

## **UPDATED (17/12/2021) - COVID-19 Contingency arrangements for Employment Permits & Immigration for non-EEA current / future staff**

The below aims to provide some important information to non-EEA nationals currently employed by or due to start at Trinity College Dublin.

Every effort has been made to provide the most up to date information, however, please refer to the links below for the latest updates on these arrangements.

### **Immigration arrangements by the Department of Justice and Equality (UPDATED – 17/12/2021)**

- The Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, has today announced further **temporary extension of immigration and international protection permissions to 31 May 2022**.
- This applies to permissions that are due to expire between 15 January 2022 and 31 May 2022 and includes permissions that have already been extended by the previous seven temporary extensions since March 2020
- Renewal (as per above extensions) is on the same basis as the existing permission and the same conditions will continue to apply. Minister McEntee encourages anyone who can renew, particularly Dublin-based customers who can use the online system, to do so and not to wait until May/2022.
- It has also been announced that, **from today (17/12/2021)**, Dublin-based customers who have a new passport and who wish to renew an immigration permission will be able to upload their passport biodata page online instead of attending the Registration Office in Burgh Quay. This move will free up staff resources and improve the processing times for existing applications
- To help meet the existing demand for first-time registration appointments in the Dublin region, the Department of Justice is **introducing a new Freephone telephone booking system in January** to ensure those who need an appointment can access one
- Further details on the Freephone system will be available on [www.irishimmigration.ie](http://www.irishimmigration.ie) when the service begins. **A new online booking system will also be launched early in 2022.**
- Applicants seeking to **renew** their permission must complete the application form online <https://inisonline.jahs.ie>, upload copies of [supporting documents](#), pay the applicable fee and then submit their passport and current IRP card via registered post. Documents will be checked and, if approved, the passport will be stamped and returned by registered post and an IRP card issued by express post
- Non-Dublin residents must contact their local Registration Office / Garda Station. Some Registration Offices are re-opening on a phased basis as of today also. A list of these can be found at: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/registration-updates>

### **COVID-19 Contingency Arrangements Employment Permits System**

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) have put in place a Contingency Plan to help address the challenges we face in relation to Employment Permits.

The main points of the Contingency Plan are:

- **Electronic (PDF) copy of Employment Permit will issue by e-mail**  
The usual “hard copy” of Employment Permits will not be issued at this stage. The electronic copy will suffice for travel/visa purposes in the meantime. In time, when the DBEI operations return to normal, hard copies will be issued.

- **Employment Permits Section will facilitate the changing of start dates to applications that have been received but, yet to be processed**

Where the proposed start date may need to be changed, such change will be facilitated by the DBEI

- **Applications for Stamp 4 Letters of Support can be submitted electronically**

Non-EEA nationals holding a Critical Skills Employment Permit for at least 20 months **must apply** for a [Letter of Support](#) from the DETE in order to change their Stamp at the end of their Permit (from Stamp 1 to 4).

Applications for such letter of support may now be made electronically, by filling out the required form and e-mailing it (along with other support documentation) to [EPStamp4@dbei.gov.ie](mailto:EPStamp4@dbei.gov.ie)

**The following links will provide more up-to-date information as the COVID-19 situation develops.**

- [\*FAQ Document – Impact of COVID-19 on Immigration and International Protection\*](#)
- [\*Latest updates and developments in respect to Employment Permits\*](#)

**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) Contingency Plan:**

<https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Publications/COVID-19-Employment-Permits-System-Contingency-Arrangements.html>

**Department of Justice and Equality – Immigration Service Delivery – FAQs:**

<http://inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/COVID-19-updates-and-announcements>

**Stay safe!**