

RESEARCHER HOSTING AGREEMENT SCHEME

FAST TRACKING THE VISA PROCESS FOR NON EU RESEARCHERS



An Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

iva | **IRISH
UNIVERSITIES**
ASSOCIATION


euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

Through major government-funded investments, Ireland now has world class research teams who attract researchers from around the world. An essential element of research is internationalisation; it is by its nature a global activity and Ireland cannot achieve national targets without recruiting overseas talent. Yet administrative barriers – notably immigration procedures – can pose serious obstacles to the movement of these researchers. Initiatives from the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation have helped remove some of these obstacles. Ireland has become significantly more attractive to researchers since the introduction of the Researcher Hosting Agreement Scheme in 2007.

The Hosting Agreement was a major plus for our move to Ireland from the U.S. last year. The Hosting Agreement made it much simpler for us to work here by reducing paperwork and red tape. We are assured of a longer term to support our family, and to contribute our expertise to the health research enterprise in Ireland.

Prof Robert Lahue, NUI Galway

The involvement of the Irish Universities Association has been critically important in making the researchers system a success. It gives the immigration service a single point of contact for the day to day management of the system and the IUA's detailed understanding of the research environment gives us the confidence that only reputable institutions and researchers can participate.

**Kevin O'Sullivan, Director Irish
Naturalisation and Immigration Service,
Department of Justice and Equality**

RESEARCHER HOSTING AGREEMENT SCHEME

This scheme, which Ireland opted into voluntarily, implements a European Union Directive on the admission of third country nationals for the purpose of conducting research. The scheme enables approved research active organisations to recruit researchers from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) to carry out research in Ireland without the need for a Green Card or Work Permit. However, an employment contract must be in place before a Hosting Agreement can be obtained. This mechanism facilitates researchers and academic staff significantly engaged in research for the duration of their contract, making Ireland a more accessible place to work.

Since learning about the fantastic work the IUA are doing in conjunction with DJEI and the Department of Justice, we have been able to bring in some of the most talented researchers to work on projects at Ericsson. The Hosting Agreements are an exceptional service, and the support and professionalism throughout the process has been excellent. Hosting Agreements are put through in record time and I cannot say enough good things about the work the IUA do in supporting our company.

**Sarah McGowan, Human Resources,
Ericsson LMI**

I originally moved to Ireland from Bosnia-Herzegovina under the work-permit scheme but after six months I switched to a Hosting Agreement. The process of getting a Hosting Agreement was significantly less stressful and less time consuming. It provided me and my family with a feeling of stability, thus making our Irish experience much more enjoyable.

**Tarik Hadzic, Computer Science,
University College Cork**

HOW IT WORKS

Research organisations, both public and private sector, apply to the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation for accreditation. Once approved, the organisation is able to offer Hosting Agreements to third country researchers to carry out defined research. Hosting Agreements are submitted by the research organisations for processing and validation to EURAXESS Ireland. The office is the government appointed central processing house for Hosting Agreements and plays a key role in the official accreditation and immigration process. In addition to providing assistance on the scheme via a help desk, the office ensures that paperwork is accurately completed and relevant information is sent to the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service.

EURAXESS Ireland manages a central on-line database with details of Hosting Agreement holders and their dependants which can be accessed by Irish immigration authorities and Embassies worldwide. This fast tracks the visa application process for researchers and their families.

There is no fee for accreditation of organisations or administration of Hosting Agreements in Ireland.

'We are all finding the Hosting Agreement website very useful here in the visa office, New Delhi. It enables us to process research visa applications in one day, which I think is helpful to all involved.'

**Catherine McManus,
New Delhi Embassy of Ireland**

FAMILIES OF RESEARCHERS

Family members (spouses and children) may accompany or join a researcher in Ireland subject to normal immigration rules. For those who are exempt from Irish visa requirements the first contact they will have with the Irish immigration system is when they present themselves on arrival in Ireland seeking permission to enter the country. Family members must have all required documents with them including a copy of the researcher's Hosting Agreement, if not accompanied by the researcher. Family members may only remain in the State for a maximum period equal to the registration of the researcher. Spouses and children of Hosting Agreement holders will have greater ease of access to employment in Ireland under the Spousal/dependant Work Permit Scheme. This includes permission to apply for an employment permit in respect of most occupations and exemption from the application fee. Look here for more details: <http://www.djei.ie/labour/workpermits/researchers.htm>

Accredited research organisations must ensure that the researcher has sufficient monthly resources to meet his or her expenses, without having recourse to the national social assistance system. Minimum salary necessary is €30,000 for a researcher with dependants and €25,000 for a researcher without accompanying dependants in Ireland.



The Hosting Agreement was vital in helping me to get a visa for my husband and son. In time of need, EURAXESS Ireland intervened with the Irish embassy in India and helped in sorting my husband's visa problems. Their efforts saved us a lot of money and major problems. The Hosting Agreement made the rules and regulations very clear and also informed me of what to expect on taking up the position.

Shilpi Gupta,
Dublin Institute of Technology

ENTRY CONDITIONS/ RESIDENCY RIGHTS

Researchers who require an Irish visa must apply for their visa prior to entry to Ireland. The researcher must attach a copy of their contract to their visa application together with supporting documents to satisfy the visa officer that they are coming to Ireland to take up a position as a researcher.

For researchers who are not visa-required, the first contact they will have with the Irish immigration system is when they present themselves on arrival in Ireland seeking permission to enter the country.

The researcher must have their original Hosting Agreement ready to show to an immigration officer on arrival.

The researchers will be required to register with their local registration office in order to receive a Stamp 1 Certificate of Registration.

After 2 years on Hosting Agreements researchers can apply for a Stamp 4 for another two years, renewable. This immigration status offers researchers more flexibility in moving between sectors and employers without the need for any working permission or Hosting Agreement.

Check the entry conditions details here:
www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Researchers

FURTHER INFORMATION

For detailed information on application procedures for the scheme, or if you have any queries relating to your Hosting Agreement please contact EURAXESS Ireland by email to mobility@iua.ie or log on to www.euraxess.ie.

Alternatively you can contact Magda Wislocka or Jennifer Cleary directly at +353 1 676 4948.

EURAXESS Ireland and portal, www.euraxess.ie, provides practical advice and assistance to researchers and their families wishing to move to Ireland or move abroad to continue a career in research.

Information on the accreditation process for organisations can be accessed at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

Website: <http://www.djei.ie/science/technology/accreditation.htm>