

How to apply for asylum in Ireland

This guide explains the international protection (asylum) process in Ireland, from arrival at the border to the final decision by the International Protection Office (IPO).

1. When you arrive in Ireland

- Tell an immigration officer at the port of entry, or attend the International Protection Office (IPO) at 79–83 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, that you wish to apply for international protection.
- You will be photographed, fingerprinted and given a Temporary Residence Certificate (TRC).
- Bring all identity documents (passport, ID card, birth certificate) — even photocopies help.

2. Accommodation and welfare

- The International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) will offer you accommodation while your claim is being processed.
- You may apply for the Daily Expenses Allowance via the Department of Social Protection.
- Children of school age are entitled to free primary and secondary education.

3. The application questionnaire

- Complete the IPO Application for International Protection Questionnaire in full and return it within the deadline.
- Set out clearly why you fear return to your country of origin (Convention reasons: race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group).
- Attach supporting evidence: medical reports, police reports, country-of-origin information, witness statements.

4. The personal interview

- You will be invited to a personal interview with an IPO caseworker. A free interpreter is provided on request.
- Be consistent, detailed and truthful — credibility is central to the decision.
- You are entitled to legal representation. The Legal Aid Board provides civil legal aid for asylum seekers (subsidised fees).

5. The decision

- If granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, you receive a residence permit valid for 3 years (renewable).
- If refused, you have 10 working days to appeal to the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT).
- After 5 years of lawful residence (incl. protection status) you may apply for Irish citizenship.

Key contacts

- International Protection Office (IPO) — +353 1 602 8000
- Irish Refugee Council — +353 1 764 5854
- Legal Aid Board — 0818 615 200
- UNHCR Ireland — 11th Floor, Millennium House, Dublin 1
- CCI Legal & Immigration Desk — +353 (0)1 000 0001

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