



# Accommodation, Education, Family Life & Healthcare

## HOW DO I FIND A PLACE TO LIVE?

Many people in Ireland buy their homes, with the help of a loan or mortgage, but a large number live in rented accommodation. As in most countries, the cost of buying or renting accommodation is higher in major cities, like Dublin, Cork or Galway, when compared to smaller towns or rural areas.

Further information can be found on the [Citizen's Information](#) website.



## WHAT ABOUT SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE?

Ireland has a high standard of education and most schools are free up to the age of 18 years. The government provides free pre-school education for two years, as well as a subsidy to help parents pay for childcare. There are a range of options for Primary and Secondary level education:

- State-run, multi-denominational schools
- Schools run by various religious orders
- Gaeilscoileanna, where the education is carried out through the Irish language
- Private, fee-paying schools

There is also a broad range of choices for Third Level education, with Irish universities performing well against international standards. The Third Level education sector consists of universities, institutes of technology, and colleges of education.

Most undergraduate students attending publicly funded Third Level courses do not have to pay tuition fees under the terms of the Free Fees Initiative. In order to qualify for the Free Fees Initiative, you must meet criteria based on residence, nationality and immigration status, and course requirements. Further information can be found on the [Citizen's Information](#) website.

## HOW DOES THE HEALTH SYSTEM WORK?

There are a number of health services available to Irish residents that are either free or subsidised by the government.

- In most cases, Ireland's hospitals and health care services are publicly funded and therefore free of charge.
- There are also private healthcare services available from individual health professionals or healthcare companies, and you can purchase private health insurance to help meet the cost of private healthcare.
- A visit to the General Practitioner (GP, family doctor) costs an average of €60 per visit for adults and older children, while visits for children under six are free.
- You may be eligible for a Medical Card or GP card, which entitles you to additional free medical care based on your income.
- You can apply for the Drugs Payment Scheme if you are living in Ireland and intend to live here for a minimum of one year. For approved prescribed drugs and medicines, you and your family only have to pay a maximum of €80 per month.



## I HAVE A BELOVED PET – CAN I BRING THEM TO IRELAND?

To prevent the introduction of rabies or other diseases into Ireland, pets must be imported under strict controls. To facilitate safe pet transport, the EU's Passports for Pets scheme allows cats, dogs, and ferrets to travel between member states and countries that participate. Further information can be found on the [Pet Travel](#) government website.

