

Global Immigration alert

March 2025

Ireland

New visa requirement for nationals of Eswatini, Lesotho and Nauru

Executive summary

Effective 10 March 2025, all nationals of Eswatini, Lesotho and Nauru must obtain a visa prior to entering Ireland for business, work, study or family visit purposes or to transit through the country.

Key developments

Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan announced a new visa requirement for nationals of Eswatini, Lesotho and Nauru who seek to travel to Ireland. Transitional arrangements are in place for individuals who made travel arrangements (e.g., booked tickets to Ireland) before 10 March 2025 and have their travel to Ireland scheduled on or before 31 March 2025. These individuals may be eligible to enter without a visa if they are traveling to Ireland for any of the following purposes and can provide relevant proof:

- Conducting business activities
- Starting a new job or assignment in Ireland (provided they hold a valid Irish Employment Permit)
- Attending an undergraduate or a postgraduate degree program at an Irish higher education institution
- Attending a significant family event (e.g., birth, wedding, funeral) or visiting a family member who is seriously ill or undergoing medical treatment

These individuals may contact the Department of Justice to obtain an exemption from the visa requirement.

Impact on employers

This development is expected to increase the travel time for impacted individuals. Employers may monitor their employees'

travel in advance and adapt their policies to mitigate business disruptions.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



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Sinead Langan

Director - Head of Immigration

Tel: +353 1 221 2443

Email: sinead.langan@ie.ey.com

Aislinn Stanton

Director - Immigration

Tel: +353 1 221 1602

Email: aislinn.stanton@ie.ey.com

Michael Rooney

Partner - People Advisory Services

Tel: +353 1 221 2857

Email: michael.rooney@ie.ey.com

Rachel Dillon

Partner - People Advisory Services

Tel: +353 1 221 2554

Email: rachel.dillon@ie.ey.com

Sarah Connellan

Partner - People Advisory Services

Tel: +353 1 221 1514

Email: sarah.connellan@ie.ey.com

Marie Caulfield

Partner - People Advisory Services

Tel: +353 1 221 1416

Email: marie.caulfield@ie.ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader

Tel: +44 20 7951 9589

Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

Seema Farazi

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader

Tel: +44 20 7951 7122

Email: seema.farazi@uk.ey.com

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