

EMPOWERING FILIPINOS IN IRELAND

GETTING STARTED IN ÉIRE

A HANDBOOK FOR IRELAND-BOUND
FILIPINOS
VERSION 5 (JUNE 2017)

Compiled by the
European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFID)-Ireland
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 574462
The Wheel Member No. 122937





ENFID IRELAND

Empowering Filipinos in Éire

EUROPEAN
NETWORK



OF FILIPINO
DIASPORA

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ENFiD IRELAND
Empowering Filipinas in Éire

WHO WE ARE

The European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFiD) is an open, collaborative partnership among Euro-Filipino migrant communities in 17 European member countries, effectively connecting and achieving relevant developments within the continent and the Philippines. ENFiD-Ireland is a registered non-profit company that aims to empower the Filipino community by campaigning for migrant rights and celebrating the unique and indispensable skills of Filipino workers, which are a crucial contributor to the labour work-force in Ireland. It also believes in honing their ambassadorial potential by engaging them to their Philippine roots and the Irish cultural heritage, giving form to their identity as Filipino and Irish, and promoting the Philippines & the Republic of Ireland.

We hope you will find this handbook useful in helping you settle in your new home in the Republic of Ireland.

JOIN A FILIPINO ORGANISATION

There are over 70 Filipino community organisations in Ireland that were formed by region, religion, hobby or interest. For more information, please contact

vanda.brady@enfid.org or 0879501678



ENFID IRELAND
Empowering Filipinos in Éire



Foreword



Consulate of the Republic of the Philippines

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A very warm welcome to Eire (The Republic of Ireland)

As Honorary Consul to the Republic of the Philippines in Ireland I would like to welcome you to Ireland. You have taken a huge step in migrating to Ireland and in doing so you have truly opened up the opportunity to prosper in this country.

Ireland has a long history of welcoming migrants from all parts of the world and has grown into a very diverse and welcoming society. Filipinos have developed a very strong and positive image in Ireland through hard work and a warm and positive outlook. The first citizen of Ireland President Michael D. Higgins has personally remarked to me of the wonderful contribution that Filipino nationals have made to Irish society.

Ireland greatly values the contributions of Filipinos who continue to enrich this country and preserve its legacy as a land of freedom and opportunity. There are currently over 20,000 Filipino citizens on the island of Ireland who's unique and indispensable skills have contributed largely to the Irish economy and have earned a huge level of respect for Filipino nationals in Ireland.

As a resident of Ireland, you have made a decision to call this country your home. As you work to achieve your goals, please take the time to get to know this country, its history, and its people; and how to positively integrate in your local community. This handbook is an excellent source of information to help you on your way to embedding yourself in Irish society.

My office proudly and permanently flies the Philippine flag and is open to truly serve the Filipinos in Ireland. Should you for any reason encounter serious difficulties, the Consulate operates a 24 hours emergency assistance phone line to offer whatever help or guidance is required to aid you in an emergency situation.

Exciting opportunities await you as you begin your life in this great country. We will gladly work with you and your family to help you settle here.

On behalf of my team at the Consulate and the Filipino community in Ireland, we wish you every happiness, peace and success in Ireland.

"Cead Mile Failte" which is a very old Irish saying that means **"One Hundred Thousand Welcomes"** and that is the true culture of the people of Ireland, our door is always open to welcome people from across the world to our shores. Congratulations on arriving to Ireland, we are truly delighted to welcome you.



Yours sincerely,

Mark Christopher Congdon

Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Philippines



WELCOME TO IRELAND!

If you are successful in finding employment in Ireland and have decided to commit to relocating, then this simple guide can give you all the information you need to know as well as useful tips on navigating the country.

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FIND A PLACE TO LIVE

The most popular property websites for renting are:

www.daft.ie | www.myhome.ie |
www.property.ie | www.rent.ie

References: Get a written reference from your new employer and also proof that you have secured a permanent job in Ireland (i.e. letter of employment / offer letter as proof).

Deposit: All landlords / letting agents in Ireland require an upfront deposit in order for you to secure the accommodation that you are interested in. The normal and most common letting contract duration is for a period of 12 months (however you might be able to find shorter durations for 6 or 9 months).

It is standard practice in Ireland to charge a deposit fee that is equivalent to one month's rent, paid at the beginning of letting contract. For example, if your rent is €900 per month for a one-bedroom apartment, then the upfront deposit will be €900. This security deposit is a way for you to hold the accommodation without the landlord giving the option to another tenant to rent it.

Deposits are refunded to a tenant at the end of their letting contract, unless there has been damage to the landlord's property. If there is damage, then the landlord has the right to deduct the equivalent financial value of the damage from your deposit.

Other Documents: It is good to have other documents available or at the ready in case you need them, such as Proof of ID (Passport / Driver licence), PPS number, and Bank accounts details (in case you need to set up a standing order for your monthly rent payments).

Get a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN)

A PPS Number is your Personal Public Service Number. It is a unique number just for you and it helps you access social welfare services, public services and information in Ireland. To get your PPS number you need three things: Passport, Proof of Address & Proof of Employment. It is best if your employer can post your proof of employment to your house and that will cover you for both proof of address and proof of employment.

(Alternatively, a bill that is in your name). Once you have all three items you must bring them to your local Social Welfare Office.

Bank of Ireland 

(Current & Deposit Accounts)
www.boi.ie



(Current & Deposit Accounts)
www.aib.ie


permanent tsb

(Current & Deposit Accounts)
www.permanenttsb.ie

 **Ulster Bank**

(Current & Deposit Accounts)
www.ulsterbank.ie

Danske Bank

(Current & Deposit Accounts)
www.danskebank.ie



RaboDirect

Rabobank *The straight talking savings bank*

(Online Saving & Deposit Account Only - Online Bank)
www.rabodirect.ie



(Saving & Deposit Account only)
www.kbc.ie

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

When arriving in Ireland, setting up an Irish bank account should be a priority for you. Most employers transfer salaries directly into an employee's bank account therefore, it is important for you to set up a Bank account and as soon as you can.

After finding the correct bank that suits your needs, you will need to visit the local bank branch with the following documentation:

- Proof of Identity - A valid passport or a current Irish driving licence
- Proof of Address - You can provide evidence of your address with any of these documents:
 - A current Utility bill such as gas, electricity, mobile phone bill
 - A current car or home insurance policy with your address on it
 - A document issued by the government that shows your address (PPS letter)
 - A list of Tax credits
 - A letter from your employer or licensed employment agency stating that you have recently arrived in Ireland and have started work but cannot yet

Once you have successfully presented the appropriate documentation and completed the application forms on-site at your local bank, it normally takes 3-5 working days to receive your new bank card that is linked to your current account.

APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATION OF TAX CREDITS

Tax credits reduce the amount of income tax that an employee has to pay each year. When starting a new job in Ireland, it is important that your employer deducts the correct amount of tax from your salary. In order for this to happen, you need to ensure that you:

1.) To Give your **PPS number** as your employer will contact the local Tax office and inform them that you have started to work for them and that they are now your employer in Ireland.

2.) Apply for a **Certification of Tax Credits**. You will need to complete an application form which is called **Form 12A Application** for a Tax Credit Certificate. You need your PPS number to fill out this form .

You can also to go to the Revenue Office and collect a 12A form and fill it out. Once you have it filled out you can drop it back in or post it out. It will be processed quicker if you drop it in by hand. Following receipt of the **Form 12A**, the Revenue office will send you a Tax Credit Certificate. At the same time a Tax Credit Certificate will also issue to your employer, so that correct deductions of tax can be made from your salary. It is essential to do this in order to avoid being charged 'emergency tax'.

GET A DOCTOR

When you get sick in Ireland, you go to see a family doctor/general practitioner (GP). A family doctor/GP is the official term for a doctor who provides healthcare services to patients outside of the hospital in Ireland. In Ireland, a family doctors' office is called a practice or a surgery. You usually can only get referred to all other services through your GP.



What services does a GP provide?

A family doctor/GP provides most of your healthcare needs such as; acute and chronic illnesses, preventative care and health education. Some GPs would also provide maternity and infant care services. Anyone can access a family doctor/GP, even if you do not have papers to be in Ireland.

When are GP practices open?

Each family practice has its own opening times; however most of them open from 9:00am – 11:30am and 2:00pm to 5:00pm. It is also important to note that most family doctors work by appointment only and others you just walk in. You will have to find out your GP's opening times by contacting them.

How do I choose a doctor?

People generally choose a doctor near where they live. People get information on doctors through their friends who may be visiting the same doctor. If you do not know addresses of doctors in your area, you can go to your local health center and they will give you a list of all doctors in your area together with a Doctor's Acceptance Form. In general, you must choose a doctor whose surgery is within 7 miles of your home, unless there is no doctor within that area.

What is the cost of visiting a GP?

Each GP practice has a different visiting fee. In most GP practices, the cost ranges between €40-60 per visit. This cost is only for seeing the GP. If, for example, the doctor recommends a blood test or x-ray etc, you will have to pay an extra charge. You will have to consult your GP practice to find more on all related charges.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN IRELAND

In case of an accident or emergency, it is important to know who to contact and what to say. The appropriate number to call depends on whether there is a life threatening injury, fire, or a minor illness.

Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard

Tel: 112 or 999

Irish Tourist Assistance Service

Tel: 01 478 5295

Samaritans

Tel: 1850 609 090

There are Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments in public and private hospitals for serious problems. A&E treats serious injuries or illnesses, such as loss of consciousness, severe pain, chest pain, large cuts and wounds and breathing difficulties. A&E departments are always open; no appointment is needed.

MOBILE NETWORKS IN IRELAND

The main providers of mobile phones in Ireland are Vodafone, Meteor and Three (formerly O2), as well as Eircom and Tesco. You have the option of getting mobile phones on a pay-as-you-go package or they can take out a contract; most of which are for a period of two years. New arrivals who want a contract will need to provide the following documents:

- Bank details to set up a direct debit
- Proof of identity (passport, driver's license)
- Proof of address (utility bill, bank statement, etc.)

It is advised that migrants get inexpensive mobile phones on a prepaid package for the first few weeks or months, as the process of opening a bank account and finding place to live- in order to get a mobile contract- can be timely.

GETTING YOUR FAMILY TO MOVE TO IRELAND

Visa Applications

To apply for a visa to travel to Ireland you must= apply using the online visa application form.= Information on filling out the online form is= available in different languages at: www.inis.gov.ie. To apply online you should go= to: www.visas.inis.gov.ie.

I got married in a religious ceremony outside Ireland. I would like to bring my spouse to Ireland. How do I do this?

If your spouse is from a visa required country= he or she must apply for a D-Join Spouse Visa. You should provide information about your relationship before you got married, proof of how you keep in contact when you are not together, your marriage certificate, photos of your wedding ceremony and information about your relationship since you got married. It is useful to register your marriage with the civil authorities to receive an official marriage certificate. If you have visited your spouse since the marriage you should provide tickets and stamps in your passport.

An explanation of the various Stamps (0,1,2,3,4,5,6)

Source: Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) Sept 2016

Permission, Stamps & Conditions

Please note that this document is for information purposes only and does not purport to be a legal interpretation of Irish Law.

About stamps

There are several types of stamp with different names, eg Stamp 0, Stamp 1, Stamp 2, etc. Each one indicates a type of permission, including the:

- Activities you can - and cannot do - in Ireland
- Time period you are allowed to stay

For example, permission to study a degree in Ireland (as well as other types of study) is indicated by **Stamp 2 or 2A**.

You may find that stamp numbers are used as 'shorthand' for different types of permission, eg 'Stamp 2 permission' meaning permission to study, 'Stamp 1 permission' meaning permission to work, etc.

You must be familiar with your stamp and the conditions that apply to it.

If you break these conditions, you may have to leave the country.

Stamp 0

Stamp 0 indicates permission to stay in Ireland for a temporary period, subject to conditions.

Summary of conditions:

You must be of independent means, ie fully financially self-sufficient. Alternatively, your sponsor in Ireland must be of independent means and can support you fully.

You cannot receive any benefits or use publicly funded services, eg be treated at a public hospital. You must have private medical insurance.

You must not work or engage in any business, trade or profession unless specified in a letter of permission from INIS.

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 0** if you have permission to:

- Retire to or live in Ireland as a person of independent means
- Be a visiting academic at an Irish university or college
- Live in Ireland as the elderly, dependent relative of a non-EU/EEA or Swiss citizen
- Extend a short term visit here due to exceptional humanitarian circumstances
- Work here for an overseas company to carry out a specific task for a limited time
- Other

Stamp 1

Stamp 1 indicates permission to work or operate a business in Ireland, subject to conditions.

Summary of conditions:

You must not start a job or enter employment unless you or your employer has obtained an employment permit for you.

If you do not have an employment permit you must not engage in any business, trade or profession unless specified in a letter of permission from INIS.

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 1** if you have permission to:

- Work here based on a work permit
- Work here based on a 'green card' permit
- Operate a business here
- Work here based on a Working Holiday Authorisation
- Other

Stamp 1A

Stamp 1A indicates permission in full time, paid accountancy training (with a named organisation) for a specified period, subject to conditions.

Summary of conditions:

You must not engage in any other business, trade or profession unless specified in a letter of permission from INIS.

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 1A** if you have permission to:

- Study accountancy as a trainee & be employed as a trainee accountant

Stamp 1G

Stamp 1G indicates you have finished your studies in Ireland and have permission to look for employment here under the Third Level Graduate Scheme, subject to conditions.

Summary of conditions:

You can work for a maximum of 40 hours per week.

If you wish to continue working after Stamp 1G expires, you must find a job that requires an employment permit and then follow the usual application process.

Your other permissions and conditions remain the same as for Stamp 2/2A.

Stamp 1G (Cont'd...)

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 1G** if you have permission to:

- Look for work as part of the Third Level Graduate Scheme

Stamp 2

Stamp 2 indicates permission for full time study for a specified period, subject to conditions.

Summary of conditions

You cannot receive any benefits or use publicly funded services (eg public hospitals) unless you have an entitlement via other means.

You can work in casual employment for a maximum of 20 hours per week during school term and 40 hours per week during holidays. You must not engage in any other business or trade.

Examples when used:

You may be given Stamp 2 if you have permission to study the following:

- English language
- Higher national diploma
- Degree (undergraduate)
- Master's degree (postgraduate)
- PhD
- Other

Stamp 2A

Stamp 2 indicates permission for full time study for a specified period on a course not recognised by the Department of Education and Science, subject to conditions.

Summary of conditions:

You cannot receive any benefits or use publicly funded services, eg public hospitals. You must have private medical insurance.

You must not work or engage in any business, trade or profession.

Stamp 3

Stamp 3 indicates permission to stay in Ireland for a specified period, subject to conditions.

Summary of conditions:

You cannot work or engage in any business, trade or profession.

Stamp 3 (Cont'd...)

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 3** if you have permission to:

- Volunteer, eg with a charity or non-profit
- Be a minister of religion
- Join your non-EEA/EU/Swiss spouse/civil partner or family member who is here based on a work permit
- Other

Stamp 4

Summary of conditions:

Stamp 4 indicates permission to stay in Ireland for a specified period, subject to conditions.

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 4** if you have permission to:

- Join your Irish spouse/civil partner
- Join your minor child, who is an Irish citizen
- Join your EU/EEA or Swiss family member using their EU Treaty Rights
- Join your family member who is a recognised refugee or has been granted subsidiary protection
- Other

You may also be given **Stamp 4** if you are a:

- Recognised convention or programme refugee - or have been granted subsidiary protection

Stamp 5

Stamp 5 indicates permission to stay in Ireland without limits on the time you can remain here, subject to other conditions.

The stamp will be valid up to the expiry date on your passport.

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 5** if you have permission to:

- Remain in Ireland 'Without condition as to time' (WCATT)

Stamp 6

Stamp 6 indicates you are an Irish citizen with dual-citizenship.

Examples when used:

You may be given **Stamp 6** in your non-Irish passport if you have applied for permission to:

- Remain in Ireland 'Without condition'

Tips On Moving To Ireland

by: Thelma Alberts

Living In Ireland

Ireland was one of the best chapters in my life. My husband and I lived in Belmullet, County Mayo, Republic of Ireland for almost 3 years. We lived in Geesala the first day we arrived from Germany. We rented a small guest house for a month until we have found a new home in Carne Rock which was near to the Spa Elysium where I worked as a Wellness Massage Therapist.

Working as a part time wellness massage therapist was great in Ireland. I came to know lots of tourists as well as the local Irish people. The job was hard but it was well paid and besides that I loved seeing the calm and contented faces of my clients after they have received massages and sometimes facial treatments. The clients were generous in giving tips. The best clients I ever had as a wellness massage therapist.

Living in Ireland was good. The Irish people were friendly. They knew how to live and how to treat themselves every weekend at the pub.

Here are my tips in moving to Ireland:

1. As a Filipino/Filipina planning to go to Ireland, know the country first, its people, climate, food, culture and tradition through reading books or websites about Ireland.
2. If it is possible, visit Ireland as a tourist and communicate with the locals. Observe them and go shopping where the locals buy their groceries and other commodities.
3. If you are someone who seek for work in Ireland, check Irish websites online like Working and Living in Ireland.
4. Rent a small room for a start when already in Ireland and remember, the rent is paid weekly as well as the salary you will get weekly, if not otherwise stated in your contract.
5. Check the bus schedule if you don't have a car as some places might only have twice a day busses going to the city or wherever you are going to work.
6. Check where you can buy Asian food. There might be some Filipino food for sale. At least you can buy rice in an Irish supermarket.
7. If you are marrying an Irish man, you will not be having problem where you live but you will still have to know how the Irish are, for a better understanding.
8. Ireland is a catholic country. If you have not found a Kababayan yet, there might be some of them in the church attending a Mass. Introduce yourself and ask everything that you want to know like where you can buy Sinigang mix or so.
9. The weather in Ireland is very tough, so don't forget to bring warm clothes with you. Raincoat is very handy as it usually has 4 seasons in a day. I know. I counted the rainy days when I was there.



Erris Head in Belmullet, Co. Mayo, Ireland

Do You Still Like To Go To Ireland?

Well, you should. This is a chance for you to see the breathtaking landscapes in the Emerald island and meet the friendly Irish people. You will easily feel at home specially when you go to the church and hear Mass. It is just like in our home country Philippines.

Preparation For Ireland:

- 1) Contact the Irish Foreign Affairs and ask what kind of papers you need for your travel to Ireland. Visa and working permit for example.
- 2) Check the Irish Foreign Affairs online. You will get lots of informations for your travel there.
- 3) See to it that your passport is still valid for at least a year.
- 4) Check if you need any vaccination.
- 5) If you have children who will go with you, check what important papers you need.
- 6) If you want to bring your dog or cat with you, check it as well.

I hope these tips will help you with your moving to Ireland. Good luck!



Carne Rock, Belmullet

About the author:

Thelma Alberts is a Filipino expat married to a German and has lived in Germany for more more than three decades. She previously worked as a massage therapist for three years in Ireland. She now divide her time living in the Philippines during Europe's winter months and coming back here to spend the summers in Germany. She loves gardening, dancing, baking, traveling, reading and writing.



Atlantic Drive, Achill Island, County Mayo

MOVING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you are moving to Ireland and you have a child of school-going age, you will need information about the educational choices available to you and the procedures involved in getting your child enrolled.

The Irish school year for primary school children stretches from 1 September to 30 June approximately. Children attend primary school from around the age of 4 or 5 years until they are 12 or 13 years of age. The primary school cycle is 8 years long. Schools generally have 2 years of infant classes, followed by class 1 to class 6.

The school-going age in Ireland

Your child will not be obliged to attend school before the age of 6. However, it is common for Irish children to attend school at 4 or 5. As a result, the youngest classes in the primary school system incorporate much of what would be considered "pre-schooling" in other countries.

You also have a constitutional right to educate your child at home. However, this is not common practice.

The types of schools available

The Irish primary education sector consists of state-funded primary schools, special schools and private primary schools. State-funded primary schools used to be known as national schools and you may still hear this term being used. State-funded schools include religious schools, multi-denominational schools and Gaelscoileanna, which are schools that teach the curriculum through the Irish language. You can find a list of State-funded primary schools in Ireland on the Department of Education and Skills website.

Choosing a school

You should, in theory, be able to send your child to the school of your choice. However, when it comes to enrolling your child, you may find that there is little or no choice in the area in which you live. Each school operates an admissions policy, which they must make available on request. It is important to ask for the admissions policy of any school in which you are interested.

Rates

Children in Ireland are entitled to free primary and post-primary education. The majority of primary schools are State-funded which means that you will not have to pay annual fees for your child's education.

IRELAND RANKS
15TH IN GLOBAL
LEAGUE TABLE
FOR MATHS &
SCIENCE





In practice, however, schools often need to raise extra funds for additional resources such as computers, sports equipment or improved facilities. You may be asked to make a contribution or to take part in fund-raising for the school, but your participation in these activities must always be voluntary. State-funded schools cannot require you to make contributions.

How to apply

Contact the school to which you want to send your child. Ask for their admissions policy and check whether you need to register your child's name on a waiting list.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Irish secondary (also known as post-primary) school cycle is generally 5 or 6 years long. Children begin their secondary school studies around the age of 12 and leave around the age of 17 or 18, having taken 2 State exams in that period. The minimum school leaving age is 16 years or the completion of 3 years of post-primary education, whichever is the later

Most schools offer students the option of a Transition Year after they have completed the first 3 years of secondary education. This allows students to explore non-academic interests, whether they are social, creative or linked to the world of business. At the end of the first 3 years students sit the Junior Certificate examination and after that they may choose from 3 different Leaving Certificate programmes. They can take the traditional (established) Leaving Certificate or they can choose from the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme or the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme, both of which focus on a student's more practical and technical abilities.

The school year

The Irish secondary school year stretches from the first week in September to the first week in June. If your child is going into a Junior Certificate Class or a Leaving Certificate class, however, they will not finish until later in June, as they will be taking their exams at that time.

The types of schools available

The post-primary school system includes secondary schools, vocational schools, community or comprehensive schools and private secondary schools. The majority of Irish children go to secondary schools, which are privately owned and managed and often run by religious orders, although the teachers in these schools are generally lay staff. The majority of secondary schools are free, but there are also fee-paying schools.

Vocational schools and community or comprehensive schools are all free. These schools tend to provide both academic and technical education and they often provide additional further education opportunities for school-leavers and adults in the local community

There are a small number of private international schools in Ireland including a French school, a Japanese school and a German school.

Choosing a school and enrolling your child
You can get a list of Irish schools on a county-by-county basis from the Department of Education and Skills,

The points system

If your child wishes to go to university or another third-level institution, they will need to score enough points in their Leaving Certificate exams. They will receive points for the 6 best grades they receive with the highest points going to an A1 in a paper at Honours level. Most students take 7 subjects in the Leaving Certificate.

The points they need for third-level courses will depend on the subject they wish to study.

Rates

Education in State-funded second-level schools is free.

Fees charged by private secondary schools can vary considerably. You will need to check with each individual school.

Whatever school you choose, you will need to pay for school books and, where appropriate, school uniforms. Usually, you will also have to pay for extra-curricular activities.

How to apply

Apply directly to the school in which you are interested, as early as possible and ask about their enrolment policy. Some schools may ask your child to sit an entrance exam, for which they will charge a fee.



SOCIAL SECURITY ENTITLEMENTS

If you are moving to Ireland you need to know about your social security entitlements. For more information go to www.welfare.ie.

Everyone, including Irish citizens, has to meet the habitual residence requirement if applying for a social assistance payment. Broadly, this means that you must have been habitually resident in Ireland or the UK for the 2 years prior to applying for the payment.

GETTING AROUND



There are various bus and train public transport systems in Ireland. In Dublin, there are 3 main types of transport. These are as follows:

Dublin Bus: Dublin Bus runs all over the Dublin Area. For instruction on how to get on the bus, go to <http://www.dublinbus.ie/en/Your-Journey1/How-to-use-the-bus/>. Dublin Bus has a Real Time app which you can download.

With the app you can get exact times for buses in specific areas. You can also get Real Time information on the Dublin Bus website www.dublinbus.ie.

Luas: The Luas is one of the most efficient modes of transport. Trams run every 5 minutes at peak times including mornings and evenings. For more information, go to www.luas.ie. **DART:** (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) is the rail line running along the coast of Dublin North and South. Information about different DART fare options can be found at www.irishrail.ie.

Leap Card: The leap card is a reusable plastic smart card that can be used instead of paper tickets to pay-as-you-go for transport in Dublin. This card can be topped up and used on a tag on tag off basis. Using a leap card gives you discounts on travel also. Go to www.leapcard.ie for more information about the Leap Card.

Outside Dublin: Bus Éireann is the main provider of public bus services in Ireland. For more information, go to www.buseireann.ie.

11. DRIVING



Your Philippine License

International driving licenses are valid in Ireland and maybe used for temporary visits (normally) limited to up to 12 months). To continue driving after 12 months, a full driving theory and practical test must be passed for the issue of an Irish license.

Before driving in Ireland, it is very important that you know and understand Irish road traffic laws and the obligations on all drivers on Irish roads. If you do not obey traffic law, you could face a fine, penalty points or a conviction in court.

Rules of the Road

The following are just some of the points that you should be aware of, but you should consult the "Rules of the Road" for more detailed information on legal requirements.

- You must drive on the left hand side of the road in Ireland.
- You must be 17 or over to drive a car.
- You must wear safety belt.
- Children under 3 years of age must not travel in a car or goods vehicle (other than a taxi) unless restrained in the correct child seat.
- You must not drive a vehicle or ride a motorcycle while using a hand-held mobile phone.

"Rules of the Road" is published by the Road Safety Authority and provides an interpretation of road traffic law in Ireland. The Citizens Information website also provides information on driving in Ireland.

Irish Driving License

It is the law that you must hold a current driving license or a learner permit (previously known as a provisional license) before driving any motor vehicle in a public place. You are required to carry this with you at all times when driving.

IA theory test certificate must be obtained before a first learner permit will be granted. For information on the theory test and how to apply visit this at www.theorytest.ie.

On passing the theory test, an application for a learner permit should be made to your local Motor Tax office. For more information and details of how to apply, visit the Citizens Information website at www.citizensinformation.ie.

ENFiD-Ireland Presents:

PINOYCRAIC.COM



The Filipino-Irish information centre
with live music.

PinoyCraic.com is an information centre that links the Philippines and Ireland through news, events, immigration updates and live music. Through Filipino and Irish music and relevant migrant-related web content.

PinoyCraic.Com
Filipino-Irish Online Radio

Your HITS

Listen to uniquely Filipino and Irish music performed by artists from or influenced by your Home and Host country, or a blend of instruments or lyrics in different languages and dialects.

Your HUB

Get the latest news, migrant-related information, community events and the much needed assistance to bi-cultural integration.

Your HOME

This is where the pearl meets the emerald, where the Philippines and Ireland open up to each other in an international context, where you hit two birds in one stone as a "Global Filipino-Irish."

- Pioneered by three Cavan-based Filipino broadcasting experts, PinoyCraic.com is also the Filipino-Irish Voice on matters affecting Filipino migrants in the Philippines and Ireland by arming them with inspiring tools in order to cope with changes taking place globally and in their host and home countries, which directly impact their socio-cultural and economic lives.
- It is an online platform that aims to connect and empower the Filipino community in Ireland by campaigning for migrant rights and celebrating the unique and indispensable Filipino work ethic and skills which are a crucial contributor to the labour workforce in Ireland and the rest of the world.

CHECK OUT WWW.PINOYCRAIC.COM NOW



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros Manila

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTION TO FILIPINO CITIZENS

Notice is hereby given that under Republic Act No. 9189, otherwise known as “The Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003”, as amended by Republic Act No. 10590, all citizens of the Philippines abroad, who are not otherwise disqualified by law, at least eighteen (18) years of age on 13 May 2019, and who are registered overseas voters, may vote for Senators, and Party-List Representatives.

All qualified Filipino citizens who are not registered overseas voters may file their applications for registration at the nearest embassy/consulate or other registration centres authorized by the Commission on Elections.

To register, all applicants must personally appear at the Embassy of the Philippines in London, United Kingdom or during consular outreach missions and field/mobile registrations of the Embassy for biometrics capturing. Applicants must bring the following requirements: 1) Photocopy of valid passport, or if dual citizen, 2) copy of oath of allegiance or proof of Philippine citizenship from the Bureau of Immigration; or for seafarers 3) copy of seaman’s book.

Filing of applications for **registration** shall be from **01 December 2016 to 31 October 2018**.

The 30-day voting period will commence on 13 April 2019 until 13 May 2019 (*Philippine time*) at the Embassy of the Philippines in London, United Kingdom. Time of voting to be announced later.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS



Philippine Consulate
Dublin

www.PhilippineConsulate.ie

The Philippines opened an embassy in Dublin in July 2009, but closed it three years later along with nine other embassies in an effort by the Philippine Government to redeploy funds to the areas it was needed the most. Following the closure of the embassy, an Honorary Consul was appointed. The Philippines is now represented in Ireland solely by an honorary consul, which has a consulate (or a small official office of the Philippines in Ireland). The main office is in the Embassy of London. The Consulate office is located in central Dublin and proudly and prominently flies the Philippine Flag on the front of the building.

The Philippine Honorary Consulate in Dublin strives to provide timely and efficient frontline services to approximately 12,000 Filipino nationals in the Republic of Ireland. The Consular Section liaises closely with Irish authorities on consular and migration issues affecting the significant number of Filipinos in the Republic of Ireland.

As the frontline services division of the Consulate, the Consular Section organises dialogues and meetings with the Filipino Community in Ireland on matters which concern and interest the Filipino nationals in the Republic of Ireland. Be assured that the Consular Section remains ready to respond to the frontline needs of the Filipino nationals in the Republic of Ireland.

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HOLDS THREE OUTREACH MISSIONS IN DUBLIN EVERY YEAR

The Philippine Embassy in London undertakes a consular outreach mission three times a year in Dublin. The following services are offered:

- e-PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
- CIVIL REGISTRATION (Reports of Birth, Marriage or Death)
- NOTARIZATION and LEGALIZATION SERVICES (Affidavits, SPAs, etc)
- NBI CLEARANCE FORM SERVICING (Fingerprinting)
- ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION FOR VISA TO THE PHILIPPINES
- PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP RETENTION/RE-ACQUISITION
- ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS and ADVISE ON PHILIPPINE LAWS
- PAG-IBIG MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
- SSS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Applicants are advised to check advisories on when these missions are held as well as the documentary and other requirements at <http://www.londonpe.dfa.gov.ph/> and to download the application forms in advance from the same website.

Philippine Honorary Consulate
Address: 39, Fitzwilliam Street Upper, Dublin 2
Operating Hours: 10:30am - 12:00pm, Monday & Wednesday, except Philippine and Irish holidays
APPOINTMENT ONLY
General telephone: +353 1 437 6206

Did you know?

The Consulate has assisted in the repatriation of 9 Filipino nationals in great distress since it opened in 2013. It has also offered an uninterrupted 24-hour emergency line for over 30,000 hours. (2.5 years) and provided assistance to nationals on major holidays such as Christmas day.

We are Volunteers

Honorary consuls are highly regarded and respected members of a community. But unlike ambassadors or consuls, they do not get paid nor get a nominal salary for their work. They do not work full time for the government and they still carry on with their professions. Honorary consuls and their staff volunteer their spare time to perform consular services.

Our Services

- Legalisation of documents for use in the Philippines
- Issuance of NBI Clearance Application Form and NBI Fingerprint Impression
- Issuance of Philippine Visa
- Seen & Noted NSO Certificates
- Emergency travel document for immediate and urgent travel to the Philippines

All forms are available to download at www.philippineconsulate.ie.

What we DO NOT do

Please note: The Philippine Consulate in Dublin does NOT Process Passport or Dual Citizenship applications

PLEASE NOTE to insure an efficient service it will be by APPOINTMENT ONLY. For an appointment, please email the relevant section of the consulate.

However, to save inconvenience and the need to take time off work, we offer a 7 day return post service. Any applicants wishing to avail of standard consular services can do so by completing the necessary form/requirements and post them to the consulate along with a registered self-addressed envelope.

We are here to help

For more information:
www.philippineconsulate.ie

WELCOME TO IRELAND



Essential Information about Éire or the Emerald Isle

The 32 Counties

Ireland is often referred to as the 32 counties, with its two states, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, nicknamed respectively the Six Counties and the 26 Counties. The counties were a creation of British rule in Ireland and were set up in the 19th century to provide a framework for local government.

Subsequently adopted by sporting and cultural organisations such as the Gaelic Athletic Association, which organises its activities on county lines, today the county division attracts strong loyalties, particularly in the sporting field.



THE IRISH FLAG



The flag is twice as wide as it is tall. The green side is by the flagpole. This flag was first used in 1848. Colors in the flag represent the native population and religious beliefs in Ireland. Green: Signifies the native people of Ireland. Orange: Represents the British supporters of William of Orange who settled in Northern Ireland in the 17th century. White occupies the center of the flag and signifies peace between these two groups of people.

Population: About 4.8 million

Major religions: Christianity, especially Catholicism

Capital city: Dublin (also largest city)

Legal system: Parliamentary democracy

Main languages: English (official), Gaelic

Time: GMT +1 (GMT +2 from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October)

Electricity: 230 volts, 50Hz. Square and round three-pin plugs are standard.

Currency: The Euro (EUR), divided into 100 cents.

Tipping: 10 to 15 percent in restaurants for good service, unless already added to bill.

International dialling code: +353

Emergency numbers: 112 or 999

Internet domain: .ie

Drives on the: Left

Education: Free primary education and secondary education is available to all children (under 18) legally resident in Ireland. There are also some fee-paying primary and secondary schools available. School attendance is obligatory until age 16.

Equality: Ireland has equality legislation that prohibits discrimination in employment and access to services on a number of grounds including nationality and racial origin.

Socialising in Ireland: As the home of Guinness, pub culture is popular in Ireland. The alcohol consumption age is 18 and alcohol forms a big part of the social and night life scene.

Weather in Ireland:

For the most part, the temperature is cool but can rise in summer. The average annual temperature of Ireland is 48°F (9°C). It is often rainy in Ireland, but not always. The

weather is worst in January and December, but it rains throughout the year. Despite being at a high longitude, snow is not very common and Dublin is less rainy than much of Ireland.



Manners and hospitality in Ireland: The Irish pride themselves on their generosity and hospitality. This is visible when being invited to someone's home as biscuits and tea (usually English breakfast tea) are usually provided and sometimes expected. These manners are less present in shops, food markets and on public transportation. Cutting in line is rare, but gestures like opening doors for others or giving up a seat for a woman is still appreciated.





Sport is a mainstay of Irish life. 'Avid' is scarcely a strong enough descriptor. Committed followers of favorite teams, the Irish are also active players at amateur levels - year 'round and in all kinds of weather. The sports played and the teams followed remind one that the Island is European. Except for golf (where the Irish have a passionate interest in the Ryder Cup), Canadian newcomers have to get used to the lack of Irish interest in most of the sports that interest North Americans.

Is Ireland safe?

Yes, Ireland is very safe. Guns are illegal unless you own a farm, and then you can only obtain a gun suitable for a farm. However, like anywhere, there are bad areas and trouble if you want to find it. Perhaps more of a worry is the level of intoxication accepted in most Irish social circumstances. Many people mistake the Republic of Ireland for Northern Ireland, which has in the past made international headlines for terrorist bombings and shootings. The Republic of Ireland is largely peaceful.

Is it easy to travel to mainland Europe or to Britain from Ireland?

Yes, travel is easy, but please check visas needed to travel among EU countries. Ryanair is a low-cost airline from Ireland to just about everywhere in Europe. Several ferry lines also connect Britain and Ireland.



Migrant Rights

Bullying &

Racism



Loneliness, adjustment to a new life abroad and social isolation might make migrant workers more vulnerable and thus more prone to be victims of bullying. Migrant children are experiencing racism and bullying and even more aggressive attitudes and actions.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland provides support, information and appropriate referrals to people who have experienced or witnessed racist incidents in Ireland.

The service includes:

- providing support to people who have experienced or witnessed racist incidents, including support through our Information and Referral Service and Legal Service
- making referrals to statutory and non-statutory agencies
- making appropriate referrals for counselling or other supports, if required
- recording and monitoring racist incidents
- keeping a database and reporting on racist incidents
- advocating for legislative and policy reform.

The Racism Hotline is available for telephone consultations on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, between 10am and 12.30pm and 2pm and 4.30pm and can be contacted on (01) 645 8058

The service is closed on Wednesdays. Consultations with a Support and Referral Officer, Legal Information Officer or Solicitor are made by appointment.

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland is a national organisation working to promote justice, empowerment and equality for migrants and their families. MRCI works from a particular understanding and analysis of the challenges facing migrants and the solutions required to best effect social change so that they can live as equal members of Irish society.

It provides free and confidential information, support and advocacy to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

To speak with one of our caseworkers, just call in, send an email to info@mrci.ie or ring 01 889 7570



The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), an attached agency of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), is the lead government agency tasked to protect and promote the welfare and well-being of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their dependents. It develops programmes and services for the social protection of its members. An OFW member is entitled to social, education and training, workers welfare assistance, repatriation, and reintegration benefits. For more information go to www.owwa.gov.ph or contact:

OWWA London
Embassy of the Philippines
6 Suffolk St., London SW1Y 4HG

Welfare Officer Esperanza Cobarrubias
E: owwalondon@yahoo.co.uk
F: (44207) 839-8078; (44207) 451-1832

Head of POLO: Labor Attache Reydeluz D. Conferido
E: polo_london13@yahoo.co.uk
T: (44207) 451-1832; (44207) 839-8039; (44207) 451-1833
F: (44207) 839-7345



The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) is an agency of the Philippine Government under the Office of the President tasked to promote and uphold the interests, rights and welfare of Overseas Filipinos, and strengthen their ties with the Motherland. Among its projects are:

1. BaLinkBayan - Overseas Filipinos' One Stop Online Portal for Diaspora Engagement. This program promotes and supports diaspora-driven initiatives such as investment, philanthropy, and technology and skills transfer. For more info, go to:

www.facebook.com/balinkbayan
www.balinkbayan.gov.ph

2. PESO Sense - The Philippine Financial Freedom Campaign aims to improve the financial acumen of both Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and their beneficiaries. For more info, go to:

www.facebook.com/pesosenseph
www.pesosense.com

3. Itanong Mo Kay Ato - Free Online Legal Counseling
Do you need legal advice on matters concerning human trafficking, illegal recruitment, mail-order spouse scheme, domestic violence or laws affecting intermarriage? Check out this link: <https://onlinelegalcounseling1343actionline.ph/>



What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a crime and violates human rights. It is where a person recruits, moves, accommodates, employs or takes charge of another adult or child to exploit them for work, sexually or to remove their organs. Trafficking involves a process of using illicit means such as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability.

Giving consent does not matter if someone agreed as a result of fear, fraud, deception or force.

A child cannot agree to being trafficked. Transporting a child into conditions that exploit them is trafficking.

Trafficking in humans affects women, men and children. You may be a victim of human trafficking if you have:

- been recruited and brought into Ireland,
- been moved or put to work within Ireland for sexual or labour exploitation or organ removal.

What should I do if I think I am a victim of human trafficking?

If you believe you are a victim of human trafficking, please talk to someone about your situation. You can:

- contact the free anonymous telephone hotline 1800 25 00 25,
- e-mail blueblindfold@garda.ie,
- talk to any member of the Garda Síochána (police) at any time,
- talk to a doctor, nurse or any Government worker,
- other Government workers, including staff at the Office of the
- Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC), or,
- someone from an organisation not run by the Government.

They can help you by putting you in contact with the services you will need. All the information you give is confidential.

As a potential victim of trafficking, please remember that you will not be taken from Ireland while the Superintendent in the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) decides if there are reasonable grounds to believe you are a suspected victim of the crime of human trafficking.



What to do if you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking

There are four ways you can report your suspicions:

1. You can contact your local Garda Station. Gardai have been trained on human trafficking. They can link in with the Human Trafficking Investigation and Coordination Unit in the Garda National Immigration Bureau.
2. You can free-phone Crimestoppers on 1800 25 00 25. Crimestoppers is a telephone hot-line for the confidential reporting of suspicions that a crime has taken place or will take place at a future date. The hotline is open from 9am to 9pm.
3. You can e-mail your concerns or suspicions to blueblindfold@garda.ie.
4. Dial 999 or 112 if you suspect a person to be in immediate danger.

Human trafficking - know the signs

If you feel that some of the situations listed below could apply to you, look for help.

Labour exploitation (forced labour)

People who have been trafficked for labour exploitation are usually made to work in areas such as:

- agriculture,
- construction,
- entertainment,
- service industry,
- manufacturing, such as sweatshops, and
- work in a private home in poor conditions (domestic servitude).

Below are further possible signs that a person has been trafficked for labour exploitation.

- You work too many long hours.
- You are forced to do dangerous work.
- You have low or no salary.
- You have no access to the money you earned.
- You depend on your employer for things like work, food, transport and accommodation.
- You are made to pay for tools, food or accommodation and have these costs taken from your wages.



Below are further possible signs that a person has been trafficked for labour exploitation. (Cont'd..)

- You have no tax or PRSI contributions and no access to social supports.
- You have no contract of employment.
- You are working without the employment documents required for workers from your country.
- You have your rights in relation to pay and conditions of employment infringed.
- You have no choice of accommodation offered to you.
- You live with the family employing you.
- You live in groups in the same place where you work, and don't leave that place very often.
- You have no privacy, sleeping in shared and over-crowded spaces.
- You live in unsuitable places, such as in agricultural or industrial buildings like sheds or ware houses.
- You never or rarely leave the house or work place without your employer.
- You are not able to move freely.
- Security measures are in place to keep you at the work place, for example locked doors and windows.
- Your social activities and movements are controlled by your employer.
- You are given only leftover food to eat.
- You are disciplined through fines and threats.
- You are insulted, abused or threatened or suffer violence.
- You don't have basic training and professional licences.
- You work in dangerous conditions, in places with no health and safety notices and or poor quality equipment.
- You are not dressed properly for the work you do, for example you don't have protective equipment or warm clothes.
- Equipment is designed or changed so that children can use it.

There are also signs for sexual exploitation and removal of organs.

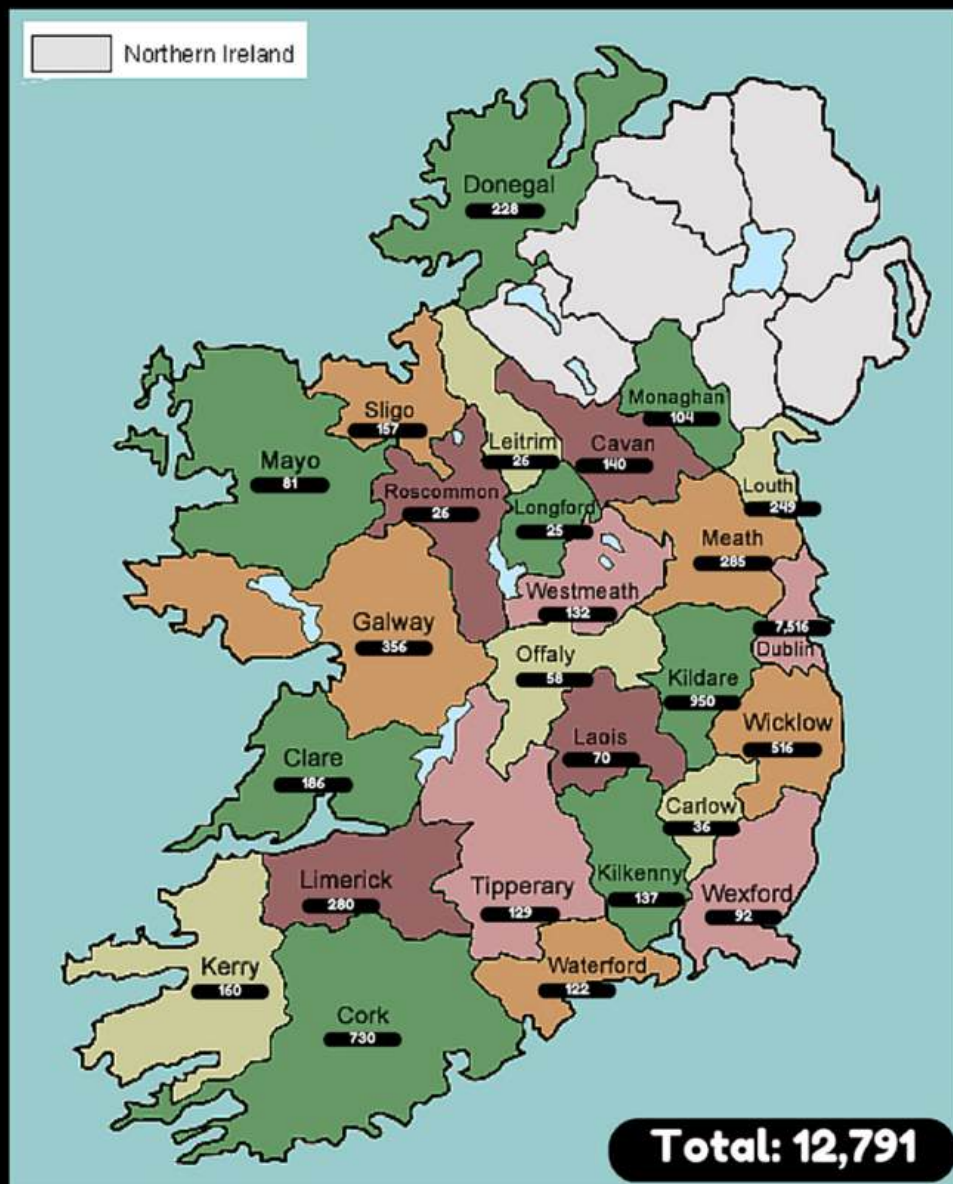


HISTORY OF FILIPINO MIGRATION TO IRELAND

Filipinos in Ireland consist largely of migrant workers in the health care sector, though others work in tourism and information technology. From just 500 individuals in 1999, they had grown to a population of 11,500 by 2007, a 2200% expansion in just eight years. These nurses form the largest category of non European Union workers in the Republic of Ireland. According to Census 2011, there are 12,791 people of Filipino origin living in the state.

- 1996- Celtic Tiger Era begins. Ireland targets Philippines for recruitment
- 1999- Arrival of Filipino aircraft mechanics and engineers along with IT technicians and sales and tourism workers
- June 2000 -Irish government approves the 'Harney Visa' which provides a 'fast track' two-year visa to non-EEA professionals including nurses, computer workers and engineers who have been offered jobs by Irish employers. It also allows workers to bring their families with them immediately rather than waiting for one year provided that can show that their families can support themselves without accessing social welfare. However, the visa doesn't allow spouses to take up employment.
- 2000- Arrival of 126 Filipino nurses
- 2001 -Arrival of 1,529 nurses
- 2002 -The Celtic Tiger's momentum slowed sharply after seven years of high growth. The Irish economic downturn was in line with the worldwide downturn.
- May 2004- Entry of EU 11 accession states; door closes for all non-EU low-skilled workers
- 2004- The return of the boom in 2004 is claimed to be primarily the result of the large construction sector catching up with the demand caused by the first boom.
- Feb 2004- The government gives nurses' spouses permission to work with intent of retaining nurses whom it was feared would otherwise migrate to other countries which granted spouses' permission to work.
- 2006 - Total POEA deployment of Filipinos in Ireland numbered 6,505- 54 per cent are nurses of whom 7 out of 10 are women.
- 31 Dec 2006 -Work Visa scheme ceases and new procedure have been agreed for employment permit applications in respect of nurses
- 2007 -Irish economy starts to slow down
- 2008- Dramatic end of the Celtic Tiger
- 2009 - The Celtic Tiger is dead. However, nursing remains as one of the few professions open to Filipinos, albeit a lower pace in the last two years.
- 2015- Ireland opens its door again for Filipino nurses to fill up vacancies in health service and care homes.

Filipino Population by County 2011*



*Source: Central Statistics Office Census 2011



INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

Individuals who have made a positive contribution to the Filipino community in Ireland.

This section is dedicated to volunteer individuals and organisations who have selflessly donated their time and services in order to help the Filipino community. It will be constantly updated with additional articles on people with unlimited amount of energy, who worked exceptionally hard and far beyond the call of duty to ensure that every need of Filipinos in Ireland is catered for. If you have suggestions on who to feature in this section please let us know.



John Ferris

On 18th June 1990, Mr. John Ferris was appointed Philippines Honorary Consul for Ireland. He was sworn in as Honorary Consul to Ireland by His Excellency Thomas T. Syquia at a ceremony held at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. After 18 years as honorary consul, now retired, he would become for the Filipinos a self-appointed watchdog for the cause of Filipinos and other immigrants living in Ireland. A Kildare farmer with residence in Castleknock, Dublin, John is married to Elby Billote from Mapandan, Pangasinan, Philippines. They have two adult children, Graham and Lyndon. To this day, with over 12,000 Filipinos in Ireland, his free services are accessible online on Facebook and in his every Saturday clinic in Capel St., Dublin. As a newly appointed Peace Commissioner, he continues his mission to help thousands of Filipino workers in providing advice on Irish immigration and employment issues.

Vicente (Vising) Kennedy

Accomplished journalist Vising Kennedy, who has been living in Ireland for 38 years, is co-founder of the first Filipino- Irish Association in Ireland (1980) which she chaired five times in its lifetime of twenty-two years. Arriving in Ireland with her Irish husband, she became contributing feature writer for the Woman's Way magazine, a Smurfit Publication in Dublin. At the height of the Celtic Tiger, she edited The Filipino Forum (2004 – 2012) and wrote a column for Metro Eireann, (2006 – 2013) the only multicultural newspaper in Ireland. Vising is finishing her book "A Voyage of Discovery: From Philippines to Ireland," which will bring a new light to the harsh challenges of integration among Filipino migrants in Ireland. She was a religious sister for ten years but left the institution and later married James Kennedy, a former Columban priest. Now retired she lives with her husband in Lucan, Co. Dublin. James Kennedy, who is also an avid writer, wrote Fat God, Thin God which chronicles his seven years stay in the Philippines including his difficulties coming to grips with the culture of the Philippines, and of the loneliness and frustration he and some of his colleagues in the Columbans felt as they worked with their parishioners in a place so far from home. They have two grownup children, Patrick and Noriana.



Dawn Zabala-Dickey

Dawn Zabala-Dickey is an Educator-Singer-Storyteller and Consultant for Steiner Education and mentor for Philippines, Ireland, and Singapore. She implemented a whole-year celebration of Filipino-Irish Festivals with songs & verses in Filipino & Gaelic. A UP Singing Ambassador, she leads forest & nature-based Parent & Child Circles where she incorporates the richness of Philippine Folk Songs and Folk tales. Dawn is back in the Philippines continuing the advocacy on promoting the Filipino culture and support for the new generation of conscious parenting.



INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

Filipinos whose talents have made an impact to the Irish community and beyond.

Please let us know of anyone or any group that we can include in this section.



Tara Talbot

Dublin-born Tara Talbot was crowned 2011 Rose of Tralee. The Queensland rose, who is half Filipino, was handed the 12-month role. She was born to an Irish father and a Filipino mother.



Tropical Storm

With their rapid-fire mix of hits old and new, Tropical Storm from the Philippines first appeared on the Irish music scene in 2003 and created a whole new genre in entertainment for weddings, parties, corporate events and celebrations of every type and size. From Elvis to Westlife, from The Beatles to Garth Brooks, from 50's rock 'n roll to all your favourite sing-a-longs, whatever the occasion, their appeal spans all age groups and never fails to turn every celebration into a novel, fun-filled event.

Lance Santillan

Dec 2012 - Lance, a nine-year boy from Cavan has become an Irish dancing sensation after learning the discipline for just over one year. He was the regional champion, then he won 6th at the national championships and qualified for the world level competition.





ANOTHER PAPERLESS CHRISTMAS

By Vanda Brady

"Everyone has his or her own story, so I have no right to say what is best for Filipinos coming to Ireland. But for me, life is not easy here. My advice is, if you are happy in the Philippines, stay where you are and be with your family. But if you really think Ireland is the place for you, remember that the rules and regulations are different and you must abide by them. Be strong, be humble, and don't cause any trouble. Always show respect to your host country."

This is Jayson's advice to Filipinos coming to Ireland. I did not anticipate to have quite an emotional journey with him as he recounts his trials and accomplishments in the Emerald Isle. I silently joined him shed a tear or two as he shared his remarkable story. Unfortunately, the battle is not over and he continues to sacrifice and persevere for the good of his family and his fellow undocumented migrants, who, for many years, long for acceptance and respect from the Irish community.

Jayson Montenegro's Tale of Two Worlds

Jayson was already active in politics back home from 1999 to 2004. He started as a Councilor and then became the Barangay Captain of Pajo, Alfonso in Cavite. (A Barangay Captain is the highest elected official in the smallest administrative divisions of the Philippines.) But after struggling with the challenges of Philippine politics, he decided to take a leave of absence and move to Ireland to join his Uncle Narding who has been residing in the Emerald Isle for 40 years.

In 2004, Jayson and his wife Tess came to Ireland as tourists. They left their three children - now aged 23, 22 and 18 - under the care of his parents and Tess's sister in their home in Cavite. They entered Ireland with 3-month Tourist Visas which were extended for a month. They have not requested for an extension since.

Tess started working as a nanny while Jayson worked as a maintenance staff of a building company in Dublin. It was a very difficult and dangerous job for Jayson because he had to unclog a large septic tank full of human waste. He recalls crying in the cold and dark chamber with no health & safety gear, treading slowly in waist-high stench and pushing himself to keep on going for the sake of his children. "Paulit-ulit kong sinabi sa sarili ko, "Para sa anak ko ito..Para sa anak ko ito..." (I kept telling myself "I have to do this for my children... I have to do this for my children...") He was promised a work permit but unfortunately this was not granted, so he carried on looking for other sources of income. A fellow Filipino who worked as a builder gave him the opportunity to help in a restaurant project but he never paid him for his hard work. It was Christmas season and Jayson had no money to send to his family back home. He painfully decided to charge this to experience, and up to this day he continues to be friendly with his kababayan (fellow Filipino), who sadly has now forgotten the money he owes. That unfortunate incident turned out to be a blessing when he found a job as a care worker for a kind-hearted family in Limerick where he looked after an elderly

man named Philip who was suffering from Alzheimer's. Philip's daughter Rachael very kindly supported Jayson in getting a qualification in Business Management. She was so generous she even bought him a table that he can use to finish his thesis and other academic requirements while they took turns looking after her father. Philip passed away three years ago, and now another man named Richard is under Jayson's care.

Since 2010, Jayson and Tess work as part time care workers in Ireland, and are still undocumented. Jayson's passion for helping undocumented migrants in Ireland started in January 2009 when a friend told him about an upcoming campaign. Jayson kept on attending sessions on migrant cases until Edel McGinley, who was the Community Work Coordinator of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) at that time, invited him on April 2009 to join a discussion on migrant problems. Jayson and four others (a Brazilian, Sri Lankan, Mongolian and American) attended that first session. Jayson recalls everyone being so scared, including the MRCI who were unsure where to start and could not guarantee their safety, so they all feared incarceration or deportation. But despite the uncertainty, they continued to work out a plan on how to implement their campaign.

It was only in October 17, 2010 when they had the opportunity and the courage to be heard. They were invited to the **United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty** in Dublin where organisers requested a representative from MRCI's undocumented migrants group to share his or her story. Everyone was reluctant apart from Jayson, who did not only want to help his fellow migrants but was also desperate to go home. He raised his hand, got up on stage and left everything in God's hands. He faced thousands of people including influential public figures like Christy Burke, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and other established interest groups. Jayson was so nervous he talked so fast. He got even more uneasy and distracted when he saw the roving Garda (the police force in Ireland) who were securing the event. When he finished, he quickly got off the stage fearful of being restrained. But instead, he was comforted by warm embraces, encouraging handshakes, and pats on the back for his bravery and determination. Here is the testimony that moved many on that commemorative day, and thousands more who heard and read his story on countless occasions after. (Here is the transcript of his testimony.)

Jayson has since been the founding member of **Justice for the Undocumented (JFU)** campaign group which the MRCI established in line with its regularisation scheme proposal in response to the growing numbers of undocumented persons. After his testimony, the MRCI wanted to get more members involved so Jayson went to a gathering of Filipinos to talk about the campaign, but no one seemed to be interested. Only one or two listened intently but the others looked away and did not even pay attention, which Jayson found very frustrating and demotivating. Little did he know that the element of fear played a big part in their reaction. Undocumented migrants often live in the shadows under tremendous stress and constant fear of deportation. So in reality, the many Filipinos in the party who were in the same situation as Jayson were eager to know about the campaign, but only had the confidence to come forward later on when they were more certain about their safety.

JFU now has 1400 undocumented members and, with allies and supporters, is campaigning for the introduction of a regularisation scheme which would allow over 20,000 undocumented migrants - majority of which are Filipinos (33%) - the chance to come forward and regularise their situation. Jayson made history by speaking on Government Record to the Justice Committee on February 25, 2015 when the MRCI presented its proposal. He shared his experience working for 6 years in maintenance cleaning and painting which he aptly described as "a 3D job - dirty, difficult and dangerous." He also said he would love to see the same political leadership of the kind President Barack Obama has shown in the US. Jayson is now officially in Irish government records. He was awarded the Justice Gala Activism Award on November 14, 2015 for his exemplary work as the spokesperson for undocumented migrants in Ireland.

Jayson continues to fight for the regularisation scheme by attending events, vigils, marches, newspaper and radio interviews, and conferences. And each time, he never fails to fear for his life. He can never forget the time he marched in front of Parliament and his heart stopped when a Garda called him over.

He reluctantly obliged thinking he was in trouble, but instead of a barrage of telling-off words and cold cuffs on his wrists, the Garda gave him a big warm hug and greeted him a hefty "Happy Christmas!" Jayson was sobbing (as was I) as he recounts that the genuine love he felt from such an intimidating man of power truly brought him to tears.

Jayson is an irregular worker that has committed an administrative infringement rather than a criminal offence. Some people will say that he is one of the many who disobeyed immigration laws, and that he became undocumented through his own conscious actions or omissions. With the recent attacks in Paris, immigration laws are under scrutiny once again, hindering his chance to go home with confidence, or without the fears of a travelling "law offender." But did he compromise the reputation of Filipino immigrants abroad?

Jayson's decision to move to Ireland was a social remittance that contributed to a "culture of migration" that makes moving almost inevitable because people are no longer satisfied by the economic and social opportunities their homelands offer. Unfortunately, he has become one statistic in reports that point to undocumented migrants' difficulties and vulnerability in terms of their dignity and human rights. He lives in the shadows and encounters significant problems in accessing basic and essential services, such as health and education.

Sadly, this is Jayson's 12th Christmas away from home. Jayson's heart breaks whenever his youngest son asks him when he was going home or when he constantly says he doesn't know his father anymore. "Sino ka, Tay? Hindi na kita kilala." (Who are you, father? I don't know you anymore.)" And yet, despite this and missing his father's funeral, plus countless other birthdays, celebrations and important milestones, he has never allowed himself to be swallowed by depression. Instead, he has risen and armored himself with faith and courage to someday put an end to the pains of a so-called illegal worker. He has found his own self-constructed peace as the voice of undocumented migrants, a voice that family and friends can be proud of as they witness his good work, even if they only get to appreciate it in the digital world. He became a better individual as he faced the harsh challenges of integration. His attitude shifted from utter confusion to slowly discovering himself and now finally having an incredible clarity and determination to be heard in a foreign land and beyond. Clearly, he is a perfect portrayal that centuries-old habits of moving abroad for a better life can sometimes be misleading. That happiness and contentment is what you make of it, whether it be in the Philippines or abroad. That whether emigrating was a choice or necessity, a Filipino migrant should build on that happiness and contentment by developing the right attitude, behavior and mind-set, because all of these will be reflected to families and friends back home and the host country.

Justice for the Undocumented (JFU) Campaign: Proposal for the Introduction of a Regularisation Scheme

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)'s 2010 proposal for the introduction of an earned regularisation scheme draws on international best practice and is based on informed, evidence-based policy. This earned regularisation proposal is centred on an agreed set of transparent criteria, including a provision for the length of time resident in Ireland, a requirement to enter into a probationary period, the operation of a criminal bar, and an administration fee to offset the cost of implementation. MRCI believes regulation makes sense for five reasons:

- 1) It is good for the economy because if regularised, undocumented migrants could contribute over €18.3 million per year in direct taxation alone;
- 2) It is good for governance and government because the regularisation programme will enable the government to quantify its undocumented population and therefore improve the overall public security, law enforcement, and compliance and enhances governance of the immigration system;
- 3) It will keep Ireland in step with international practice where many of its EU partners recognise regularization policies as part of managing migration;
- 4) It is good for communities and social cohesion for migrant workers who have put down roots and call Ireland home; and
- 5) It lives up to Ireland's humanitarian commitments as it provides a response for undocumented individuals, families and children to escape the constant fear, stress, poverty and isolation associated with living undocumented.

Department of Justice officials are currently considering the proposal. They have previously said the Republic is a country which welcomes non-nationals, with more than 80,000 people naturalised over the past four years. But they have pointed out that the State is entitled to expect that people coming to the Republic will obey our immigration laws, and that most people become undocumented through their own conscious actions or omissions.

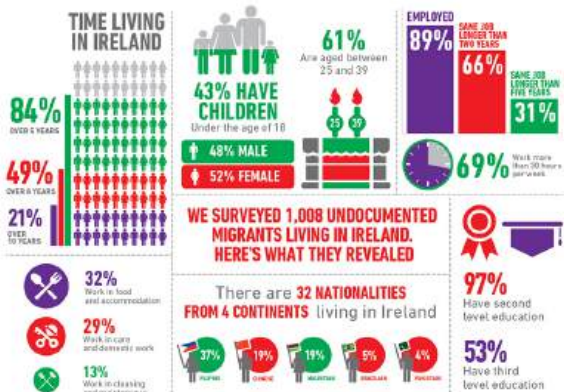
MRCI said undocumented men, women and children in Ireland had the same struggles, hopes and dreams as undocumented Irish in the United States. The MRCI's research indicates that undocumented migrants encounter significant problems in accessing basic and essential services, such as health and education. They also remain unable to leave the country to visit extended families. The centre says it is particularly concerned about the vulnerable situation of the estimated 5,000 children of undocumented migrants, many of whom have gone to school here yet face an uncertain future.

To date, over 40 organisations across civil society and the business sector, along with county and city councils (see photo below), have endorsed JFU's regularisation proposal. Also, a majority of the Irish public is in favour of allowing undocumented migrants the right to live and work here legally, according to a poll commissioned by the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI). The Red C poll, carried out in June 2015 among a representative sample of just over 1,000 people, found that 69 per cent were in favour of providing undocumented people a route back into the system.

On Tuesday May 3rd 2016, MRCI and the JFU campaign hosted a conference, Undocumented in Ireland: the moral and economic rationale for regularisation, in the Science Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin. This conference offered a vital and timely exploration of the need for a regularisation scheme for undocumented migrants in Ireland. Two excellent panels explored firstly the moral rationale from the perspective of children and young people growing up undocumented in Ireland and secondly the economic rationale for regularisation. The conference included the launch of findings from new research carried out with over 1000 undocumented migrants and a spoken word performance by Young, Paperless and Powerful, a group of undocumented young people.

There are currently between 2000-5000 children and young people born to undocumented parents. Undocumented young people consider Ireland their home, yet have no right to residency or citizenship and are in a legal limbo upon leaving secondary school and attempting to get a job or access further education. This hard on the mental health and well-being of young people growing up with this burden. It has become more pertinent to reach out to young people who came to Ireland with or to join their parents who do not have legal residency in Ireland.

MRCI surveyed 1008 undocumented migrants living in Ireland, majority of which are undocumented. The respondents opened up about their work, their lives and their families. The findings continue demonstrate the need for the Government to introduce a regularisation scheme to address the plight of the undocumented men, women and children for whom Ireland is home.



Modern Oriental Design Home with Traditional Filipino Elements, Nestled Amidst Sprawling Irish Pastures

Hidden in the back roads of the Cavan countryside and yet only minutes from busy Cavan Town in Ireland, Long Meadow View is an amazing design project and fascinating retreat created and owned by ENFID Board Member and ENFID-Ireland Country Representative Vanda Brady and her Irish husband Shane Brady.

It embraces a Boutique Oriental Chic concept that features understated luxury within a modern exotic design. It captures the visual experience of a traditional Filipino home, yet tempered by a well insulated and smart geo-thermal structure that can brave the harsh Irish weather.

The fundamental design of the interiors was inspired by the Philippine style that blends both Spanish and American influence with the use of 19 capiz shell embellished doors and décor shipped from the Philippines, dark and heavy wood furnishings, spacious living and dining areas, and a high hand-railed timber stairway with elaborate balustrades.

The capiz doors, lamp shades and dining table set were skillfully handmade by a family-owned Capiz Furniture making company based in Samal, Bataan. The fundamental design of the interiors was inspired by the Philippine style that blends both Spanish and American influence with the use of 19 capiz shell embellished doors and décor shipped from the Philippines, dark and heavy wood furnishings, spacious living and dining areas, and a high hand-railed timber stairway with elaborate balustrades.

Instead of crisp white walls or plain magnolia, the mild grey foundation and unanticipated accent walls delight the contemporary eye. However, care was taken to incorporate local Philippine details such as traditional or native Filipino ornaments including the *sungka* or the *butaka* style *tumba-tumba* or rocking chair, a unique wind chime made of a real *carabao* horn, and a carved wooden Last Supper. There is also a dedicated learning area for their two children to learn about the Filipino language and culture. Long Meadow View is a genuine Filipino home ironically set in the Irish countryside, a dream fulfilled in three years by a Filipina who proudly hails from the foothills of the southern most tip of Mindanao.



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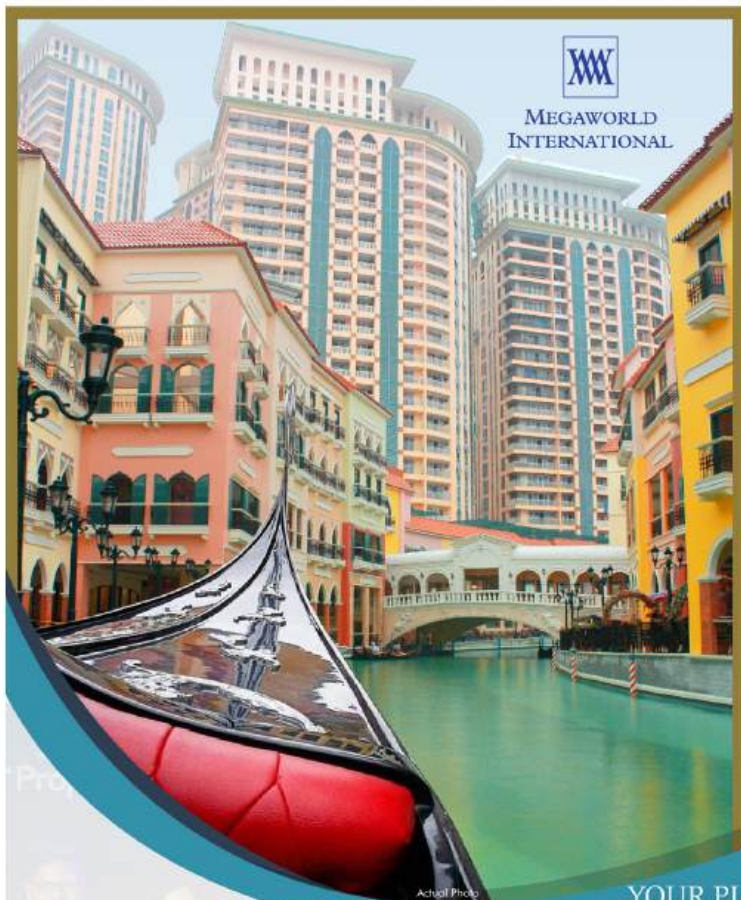
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Megaworld made history in this year's prestigious PropertyGuru Philippines Property Awards when it emerged as the country's "Best Developer" for the second straight year. Moreover, Megaworld came out as the big winner in 8 major awards and the recipient of 17 "Highly Commended" accolades for various Developments



In photo: Megaworld executives led by (W from right) Lourdes Gutierrez-Albino, Chief Operating Officer and (7th from right) Kevin L. Tan, Senior Vice President and head of Megaworld Lifestyle Malls received this year's "Best Developer" award at the 2011 Philippines Property Awards held in Manila.

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Correct way to pack your packages



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Choose the right box size for the items you are sending. You will need to pay a deposit for the box, deductible from the service charge once box is collected.
- **AVAIL OF YOUR LBC BALIKBAYAN BOX**
There are two ways to get your LBC balikbayan box:
 - a. You may have the box delivered to you. Contact the LBC Hotline Number or visit the LBC website (Web Talk). Speak to a Customer Service Associate to request delivery of a box.
 - b. Pick up your Balikbayan box at any LBC Branch or Balikbayan box agent in your area.
- **FILL UP YOUR BOX**
Place the heaviest items at the bottom of your box. While filling your box, follow all guidelines herein to ensure you pack your box correctly.
- **LIST DOWN YOUR ITEMS**
While packing, list down all items you are sending in order for your loved ones to double check these when they receive your package.
- **SEND YOUR LBC BALIKBAYAN BOX**
Call our LBC Hotline number and request for box pick-up. Do not forget to ask for your tracking number so that you can trace the whereabouts of your package.

3-Point Security Checklist

- ☑ Ensure that boxes are not oversized or bulging.
- ☑ Ensure that the contents of the boxes are properly declared in the Packing List and Inventory Forms provided.
- ☑ That the Security Tapes and Seal are applied on the boxes and explained by the LBC associate in front of the customer.

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Canned Goods



Chocolates



Toys



* Do not pack more than 12 pieces of the same kind of item, to avoid Customs checking

UNIQUE PRODUCTS

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Cover the glass with masking tape applied in a crisscross pattern, to ensure glass is not broken or removed.

■ PHOTOS AND POSTERBOARD

Tape these items onto sturdy plywood or plastic surfaces, or layer them in between fiberboard paddings.

■ STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Loosen the strings to lessen tension on the instrument's neck.

■ ROLLED GOODS

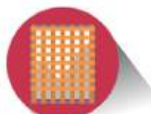
Wrap rolled item tightly with several layers of heavy-duty plastic film or craft paper. Wrap again with plastic packaging tape.

■ COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT/GADGETS

(two way radios, cellular phones, receivers, transmitters). It is best to keep these items in their original packaging. You may also provide added protection, depending on size and kind of article.

■ LIQUIDS/POWDERS

Pack liquids in containers sealed with heavy-duty adhesive tape. Seal powdered goods in heavy-duty plastic bags.



Prohibited Goods

The following items are **NOT ALLOWED** to ship via **SEA** 

- Illegal and prohibited drugs
- Money or cash
- Money order/ postal order
- Credit card/ sim card/ prepaid cards
- Firearms or portions of these/explosives/toy guns
- Fireworks
- Jewelry / gems/ ivory
- Animal hide products
- Antiques
- Pornographic materials
- Fake / counterfeit leather goods
- Native bags made of plant products
- Tobacco / cigarettes / cigars
- Perishable goods
- Pirated CDs/ACDs
- Gambling items (e.g. playing cards)
- Publications, films and video tapes
- Meat products
- Gases
- Flammable liquid
- Flammable solids
- Toxic
- Infectious substances
- Corrosives
- Poisonous materials
- Radioactive materials



The following items are **NOT ALLOWED** to ship via **AIR** 

- Perfumes
- Wines/liquors
- Paints
- Compressors/machine with oil or gasoline
- Perishable foods
- Any kind of spray/gas
- Vehicle/ motor parts
- Batteries of any digital/electronic items including watches



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CITATIONS / REFERENCES:

We have collated information for this handbook from the following websites:

Stelfox – Simple Guide to Relocating in Ireland

<http://stelfox.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Relocating-to-Ireland-Guide1.pdf>

Cáirde Challenging Ethnic Minority Health Inequalities – What do I do to see a doctor in Ireland

<http://cairde.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/GP-Final-doc1.pdf>

ICON Accounting: Relocating to Ireland Series – Part 3 – Healthcare in Republic of Ireland

<http://www.iconaccounting.ie/relocating-to-ireland-series-part-3-healthcare-in-republic-of-ireland/>

Just Landed – Where to get a mobile phone

<https://www.justlanded.com/english/Ireland/Ireland-Guide/Telephone-Internet/Mobile-phones>

Citizens Information: Moving to Ireland

http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving_country/moving_to_ireland/

Living in Ireland: Immigration

<http://www.livinginireland.ie/en/immigration/>

Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Immigration%20information>

Independent Hostels of Ireland: General Information About Ireland

<http://www.independenthostelsireland.com/about.htm>

Expat Arrivals: Culture Shock in Ireland

<http://www.expatarrivals.com/ireland/culture-shock-in-ireland>

The Irish Canadian Society: Irish Lifestyle

http://www.irishcanadiansociety.net/tips_canadiansmoving_lifestyle.htm

The Immigrant Council of Ireland

<http://www.immigrantcouncil.ie>

Commission on Filipinos Overseas

<http://www.cfo.gov.ph>

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

<http://www.owwa.gov.ph>

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

<http://www.mrci.ie>

Blue Blindfold: Don't Close Your Eyes to Human Trafficking

<http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie>