

# Financial Supports and Assistance available for University in Ireland for International Protection Applicants, Refugees, and other Migrants

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Access & Outreach



# Content

- Understanding immigration terminology & ‘stamps’
- Pathways to education **BEFORE** an applicant receives the decision on their international protection application
- Pathways to education **AFTER** the international protection decision is received
- Q & A



# Immigration Terminology

- Important to be familiar with the language used in this area
- Lots of specialist terms
- Sound quite similar to each other
- But can mean different things/rights
- Some can sound different but have the same meaning
- Confused?



**Glossary of Immigration Terms (source irishimmigration.ie)**

Asylum seeker and/or International Protection Applicant (IPA)	A person who is seeking to be recognised as a Convention refugee under the Geneva Convention 1951
Beneficiary of Temporary Protection (BOTP)	A person who has been granted Temporary Protection status under the EU Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC), which was activated in March 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine
Daily Expenses Allowance	A weekly allowance paid to International Protection applicants who are living in accommodation provided by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS)
Department of Justice Letter	Letter sent to an International Protection applicant advising them of the outcome of their international protection application
Family Reunification	Under the International Protection Act 2015 certain family members can be given an immigration permission allowing them to live in Ireland with the holder of an international protection declaration
Irish Born Child (IBC)	A child who was born in Ireland (after 31 December 2004) but who is not entitled to Irish citizenship at birth
Irish Citizen Child	A child who is an Irish citizen
Irish Residence Permit (IRP)	Certificate of registration that is issued to all legally resident non-EEA nationals who stay in Ireland for more than three months.
Labour Market Access Permission	Permission granted to International Protection applicants that will allow them to access employment and self-employment.
Leave to Remain/Permission to Remain/Permission to Reside	People who do not meet the requirements of refugee status or subsidiary protection may be granted permission to remain in Ireland under certain provisions of immigration law
Refugee	A person who is recognised as being a refugee under the criteria set down in the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
Stamp	Each residence permission type is illustrated by a stamp that has a number. The type of stamp you receive informs a person what they can do and how long they can stay in Ireland.
Subsidiary Protection	A status granted under the International Protection Act 2015 to a person who does not qualify to be a refugee under the Geneva Convention 1951 but who is at risk of serious harm if sent home.
Temporary Protection Directive	Special form of protection activated by the EU in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
Temporary Residence Permit	A document issued by the International Protection Office to asylum seekers.
Visa	A visa permits a person to travel to the State during the validity period of the visa. The visa does not grant permission to enter or reside in the State. This permission is given by the immigration officer at the point of entry, who has the authority to grant or deny such admission.

# Stamps – residency permissions

Stamp 1\*

Stamp 1H\*

Stamp 1A

Stamp 1G\*

Stamp 2 (2A)

Stamp 3\*

Stamp 4\*

Stamp 4 EU FAM\*

Stamp 4D\*

Stamp 0

Stamp 5\*

Stamp 6

# International Protection Process

Make application  
& have  
preliminary  
interview

Complete  
questionnaire

Personal  
Interview

Recommendation  
from IPO

Ministerial  
Decision

IRP Card –  
Stamp 4  
(or deportation/  
voluntary return)

# Direct Provision

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Medical Card
- Weekly payment
  - €38.80 (€113.80)
  - €29.80
- Clothing Allowance
  - €200 per year

# Access to Education – under 18s

- Immigration status
- Pre-school (ECCE scheme)
- Primary
- Secondary



# Access to Education – Over 18s

- Can afford to pay international fees
- How long they've been in International Protection Process
- Whether they have a right to work



# International Protection Applicants - 3 Time Periods

1st	0-6 months
2nd	6 months – 3 years
3rd	Over 3 years



# 0-6 Months

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English Language &  
Literacy & Numeracy (1-3)

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Saored online platform

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University access  
programmes\*



# 6 Months – 3 Years

Labour Market Access  
Permission

VTOS courses (Levels  
3-6)

PLC courses (Level 5 &  
6)



# 3 Years+ - International Protection Student Scheme

IP applicant and have not received a final decision on your application for international protection

Have been an IP applicant for at least 3 years on the date before your course starts

Have not been given a deportation order





# Universities of Sanctuary

## Sanctuary Scholarship

- Sanctuary Scholarships began in Ireland in 2016
- Welcome IP applicants & refugees into university communities
- TU Dublin offers 15 UG scholarships under the International Protection Applicant Scholarship scheme (IPAS). Contact [ipas@tudublin.ie](mailto:ipas@tudublin.ie)

# International Protection Applicant Scholarship

- Students should be an international protection applicant, refugee or have subsidiary protection or leave to remain status and not be eligible for the state Free Fees scheme, SUSI grants, or any other state support;
  - Students should meet the academic eligibility criteria for their chosen programme (including English language requirements);
  - Students must have or intend to have completed the Leaving Certificate examination, a QQI FETAC full award, or have completed the TU Dublin Access Foundation Programme within the last two years or be a mature student (over 23)
  - Students should be living in the Republic of Ireland at the time of application;
  - Students must be attending university for the first time;
  - Each scholarship is valid for the duration of the programme of study.
- These scholarships cover all fees (tuition, registration etc.), and an annual stipend of €3,000.

# Charitable Supports

- [SVP](#) – Education & Training Bursary
- [IRC](#) – Education Fund



# Additional Needs Payment

Payment to help with an expense that you cannot pay from your weekly income

Based on individual circumstances

Discretionary

Cover all 3 stages



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

# Supports Available to Registered Students

- [Student Assistance Fund](#)
- [Laptop Loan Schemes](#)
- [National Childcare Scheme](#)
- [Bursary for Care Experienced Young People\\*](#)

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IRP Card –  
Stamp 4

# Stamp 4

- Allowed to stay in Ireland until a certain date and can enter employment.
- Usually granted for 1 year, after that, it must be renewed on either a 1 or 3-year basis.
- Free to work in any role and industry, without need for EP
- It can also be used to accumulate residency for citizenship
- **May access state funds and publicly funded services.**



# Educational Supports After Stamp 4

- Some of the supports available to IPAs may still be available to people who now have stamp 4 (e.g. sanctuary scholarships, IRC grant, SVP grant)
- Some will not now be available (IPSSS)
- Some additional supports may now also be available (e.g. Free Fees Initiative, SUSI, 1916 Bursary)
- Often depends on how long the person has been resident in Ireland and what status they received



# Free Fees Initiative

- Be citizens of an EU/EEA country, UK, Switzerland
- **Have refugee or subsidiary protection status or be the family member of a refugee or person with subsidiary protection status**
- Be the family member of an EU citizen & have a Stamp 4 EU Fam
- **Have leave to remain or permission to remain status**
- Be a beneficiary of temporary protection (mainly Ukrainian citizens)

# SUSI – Student Grant Scheme

- Be a citizen of an EU/EEA country, UK, Switzerland
- **Have refugee or subsidiary protection status or be the family member of a refugee or person with subsidiary protection**
- Be a family member of an EU/EEA or Swiss citizen with Stamp 4 EU Fam
- Be a beneficiary of temporary protection (mainly Ukrainian citizens)
- **Have permission to reside/leave to remain status**
- **Have permission to remain based on marriage to, or civil partnership with, an Irish national residing in the State or as a dependent child of such a person**
- **Have permission to remain in the State as a dependent child of a person who is a naturalised Irish citizen**
- **Certain children of Turkish nationals**
- **Have availed of the International Protection Regularisation Scheme**
- **Parent of an Irish Citizen Child who had been issued with a stamp 4 on this basis**

# Social Welfare Supports

Disability Allowance

One Parent Family  
Payment

Jobseekers Allowance

Jobseekers Transition  
Payment

Carer's Allowance

**Back to Education  
Allowance** (but must be  
receiving on of the  
payments above for 9  
months before will get this  
payment for an UG course)



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Department of Social Protection

# Additional Supports Available to Stamp 4 Holders

- 1916 Bursary
- Aftercare Allowance
- Fund for Students with Disabilities
- Uversity

# Supports Available to Registered Students

- [Student Assistance Fund](#)
- [Laptop Loan Schemes](#)
- [National Childcare Scheme](#)
- [Bursary for Care Experienced Young People\\*](#)

# Ukrainian students



- 2025-6 several supports aimed at displaced Ukrainian citizens under the Temporary Protection Directive (BOTP).
- Eligibility for the schemes depends on
  - when you were granted temporary protection
  - whether you are a new or continuing student and
  - whether you are studying a PLC or a HE course.

# Ukrainian Students living in Ireland 3+ years

- New entrants who received TP 3 or more years ago they apply to SUSI and Free Fees Initiative for maintenance grant and fees (HE and FET courses)
- Continuing students who received TP 3 or more years ago they apply to SUSI for maintenance grant but the Temporary Tuition Fee Support Scheme will continue to pay the fees

# Ukrainian Students Living in Ireland Less Than 3 years

- Both new entrants & existing students on PLC courses who received TP < 3 years ago will receive the PLC Bursary (but with changes to amount received)
- Continuing students & new entrants to HE courses will be supported under the Temporary Tuition Fee Support Scheme and the BOTP stipend (with changes to the stipend amount)
- New entrants to both PLC and HE courses must have lived in Ireland for 6 months and have completed 2025 Leaving Cert or equivalent

# Apprenticeships

- Must have permission to work (Stamp 4 or LMAP)
- Eligible to do Pre-Apprenticeship courses at FET colleges
- Eligible for Access & Inclusion Bursary on Access to Apprenticeship Programmes (TU Dublin & TU Shannon)
- ‘Should’ be eligible to attend SOLAS off-the-job training

# Other Migrants (and their children)

- Previous holders of employment permits (Stamp 4)
- De facto partner of Irish citizen (Stamp 4)
- Some care experienced young people (Stamp 4)
- Dependent child of parent of Irish citizen child/sibling of Irish citizen child (Stamp 4?)
- Some family members (Stamp 3)
- Employment permit holders (Stamp 1)



# EU Fees

- Non-EEA national who has been tax resident in Ireland, EEA or Switzerland for several years may be eligible to pay fees at EU rates
- [Tax relief on tuition fees](#). No relief on 1<sup>st</sup> €3,000 (€1,500 if part-time student). If you are claiming for more than one student, you will get full tax relief on tuition fees (including the Student Contribution) for the second or subsequent students

# Irish Citizenship



## At Birth (born in Ireland)

- Irish or UK parent(s)
- Parent(s) had  $\frac{3}{4}$  years reckonable residence in Ireland before the birth
- Not entitled to citizenship of any other country at birth

## Naturalisation

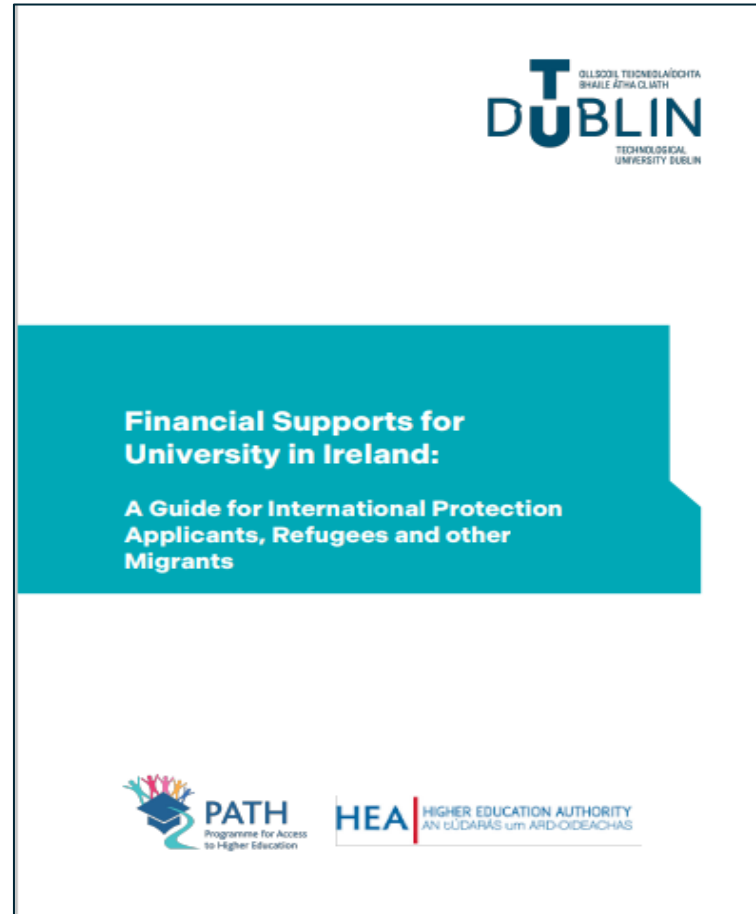
- Parent is naturalised Irish citizen and applies for child to be naturalised
- If born in Ireland parent can apply for child to be naturalised after 3 years residency

# Young Adult Citizenship Application

- Dependent children, who entered the State with their parent(s) as part of a family unit may be covered by their parent's permission for the purposes of this application while attending secondary school and may continue to be covered up to age 23 where they have been continuously dependent on their parents and progressed from secondary school in the State directly into third level education.

Status	Free Fees	SUSI	1916	International Protection Student Scheme	Sanctuary Scholarships	National Childcare Scheme	PLC Bursary Ukraine	Temporary Tuition Fee Support
<b>Refugee (Stamp 4)</b>	Yes - if resident in Ireland for 3 years since date of application for IP	Yes - if you have been legally resident in Ireland for 3 years	Yes - if you have been resident in Ireland for 3 years	Not eligible	Yes - if you are not eligible for any other State supports e.g. SUSI	Yes	Not eligible	Not eligible
<b>Subsidiary Protection (Stamp 4)</b>	Yes - if you have been living in Ireland for 3 years since date of decision on IP application	Yes - if you have been legally resident in Ireland for 3 years	Yes - if you have been resident in Ireland for 3 years	Not eligible	Yes - if you are not eligible for any other State supports e.g. SUSI	Yes	Not eligible	Not eligible
<b>Leave to Remain (Stamp 4)</b>	Yes - if you have been living in Ireland for 3 years since date of decision on IP application	Yes - if you have been legally resident in Ireland for 3 years	Yes - if you have been resident in Ireland for 3 years	Not eligible	Maybe - if you are not eligible for any other State supports e.g. SUSI. Depends on scholarship/ University	Yes	Not eligible	Not eligible
<b>International Protection Applicant</b>	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Yes - if you have not received a decision on your application after 3 years	Yes - if you are not eligible for any other State supports. e.g. IPSS	Yes	Not eligible	Not eligible
<b>Temporary Protection Directive (Ukraine)</b>	Yes - if resident in Ireland for 3 years since date you became a BOTP	Yes - if resident in Ireland for 3 years since date you became a BOTP	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Yes	Yes - if you became a BOTP less than 3 years ago and you have been resident in Ireland for at least 6 months	Yes - if you became a BOTP less than 3 years ago and you have been resident in Ireland for at least 6 months
<b>International Protection Regularization Scheme</b>	Not eligible (But fees may be covered by SUSI if person qualifies for SUSI grant)	Yes - if have been legally resident in Ireland for 3 years	Yes - if have been legally resident in Ireland for 3 years	Not eligible	Not eligible	Yes	Not eligible	Not eligible

# Financial Supports for University in Ireland...



# Useful Organisations

- [Irish Refugee Council](#)
- [Immigrant Council of Ireland](#)
- [Migrant Rights Centre Ireland](#)
- [Citizens Information](#)
- [Crosscare Refugee Service](#)
- [NASC](#)
- [Doras](#)



# Migrant Further & Higher Education Support Network - MFHESN

- Facilitate the sharing of information amongst Network members about:
  - funding supports and access routes to further and higher education for people who are international protection applicants, refugees, beneficiaries of temporary protection and other migrants.
  - services and supports provided by member organisations to create a referral system to support members work in their further/higher education institutions and statutory/voluntary organisations
- Facilitate the exchange, amongst Network members, of effective strategies and “what works” through case studies, practice sharing, and collaborative networking.

**If interested in joining, please complete MS form:**

[Registration Form\\_Migrant Further & Higher Education Support Network \(MFHESN\)](#)