

BASIC INFORMATION ON IRELAND

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 CLIMATE

The Irish climate is mild, with no extremes of heat or cold. Temperatures rarely fall outside the range of 0 to 21 degree Celcius. The coldest months are January and February, while June and July are warmest. Rainfall is unpredictable. It is advisable to prepare for wet conditions at all times.

1.2 CLOTHING

New students will arrive in autumn when it can start to get cold. You will need warm clothing including wool jumpers, a coat, scarf, and gloves. If you cannot purchase these items, you may do so here. Several layers of light wool or cotton clothing are more effective in cold weather than one heavy garment.

1.3 CURRENCY

The currency in Ireland is the euro. One euro (€) is divided into one hundred cent.

2.0 GETTING TO DUBLIN

Most students will be flying in to Dublin via London. MSD Dublin, with the assistance of JPA and MARA officers, will be at Dublin airport to facilitate the arrival.

3.0 NEW EU AVIATION SECURITY REGULATIONS FOR PASSENGERS

Only containers of 100mls or less of liquids, gels, pastes, lotions and cosmetics may be brought through the passenger security screening points at all EU Airports. In addition, these items MUST be presented at the passenger security screening point in a transparent re-sealable bag of no more than one litre capacity, 20cm x 20cm. The transparent bag is provided free.

The rules apply to liquids such as water and other beverages, aerosol cans and toiletries such as toothpaste, shaving cream, hair gel, lip-gloss and creams.

There is an exemption to the rules governing medicines needed during flight. Exempt items must also be placed in a separate transparent re-sealable bag and presented separately at the passenger security screening area.

It is very important to be aware that as travel to Ireland is not on direct flights, do not purchase any liquid-based duty-free items (i.e. perfume etc.) at KLIA as all passengers will need to check in again at a transit airport en-route to the final destination.

4.0 NECESSARY THINGS TO BRING ALONG

- i. Traveller's cheque (do not carry more than €100 in cash)
- ii. At least 12 passport-sized photos for registration and all other purposes
- iii. Certified translated copies of important academic documents
- iv. National costume for national event celebrations and university cultural nights
- v. Personal religious needs
- vi. Personal health or medical needs

5.0 MISSING BAGGAGE

If your journey involves changing flights you should be able to check your baggage at KLIA through to your final destination at no extra cost. Occasionally, baggage goes missing in transit. However if this happens it is usually traced by the airline and forwarded on a later flight.

It is advisable to carry a basic survival kit such as toiletries, a change of clothes, any necessary medication and all necessary documentation in your hand luggage

If your baggage has been misdirected you will need to fill in a report at the handling agent's desk near the baggage reclaim hall at the airport. Ask the airline or its handling agent to arrange for the delivery of your baggage once it has been traced and rerouted to Dublin airport. If you are uncertain of your address in Dublin, you may ask the airline to deliver the baggage to the following addresses:

**Malaysia Hall Dublin,
31, Leeson Park,
Dublin 6.**

(JPA & MARA have separate offices, but are both in the same building)

**JPA Malaysia / MARA Malaysia,
Clifton House,
Lower Fitzwilliam Street,
Dublin 2.**

6.0 ARRIVAL IN DUBLIN

6.1 Passport and Immigration control

At the point of entry into Ireland, all students must pass through passport and immigration control. To receive official permission to enter Ireland you will need the following documents:

- **Your valid international passport**
- **Your University acceptance letter offering you a place to study in Ireland**
- **Sponsorship letter (if applicable)**
- **Financial Affidavit from sponsors (if applicable)**

Malaysian passport holders do not require visa to enter Ireland.

All non-EU students will have their passport computer swiped and date-stamped by the immigration officer. It endorses a requirement for you to register with the immigration office before the date stamped expires. It is usually within one month of entry. Since May 2006, the Garda (police) National Immigration Bureau has imposed on non-EU nationals a €150 annual fee to obtain the “green card”. Any charges incurred will be reimbursed by the respective sponsors.

6.2 Customs

Proceed to the custom hall after collecting your luggage from the baggage reclaim areas. Usually there are two channels; the green channel if you have nothing to declare, and the red channel if you have goods to declare. You should check before leaving home what you can and cannot bring into Ireland. Kindly be advised that the importation of certain foodstuffs such as poultry, meat and meat products is prohibited.

7.0 IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

7.1 Immigration Registration

All students are required to register with immigration within one month of arrival in Ireland. Immigration registration, in Dublin, takes place at the following address:

**Garda Immigration,
13/14 Burgh Quay,
Dublin 2.
(Telephone : 01 6663615)**

Office hours:

Monday - Thursday : 8.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.

Friday : 8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Saturday : 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

For students outside Dublin, the respective University International Office can offer assistance and information.

The following documents must be produced to facilitate immigration registration:

- **Immigration form (can be obtain at the immigration office)**
- **University acceptance letter**
- **Student Card**
- **Financial affidavit from JPA**
- **Evidence of Permanent Residence in Ireland**

You will be issued with an immigration card once your application is successful. **Please be advised that the fee for application is €150. Cash payment is not accepted. can only be made by credit / debit card, or Giro card.** **the Payment Sponsors** will reimburse claims submitted with receipts attached.

7.2 Health Insurance

Please note that the authorities have just made a decision requiring non-Irish citizens to possess health insurance before immigration registration can be completed. At the time of print, decision is a “guideline” and has yet to be passed as a piece of law. Hence, different Garda office differs in its execution from one office to the other.

Students wishing to pursue education in Ireland may purchase an international health insurance while in Malaysia. Please check that the policy coverage includes your stay in Ireland.

Alternatively, students can purchase their health insurance in Ireland prior to attending the immigration registration, which is one month after first date of arrival.

7.3 Renewing Immigration Registration

Registration with Immigration Services must be renewed annually – failure to comply will incur severe penalties including possible deportation. **All students are responsible for maintaining valid immigration registration at all time.** You shall follow the same procedures outlined above.

8.0 ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

It is very important that all new students attend the orientation programme

Most universities will organise their orientation programme for all new students. The programme will address the academic, general, practical and social aspects of campus life in Ireland. The objectives of the orientation programmes are mainly to expose students on how to study, life away from home, the importance of becoming involved in campus life and social opportunities.

During the programme the universities will provide information and advice, and will act as resource for you and your faculty. New students will meet their Faculty Deans and be informed of what will be required in their programme of study.

Students will also meet their senior-leaders, learn of the Student Services available for all students, take an in-depth tour of campus, hear about the many Clubs and Societies active on campus. They will also have the opportunity to get to know their fellow classmates during the social events sponsored by the Student's Union.

9.0 REGISTRATION WITH MSD IRELAND, JPA / MARA, AND EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN IRELAND

All students are required to register with MSD Ireland. Sponsored students must register with their respective agencies. It is mandatory for all students to register themselves with the Malaysian Embassy when in foreign countries **for safety and security purposes**. Registration forms will be circulated once you arrived in Ireland.

10.0 DENTAL AND MEDICAL CHECKS

Dental charges in Ireland are extremely high. Do have a complete dental check in Malaysia before leaving for Ireland.

Students will need to be medically examined by authorised physicians in Malaysia based on requirements of the host country.

11.0 MOSQUE AND PRAYING HALL IN DUBLIN

11.1 Mosque

- i. The Islamic Cultural Centre Ireland (2,000 capacity),
19, Roebuck Road, Clonskeagh,
Dublin 14.
(1 km from Univ. College Dublin residences)
- ii. Dublin Mosque and Islamic Centre (500 capacity),
163, South Circular Road,
Dublin 8.
(city centre location, 2 km from RCSI)

11.2 Praying Hall

- i. Royal College of Surgeon, St. Stephen Green
- ii. Trinity College Dublin, Pearse Street
- iii. Dublin City University
- iv. Islamic Information Centre, Camden Street
- v. Blackpitts Road, Off South Circular Road

12.0 HALAL FOOD

It is no longer difficult to purchase halal food – raw or cooked – in Dublin. There are currently 19 shops catering for halal meat and Asian raw foodstuff in Dublin city centre. At the time of print, 14 eateries (take-away outlets, café, restaurant) offer cooked middle-eastern, Mediterranean and Indian halal food.

The situation in Cork, Galway and Belfast is fairly good.

13.0 CUSTOMS AND CONVENTIONS

Appointment

It may be necessary to make an appointment to meet people. It is considered rude not to keep an appointment. If you are unable to keep an appointment you should cancel and give as much notice as possible.

Punctuality

Punctuality is important, at all times and for all events. If you are running late, it is considered polite to contact the person whom you have made arrangements with to let them know.

Conversation

Irish people will chat casually to people they have only just met. A favourite topic of conversation is the weather.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone must be switched onto silent mode during appointments, meetings and lectures. You should excuse yourself if you urgently need to take a call and apologise for the inconvenience.

Prices

Prices of goods are fixed and publicly displayed. Bargaining is not common practice.

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Queue

When waiting for service it is customary to form an orderly queue and to wait for your turn. Skipping the queue is considered to be unacceptable and very rude.

Women

Women in Ireland are entitled to equal respect and status with men in all areas of life and tend to have more independence and responsibility than in some other cultures. It is common for women to go out and about on their own and to travel widely.

Driving

Irish Transportation Authority does not yet recognise Malaysian driving licence. Those who wish to obtain driving licence must re-enrol for driving lessons and sit for driving tests. As driving is also on the left, the Malaysian Embassy has been working to get our driving licence recognised on the basis of reciprocity.

Electricity

The standard mains voltage is 220v. All Malaysian electrical appliances, including 3-pin plugs, are compatible and can be used in Ireland.

Personal Safety

Ireland is a relatively safe country. The people are generally tolerant towards religious and cultural diversity. However, as in any other countries, normal precautions regarding personal safety both on and off campus should be taken. If leaving the campus after dark, avoid poorly lit areas or areas that are not frequented by public. Keep important documents, such as passport and Malaysian MyCard, in a safe place. Always adopt a cautious approach.

Emergency

Fire, Police, Ambulance and Coastal Rescue, Mountain and Cave Rescue: Dial 999 or 112 and ask the operator for the emergency service you require. There is no charge for this service.

14.0 USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

- i. **Mr. Kamarolzaman**
Education Attaché
HP : 085 721 0488
e-mail : kamarolzaman@masduke.net
- ii. **Ms Afidah Arshad**
First Secretary (Education and Training)
Public Service Department Malaysia (Ireland Office)
Room 27 – 28, Clifton House
Lower Fitzwilliam Street

Dublin 2

**Tel : 01 669 0563
Fax : 01 661 5200
HP : 087 994 8530
e-mail: jpaireland@yahoo.co.uk**

**iii. Mr. Haji Kamis Mahawi
MARA Director
Room 54 –55, Clifton House
Lower Fitzwilliam Street
Dublin 2**

**Tel : 01 669 0519
Fax : 01 661 5200
HP : 087 3278 775
e-mail : kamis@mara.gov.my**

**iv. Embassy of Malaysia
Level 3A-5A
Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4**

**Tel : 01 6677280
e-mail : maldublin@kln.gov.my**

Officers at the Malaysian Embassy:

**Raja Dato' Nazrin Aznam
Ambassador**

**Mr. Sofian Akmal Abdul Karim
First Secretary / Head of Chancery**

**Ms. Rohani Husain
Second Secretary**

**Ms. Nurlila Bakri
Personal Assistant to the Ambassador**