



Covid-19 – Guidance from the Department of Education and Skills for students in the English language education sector

If you are from overseas and have travelled to Ireland to study English in an English Language college, please read this.

There are growing numbers of Corona Virus Covid-19 cases in Ireland. This is changing every day. The Government wants to be sure that all students have the information they need to keep safe.

This information sheet gives you guidance on:

- **Health advice about Covid-19**
- **Immigration Status**
- **Information for Employees and the Self-Employed**

This information was updated on 22 March 2020. If you are reading this after this date, please check education.ie/Covid19 to see if this advice has changed in any way.

Health advice about Covid-19

You can help to avoid the spread of Covid-19.

- Practice “social distancing” – keep 2 metres away from other people.
- See [information here in several languages](#),
or see www.education.ie/Covid19
- Do not meet up together and keep physical space between you and others.
- Get up-to-date information and advice on Covid-19 from www.hse.ie or from official Irish health authority Twitter feeds: @HSELive and @roinnslaite.
- Keep in contact with your English language college. The college will tell you about your courses. You may be able to do college work online.

You may wish to return to your home country. This may get harder as airlines cancel/restrict flights to and from Ireland.

All schools and colleges in Ireland have been closed because of public health advice. More information about this can be found at the website of the Department

of Education and Skills www.education.ie/covid19. Your college may also provide information.

Immigration Status

If you have immigration permissions, check the Department of Justice and Equality's Immigration Service Delivery advice and updates here:

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Home>.

Automatic Renewal of Immigration Permissions

If your immigration permission will expire between 20 March 2020 and 20 May 2020, you will be granted automatic renewal for a period of 2 months.

This renewal is on the same basis as your existing permission and the same conditions will continue to apply.

If this applies to you, we recommend that you visit the Department of Justice and Equality's website here:

<http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR20000037>

Conditions about Attendance

Where your English language college has closed due to Government advice regarding Covid-19, you will be considered to have met your attendance requirement for the shutdown period.

All other rules stay the same.

Information for Employees and the Self-Employed

If you have been working in Ireland and have lost your job because of the current pandemic, you are eligible to apply for the Government's Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

Students will need to provide a Personal Public Service number (PPSN) to apply for this payment. The payment will be made for up to six weeks at the rate of €203 per week. Information on this payment and how to apply is available here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/be74d3-covid-19-pandemic-unemployment-payment/>.

The quickest way to apply is online via MyWelfare.ie.

There is also a different scheme your employer may use. This is the Covid-19 Employer Refund Scheme. It allows employers to make the payment equivalent to the Covid-19 Unemployment payment (of €203) to workers who are temporarily laid off. Employers engaged with the scheme will be allowed to top up the payment that is provided by the State.

This is being administered by the Revenue Commissioners. This approach helps maintain the link between employers and workers and make the return to work easier. Further information on this scheme is available online at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/6c6582-employer-covid-19-refund-scheme/>

Please contact your English language college with any questions.

Ends