

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE TUITION FEE STATUS OF AN APPLICANT

Categories of Fee Status: “Free Fees”, EU Fees and Non-EU Fees

- In order to qualify for the Free Fees Initiative, applicants must satisfy (i), (ii) and (iii) under (a) below.
- Applicants falling under categories (b) or (c) below qualify for EU fee rates.
- Applicants not satisfying conditions (a), (b) or (c) below are liable for non-EU fee rates. Students classified for fee purposes as non-EU will not be permitted to change their fee status following admission.

(a) FREE FEES SCHEME:

(i) First Undergraduate Programme

AND

(ii) Nationality Test

EU passport or Original Irish Birth Certificate or Original EU Nationality Identity Card

or

Official Irish Refugee Status (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

or

Family member of a refugee – as above (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform confirming family member status and GNIB registration card).

or

Permission to remain as family member of an EU citizen under the provisions of the European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2006 and 2008 and Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform confirming immigration status).

or

Humanitarian Leave to remain in the State (prior to Immigration Act 1999) (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

or

Permission to remain following a determination not to make a deportation order under Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999 (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

AND

(iii) Residency

Have been ordinarily resident in an EU member state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to an approved third level course. Applicants should refer to the Department of Education and Skills website www.education.ie for details regarding what third level courses are approved, what fees are payable and for specific details regarding the Free Fees Initiative.

Time spent from date of official lodgement of application papers for refugee status will be included for the purpose of meeting the 3 year residency requirement for refugees. Residency for family members of refugees commences from the date of issue of their GNIB registration card.

(b) EU FEES - NATIONALITY

(i) Nationality Test

EU passport or Original Irish Birth Certificate or Original EU Nationality Identity Card

or

Official Irish Refugee Status (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

or

Family member of a refugee – as above (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform confirming family member status and GNIB registration card).

or

Permission to remain as family member of an EU citizen under the provisions of the European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2006 and 2008 and Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform confirming immigration status).

or

Humanitarian Leave to remain in the State (prior to Immigration Act 1999) (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

or

Permission to remain following a determination not to make a deportation order under Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999 (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

AND

(ii) Previous Studies Test

Where an applicant has completed at least five academic years of study within the EU/EEA/Switzerland (at either primary or post-primary), but has not been resident for three of the five years immediately prior to university entry.

(c) EU FEES - RESIDENCY

(i) Residency Test

An applicant's principal residence for the purpose of taxation must have been in a European Union Member State for a minimum of 3 of the 5 years prior to entry to university. Prior residence as a full-time student alone does not qualify a student for EU fee rates.

If an applicant is under 23 years of age on the start date of the course then the principal residence for the purpose of taxation of the parents will be examined.

If an applicant is over 23 years of age on the start date of the course then the principal residence for the purpose of taxation of the applicant is examined.

A P21 form (for each of 3 years out of the last 5 years) will be required in both instances.

AND

(ii) Previous Work/Studies Test

An applicant must have spent 3 of the last 5 years in full time study or work in an EU member state prior to the commencement of the course. Students classified for fee purposes as non-EU will not be permitted to change their fee status following admission. This full time study/work requirement will be deemed satisfied in the case of an applicant for whom a spouse is claiming a tax benefit which must be confirmed by a P21 form or evidence of social welfare benefits.

Change of Status

Students may apply during the academic year for Change of Fee Status as follows:

Change of Nationality – Free Fees Initiative

A Change of Nationality clause forms part of the Free Fees Initiative. As is currently the case students, who do not meet the nationality criteria of the scheme, will continue to be ineligible for free fees, however if such students subsequently acquire EEA citizenship during their third level studies they may be entitled to free tuition fees for the remainder of the course of study as follows:

- Students who acquire EEA citizenship up to 31st January in an academic year may be entitled to free tuition fees from the second half of academic year.
- Students who acquire EEA citizenship from 1st February may be entitled to free tuition fees from the commencement of the next academic year.

Documentation Required

Nationality

The following documentation is required to prove Nationality eligibility:

- Irish Birth Certificate or EU Passport OR
- Original letter from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform declaring that the person is a Refugee under Section 17 of the Refugee Act, 1996. OR
- Original letter from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform confirming the family member status of the refugee under Section 18 of the Refugee Act, 1996. A GNIB Residence Card must also be produced. OR
- Original family member's letter from the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, a copy of passport and GNIB Residence Card bearing the title '4EUFAM'. It should be noted that a 'Stamp 4' is not sufficient for a student to qualify for Free Tuition Fees. The card must bear the title '4EUFAM'. OR
- Original letter from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform stating that the person has Humanitarian Leave to Remain in the State, or Permission to Remain in the State following a determination not to make a deportation order. A copy of Passport and a GNIB Residence Card is also required. OR
- Letter from the Officer of the Promotion of Migrant Integration confirming Programme Refugee Status

Residency

The following documentation is required to prove Residency eligibility:

- If applicant aged under 23 on 1st September on year of entry to programme
 - Letter from School based in EU/EEA/Swiss Confederation confirming attendance for a minimum of three of the five years prior to entry or other proof of residence (e.g. P21) AND
 - P21 tax certificates (or EU/EEA/Swiss equivalent) and/or Social welfare documentation for parent(s) of applicant must be submitted for a minimum of three of the five years prior to entry
- If applicant aged 23 or over on 1st September on year of entry to programme
 - P21 tax certificates (or EU/EEA/Swiss equivalent) and/or Social welfare documentation for applicant must be submitted for a minimum of three of the five years prior to entry OR
 - Letter from School based in EU/EEA/Swiss Confederation confirming attendance for a minimum of three of the five years prior to entry