering with the Gardai, students can legally live, study, and participate in Service-Learning in Ireland until the end of the N.U.in Program.

Students must register with the Gardai in person no later than one month after their arrival to Ireland. The Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) Office is located in the city center near O’Connell Bridge (13-14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2), and is open from 8.00 am – 9.00 pm from Monday to Thursday, and from 8.00 am – 6.00 pm on Friday. Please note that student registrations are not processed between 8.00 am – 9.00 am. Registration with the GNIB may take between four and fourteen hours. In circumstances where the GNIB office is particularly busy, students may be required to return to the office in the days following the registration process to collect their Certificate of Registration.
Multi-Entry Student Visa

After registration with the GNIB, students can apply for a multi-entry student visa. Upon receiving their multi-entry visa, students can leave and re-enter Ireland as many times as they would like.

Students need the following items to successfully register with the GNIB:

1. Passport (must be valid for at least 12 months after the student’s proposed date of arrival in Ireland).

2. Welcome letter from university partner (University College Dublin) stating the student’s full name, start date, end date, and confirmation of enrollment in full time education with an Irish institution (including a minimum of 15 hours daytime tuition per week), providing details of the course the student will be studying and confirmation of UCD’s fees and that they have been paid in full. UCD students are also asked to bring their UCD student card and their “Cert of Attendance” letter, which can be printed from their SIS Student Web account.

3. Proof of health insurance: The letter of enrollment from UCD will be regarded as sufficient proof of private medical insurance cover where it indicates that the student is part of the college group insurance scheme, that the student has paid the fees associated with such a scheme and where it provides a brief outline of the name of the insurance provider, level of coverage etc. Coverage is provided by MediCover Student Private Medical Expenses Insurance. The student can also provide evidence of their own private health insurance policy if they choose to have additional coverage.

4. Students coming to Ireland for less than six months will be required to demonstrate in the required form that they have access during the course of their studies to a minimum of €500 per month of stay or €3,000, whichever is the lesser.

5. Fee of €300 which must be paid by credit/debit card or Bank Giro (obtainable from the GNIB office).

Students should be prepared to present items one to four above at immigration control at the airport in Ireland and should be able to also show evidence of a return ticket to their home country.

Please note: Students are responsible for obtaining a valid visa prior to the program start date. If they cannot obtain a valid visa in time, then please refer to the N.U.in Withdrawal Policy and contact the N.U.in office to discuss next steps.