SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM MIGRANT OR ASYLUM-SEEKING BACKGROUNDS TO ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION

Nasc
Migrant & Refugee Rights

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Nasc, Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre
34 Paul Street, Cork City, Ireland
Tel: 021 427 3594

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Introduction and Acknowledgements

Migrants in Ireland face substantial barriers to accessing higher and further education. This includes children and young people who may have spent most of their childhoods in Ireland and discover, on completing their Leaving Certificate, that they cannot go on to further or higher education without facing exorbitant costs.

Nasc's Connect Project specifically works with children and young people from asylum seeking, migrant and ethnic minority backgrounds providing social work-led supports including practical, academic and financial support for children and young people from vulnerable backgrounds to access education. In 2020 the Connect Project provided support to 95 children and young people and their families; 327 interventions in total.

The children and young people accessing the Connect Project are often children and young people who are/were unaccompanied minors, young people in the international protection process or exiting the international protection process or migrant young people in or exiting State care. Again and again, education and access to third level education emerged as a key issue for young people. Young people in care and care leavers expressed their frustration at the lack of understanding of how their immigration status impacted on their ability to travel, access education or apply for Irish citizenship.

> "To me education is the gateway to success. Success can be achieved when people have knowledge, skills and attitude. The only way to gain all these things is through the help of education."
>
> **Michael*, Young Person**

In 2020 we were delighted to receive funding from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) through their Human Rights and Equality Grant Scheme to develop *Our Lives Our Futures,* a project working with a group of young people whose immigration status prevented them from accessing financial supports to access education. The young people we worked with spoke of the need for accessible information resources for teachers, guidance counsellors, social workers as well as for young people themselves. This guide is a direct response to the needs voiced by young people in *Our Lives Our Futures* as well as all of those who have been supported by the Connect Project.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all the young people who gave their time or shared their experiences in the hopes of making the path to education just a little easier for others. We thank them for trusting us with their quotes and stories.

The names attributed to quotes have been changed to protect the anonymity of the young people.

Fiona Hurley & Susan Mackey (August 2021)

1. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (ASYLUM)

> “It would be such a delight to have access to education as any Irish would despite being an asylum seeker - cause for most it’s just circumstances that made them flee.”
>
> **Guylaine*, young person**

> [Social Worker] was asking me-- it was this refugee law-- she was asking me where did they go, how did they do it? [She] had no experience of anything so.... what was the saying? The blind leading the blind. I had more information [ ] compared to her.
>
> **Nabila* young person**

Young people who are in the international protection process, and the people supporting them, often struggle to understand the system in Ireland. Since 2015 the term 'international protection' has now mostly replaced 'asylum'. We use 'international protection' in this guide to refer to the asylum process and asylum seekers.

When we work with young people, often, the first thing we do is explain the international protection process to them and try to help them understand where they are in the process and what the next steps are. It's important to check with young people, children and their families to see what stage they are at in the process.

International Protection Applications

An asylum seeker (also known in Ireland as an international protection applicant) is a person who has applied to be recognised as a refugee. Some international protection applicants may live in direct provision accommodation but not all do. Some international protection applicants may have the right to work but not all do.

A young person may have submitted their own application for international protection or they may be included in their parent(s)'/guardian(s)' application. Under Irish law, a minor is automatically included in their parent or guardian's application. If so, it can be important to ask the parent or guardian for their documents as this will contain the reasons why an application for international protection has been made. If the minor does not have a parent or guardian in the State, they are designated as an 'unaccompanied minor' and a social worker will make the decision as to whether an application for international protection should be made.

There is a legal right to make an application for international protection in Ireland.

Temporary Residence Card

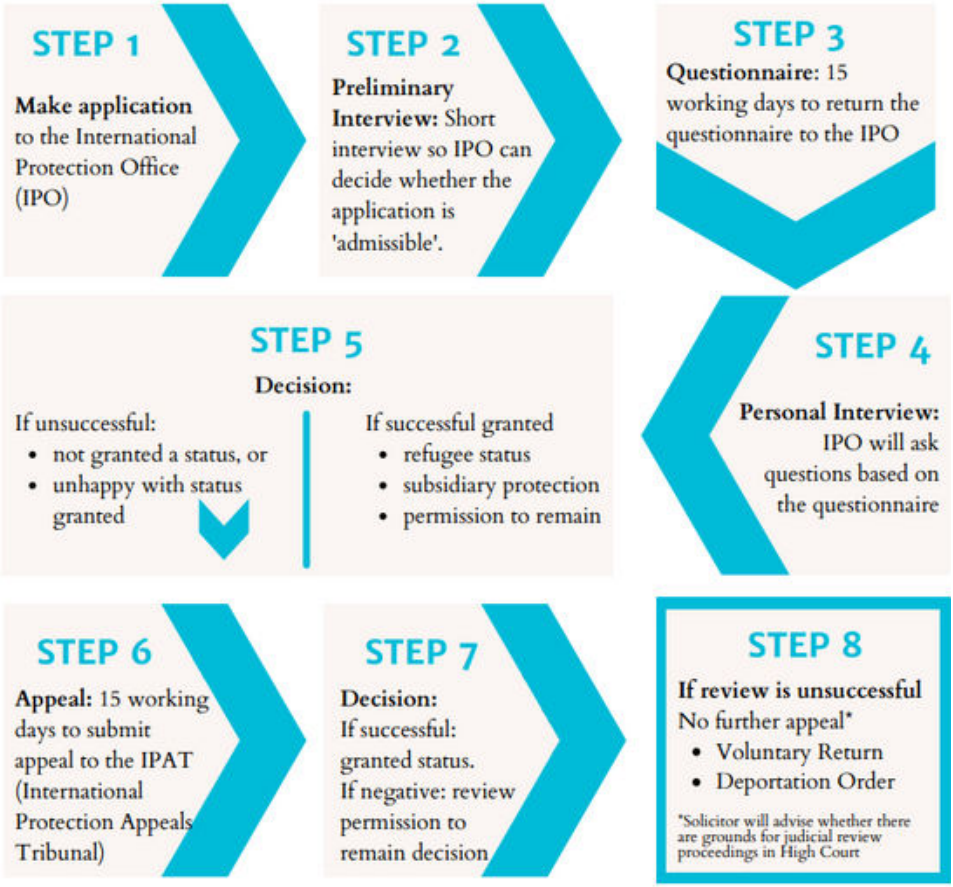
A young person (aged over 16) who is an international protection applicant may have a TRC (Temporary Residence Card). If they are eligible to work in Ireland they can also apply for a Labour Market Access Permit (see page 9 for more info). However, these documents will not be renewed if a person has received a final, negative decision on their application.

> "I finish[ed] my secondary school... and I remember saying... "Okay, what do I do now? What am I going to do? I have nothing to do..."
>
> Debbie* young person

The International Protection System in Ireland

The International Protection System asks three questions

1. Can this person be declared a refugee? If the answer is yes, the person is granted refugee status
2. If the answer is negative, the application is considered to see if the person qualifies for subsidiary protection
3. If the answer is still no, they may be eligible for permission to remain.



> When I [did] my leaving cert like three years ago, I couldn't go to [college] because I didn't get status by then... I applied [for SUSI] and then there was a part I stopped because they were asking for my status.
>
> **Patric* young person**

Exiting the International Protection Process

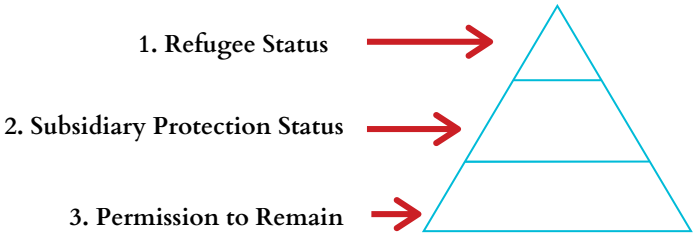
When making an application for international protection in Ireland, there are 4 possible outcomes:

1. Granted Refugee status
2. Granted Subsidiary Protection status
3. Granted Permission to Remain under section 49 of the International Protection Act, 2015.
4. Denied international protection and given the option to either voluntarily return or be issued with a deportation order. When someone is issued with a deportation order, they lose the right to work and can no longer renew their Temporary Residence Card (TRC).

People who are granted refugee status, subsidiary protection status and permission to remain are able to register their new immigration permission and get an Immigration Residence Permit also known as an IRP Card (*See page 12 for more info). Refugees and (usually) people with subsidiary protection status usually don't need national passports from their own countries in order to register. The letter (sometimes known as papers/Minister's letter/declaration letter) granting the person status will clearly state which status the person has been granted.

What is the difference between the refugee status, subsidiary protection and permission to remain?

1. People with refugee status are granted the highest form of protection in Ireland. It means that they have better access to Irish citizenship (can apply after 3 years), can apply for Geneva Convention Travel Documents which allows for short-term travel to some other countries and are eligible for family reunification.
2. People with subsidiary protection status have the middle tier form of protection. Although they can apply for travel documents, they can't travel without visas. They have to wait for 5 years to apply for citizenship however they are able to apply for family reunification.
3. People with permission to remain have the lowest form of protection. They don't have a right to travel documents (can only apply in exceptional circumstances) and cannot apply for family reunification.



2. SUPPORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS (ASYLUM SEEKERS)

> "Education means everything to me, it something I know that [it] would help me be better, help society be better."
>
> Jeannette*, young person

> My life was in limbo for a long time. Going to college is the key to unlock my dreams.
>
> **Nadia* young person**

Access to education for people in the International Protection system

There have been several positive developments in recent years for people in the international protection process who want to access education. This section will set out some of the options available:

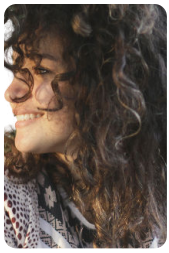
1. Student Support Scheme for Asylum Seekers

The Student Support Scheme for Asylum Seekers is for students who are in the protection system or at the permission to remain (but not deportation order) stage and who want to enrol in an approved Post Leaving Certificate course or an approved undergraduate course.

The student must have been 3 or more years in the international protection system in Ireland by a set date (For the 2021/2022 academic year the cut-off date to have accumulated 3 years of residence is the 31st August 2021). There is no requirement for the student to have attended primary or secondary school in Ireland.

The Student Support Scheme provides an equivalent level of financial support as the SUSI grant. The student can apply for the Student Support Grant even if they didn't qualify for support in their first year of study.

Case Study: Allia



Allia and her famiy apply for international protection (asylum) in Ireland in October 2017. She sat her Leaving Certificate in June 2020 and was accepted into a university course. Although Allia was in the international protection system, she didn't qualify for the Student Support Scheme for Asylum Seekers as she only been 2 years and 10 months in the international protection system as of the 31st August.

Allia applied for and was granted a Sanctuary Scholarship from the university she applied to so she was able to enrol in her first year. By August 2021, Allia has completed her first year of university and can apply for the Student Support Grant as she has been in the system for 3 years and 10 months. Allia applies for the Student Support Grant for her second year of study. As she cannot receive both the Sanctuary Scholarship and the Student Support Grant, Allia chooses to accept the Student Support Grant as it offers a higher rate of financial support.

> I have a lot to give to the community. I ask everyone in power to please help unlock my dreams and [to] grant me access to education.
>
> **Yewande* young person**

2. Sanctuary Scholarships

A number of universities, colleges and other education institutes across Ireland offer scholarships to students in the international protection system to enrol in their undergraduate courses. Each university/IT/college sets out their own criteria for eligibility to the scholarship. These application processes normally open in springtime and close in the summer. Demand for these scholarships usually exceeds supply.

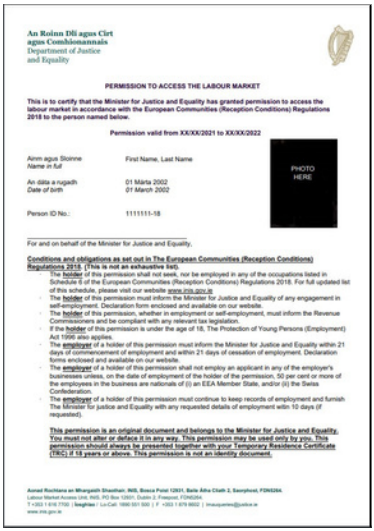
TIP: The Irish Refugee Council have an excellent online resource Education in Ireland: A Guide to Further and Higher Education updated regularly with details of scholarships.

3. Post Leaving Certificate Courses

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses are full-time programmes for young people who have completed their Leaving Certificate and for adults returning to education. In March 2021, the Minister for Further and Higher Education and the Minister for Integration announced that people in the international protection process who have a Labour Market Access Permit (permission to work) can enrol in PLC courses without paying the higher rate of fees (€3,600 - €4,000+).

4. Further Education and Training for Jobseekers

Jobseekers can access further education and training through their local INTREO office. Since July 2018, international protection applicants who have a Labour Market Access Permit can access the same further education and training resources available to other jobseekers.



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice
and Equality

PERMISSION TO ACCESS THE LABOUR MARKET

This is to certify that the Minister for Justice and Equality has granted permission to access the labour market in accordance with the European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018 to the person named below.

Permission valid from XX/XX/2021 to XX/XX/2022

Ainm agus Sloinne
Name in full
First Name, Last Name

An dáta a rugadh
Date of birth
01 Márta 2002
01 March 2002

PHOTO HERE

Person ID No.:
1111111-18

For and on behalf of the Minister for Justice and Equality.

Conditions and obligations as set out in The European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018. (This is not an exhaustive list).

- The holder of this permission shall not seek, nor be employed in any of the occupations listed in Schedule 5 of the European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018. For full updated list of this schedule, please visit our website www.inis.gov.ie
- The holder of this permission must inform the Minister for Justice and Equality of any engagement in self-employment. Declaration form enclosed and available on our website.
- The holder of this permission, whether in employment or self-employment, must inform the Revenue Commissioners and be compliant with any relevant tax legislation.
- If the holder of this permission is under the age of 18, The Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996 also applies.
- The employer of a holder of this permission must inform the Minister for Justice and Equality within 21 days of commencement of employment and within 21 days of cessation of employment. Declaration forms enclosed and available on our website.
- The employer of a holder of this permission shall not employ an applicant in any of the employer's businesses unless, on the date of employment of the holder of the permission, 50 per cent or more of the employees in the business are nationals of (i) an EEA Member State, and/or (ii) the Swiss Confederation.
- The employer of a holder of this permission must continue to keep records of employment and furnish The Minister for Justice and Equality with any requested details of employment within 10 days (if requested).

This permission is an original document and belongs to the Minister for Justice and Equality. You must not alter or deface it in any way. This permission may be used only by you. This permission should always be presented together with your Temporary Residence Certificate (TRC) if 18 years or above. This permission is not an identity document.

Aonad Rochtana an Mhargaidh Shaothair, INIS, Bosca Poist 12031, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Saorstheat, FDN2264.
Labour Market Access Unit, INIS, PO Box 12031, Dublin 2, Freestat, FDN2264.
T +353 1 616 7700 | leoghlinn / Lo-Call: 1890 551 500 | F +353 1 679 9922 | lmaqueries@justice.ie
www.inis.gov.ie

Explainer: What is a Labour Market Access Permit?

Labour Market Access Permits (LMAP) were introduced in 2018. International protection applicants who have been in the process for 6 months and who haven't yet received a decision from the International Protection Office can apply for a permit.

We recommend that people apply for a permit as soon as they become eligible as you can't apply for a first time permit once you have received your first decision however you can renew a permit once you already hold one.

3. IMMIGRATION

“I think all in all we just need people to educate us and tell us from the start [how] our status/ immigration status will hinder us from furthering our education or in general what comes with our status. The good and the bad because realising too late is what causes students/ immigrant students to fall back in life.”

Debbie*, young person

> "I don't think [social workers] even understand... what a visa is... I don't think they even know..."
>
> **Ruth* young person**

Understanding residency permissions can be a challenge. (For the purpose of this section we'll use 'residency permission' to describe the type of immigration status that someone has). Lots of people struggle to understand why they might not have the same rights or access to services as their counterparts. Some of this confusion arises from the fact that people see the 'stamp number' on an Immigration Residence Permit (IRP Card) and think that this is all the information they need. In this section we'll try to demystify the language and explain how to go about finding out what someone's residency permission is.

Why is it important to understand residency permissions?

Although there are far more legally resident non-EEA migrants living in Ireland than people in the international protection system, their rights are often not understood. The first step as a young person or as a teacher/social worker or volunteer supporting a migrant young person to access education is to understand what their residency permission is. Migrants do not automatically qualify for State supports eg SUSI grants or housing. The type of residency permission a young person will determine what, if any, education supports they can access.

In Nasc's experience young people from migrant or asylum-seeking backgrounds are often unaware that they don't qualify for financial supports such as SUSI until they receive a letter from the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) refusing their application for a grant. By having this knowledge in advance, young people have the opportunity to look for other supports or take other measures to get to their education goal.

What do we mean when we say residency permission?

When we talk about residency permissions we mean the basis on which someone was granted their immigration status in Ireland and the rights and conditions that come with that permission. We mentioned some of these residency permissions in the section on International Protection ie refugee, subsidiary protection or permission to remain. These are only a few of the many types of residence permission possible - many children and young people have residency here based on their family relationships eg family member of a refugee.

It is not important for most people to be aware of all these residency permissions. What is important is being aware that lots of different types of residency permissions exist, migrants can have different rights and entitlements based on the type of immigration permission they have and how to go about finding out what permission a person holds.

Note: To find out which residency permissions qualify to apply for the SUSI grant skip to the section on SUSI grants (page 14).

> We shouldn't say, "Oh, we only help the people who have [leave] to remain or who have [an] Irish passport"
>
> **Vishram* young person**

What information is available from an IRP Card?

An Immigration Residence Permit (IRP) Card (formerly known as a GNIB Card) is a card that is given to non-EEA migrants over the age of 16 when registering their legal immigration permission.

The card has some important biographical information including name, date of birth, country of nationality but for immigration purposes the two most important things we look at are:

1. Stamp Number
2. Notes

In the sample IRP card here we can see that John Smith has a Stamp 1G and has 'permission to work'.

Sample IRP Card

The most common stamps young people have are 'Stamp 3' or 'Stamp 4.' Unfortunately these stamps on IRP cards are not as straightforward. This is especially the case when we examine Stamp 4 IRP Cards.

Migrants with a wide variety of immigration statuses (including refugee status, children of Irish nationals, family members of refugees, permission to remain and many more) which confer different rights and entitlements, can all hold a Stamp 4. A Stamp 4 on an IRP Card is only enough information to tell us that the holder is allowed to be employed and to open their own business. When it comes to finding out what their rights are we need to find out what their residency permission is.

Finding out residency permissions

Nasc's experience is that young people themselves do not always know how they got their immigration status or have the technical legal language to explain it. Their residency permission might well depend on that of their parents or family member or, if they were in care, their social worker may have helped to secure their immigration status. They may have very limited knowledge of even the circumstances of their first arrival in Ireland. This is particularly the case when there has been a breakdown of the family relationship and the young person can't get this information from their parents or guardians.

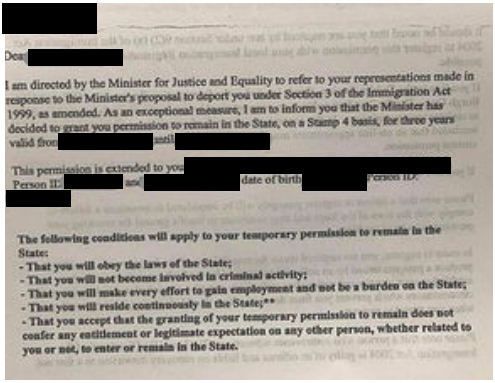
The best way to find out what residency permission someone has is to ask to see their immigration letter. This letter is sometimes referred to as 'papers', Minister's letter, declaration, grant letter and is the letter people take with them when they renew their IRP Card.

> "[The lawyer] was trying to get my folder, my file from the system and [the Department of Justice] wouldn't let him take it. Because according to them there was a third party as well and that was my auntie."
>
> **Sara* young person, care-leaver**

Checking the immigration letter

Sometimes immigration letters will be very clear and explicitly say what residency permission the holder has. When a person has been granted refugee status, subsidiary protection or permission to remain this will clearly be written on the letter.

In the example here, the letter mentions Section 3 of the Immigration Act, 1999 and Stamp 4 in the first paragraph. The important part here is Section 3 of the Immigration Act. We now know that this was the basis for the Minister deciding to grant residency.



[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I am directed by the Minister for Justice and Equality to refer to your representations made in response to the Minister's proposal to deport you under Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999, as amended. As an exceptional measure, I am to inform you that the Minister has decided to grant you permission to remain in the State, on a Stamp 4 basis, for three years valid from [redacted] until [redacted]

This permission is extended to you [redacted] Person ID: [redacted] and [redacted] date of birth [redacted] Person ID: [redacted]

The following conditions will apply to your temporary permission to remain in the State:

- **That you will obey the laws of the State;**
- **That you will not become involved in criminal activity;**
- **That you will make every effort to gain employment and not be a burden on the State;**
- **That you will reside continuously in the State;****
- **That you accept that the granting of your temporary permission to remain does not confer any entitlement or legitimate expectation on any other person, whether related to you or not, to enter or remain in the State.**

Sample: Temporary Permission Residency Letter

Not all letters will explicitly state the legislation the Minister has decided to grant the permission under. However, a careful read of the letter will often give you the information you need. If the holder has been granted residency based on their family relationship with a sponsor eg a child or parent the letter should state this and will often require the holder to bring the sponsor with them to register for their IRP Card.

Children may not have their own immigration letter and may be listed on one of their parent's letters. This is often the case when an immigration or international protection application is made as a family and the young person was under 16 when the application was granted.

What happens if there is no immigration letter?

Sometimes even legally resident migrants don't have an immigration letter. If a young person is over 18, has an IRP Card but doesn't know what their residency permission is there are a few steps they can take:

1. Write to the Department of Justice and ask for clarification
2. Submit a Subject Access Request (SAR) to the Department of Justice. Data Protection laws in Ireland mean that you have the right to access the data held about you. Any information on the file about anyone else eg other family members will be redacted.

If the young person is under 18, they may need consent from a parent or guardian.

SUSI GRANTS

> “At the time there wasn’t anyone [ ] connected to me that had any knowledge of why and how I didn’t get susi, I didn’t even know why, I think if I had more knowledge of the situation I could’ve overcome it, I’m still trying to overcome it.”
>
> **Marjani*, young person**

> I've been in the Irish foster care system for ten years. I see all my friends go to college. Why can't I?
>
> **Addie* young person**

The Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is the main grant scheme in Ireland providing means-tested financial support to students to attend third level or higher education. The grant is means-tested and the amount of financial support depends on the family or the young person's income.

Note: This section is focused on legally resident migrants and not international protection applicants as they have a separate scheme. See the Supports for International Protection Applicants section for more.

The SUSI grant is not available to everyone living in Ireland. Firstly, you must be able to prove that you have lived in Ireland or an EEA Member State for 3 of the past 5 years. Secondly, each year, the State passes legal regulations to set out who can be considered a student ie who is eligible to apply for a grant. Together with the legislation - the Student Support Act, 2011, the Student Support Regulations 2021 set out the immigration and nationality criteria that determine which migrants are eligible to apply to SUSI for a grant

What are the immigration/residency requirements for non-EEA nationals?

The list of people who currently qualify are:

- Refugee status or have a residency status as a family member of a refugee
- Subsidiary protection status or have a residency status as a family member of a person with subsidiary protection.
- Residency status as the family member of an EU/EEA citizen.
- Residency status as the spouse, civil partner or dependent child of an Irish citizen.
- Leave to remain/Temporary permission to remain granted under Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999.
- Permission to remain granted under Section 49 of the International Protection Act 2015.
- Humanitarian Leave to Remain (predates the Immigration Acts and is very rare)
- UK nationals (post-Brexit are no longer EEA citizens)

Looking at the list of eligible residency statuses, you can see that the list is quite short. Many migrants will have a Stamp 4 IRP Card that looks just like the IRP Cards that the people with qualifying statuses hold, but will not qualify. This is why it is so important to check the residency permission.

In the next section we look at some case studies from young people who don't qualify for SUSI because they don't have an eligible immigration status.

CASE STUDIES (STAMP 3 & FOSTER CARE) HOW TO HELP

"It stopped me from excelling in my education, due to not getting [a] susi grant I did courses that I didn't have interests [in] because I knew I would take some time before I'll be able to get my Irish naturalisation in order to get the grant"

Carlos,*,young person

> I thought that once I had the stamp 4, I'll be able to go to college... I can go to college but the expense is too much. It's like, €8,000 a year... I can't get a SUSI grant with my kind of stamp 4.
>
> **Zaineb* young person, care-leaver**

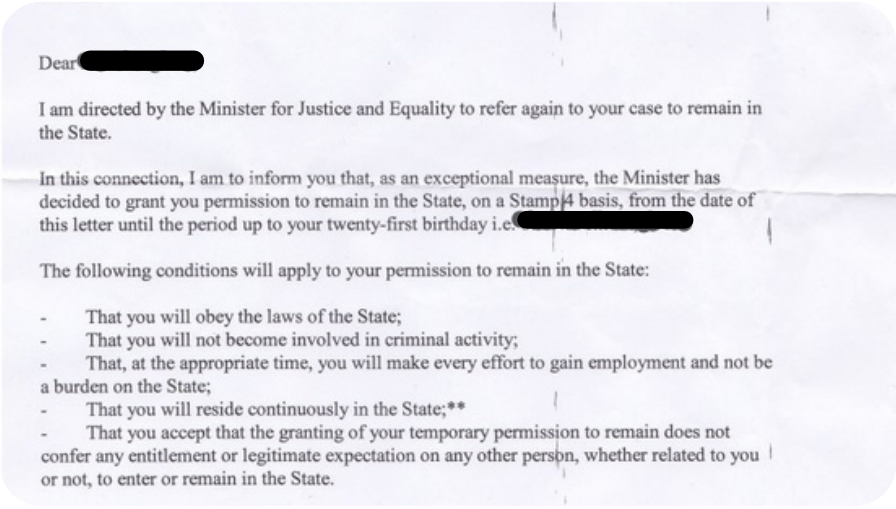
This section looks a deeper look at two categories of young people who, because they don't have an 'eligible' residency permission, cannot access SUSI grants and find themselves unable to afford higher education:

- Young people who are granted an 'exceptional Stamp 4' while in care, victim of trafficking, homeless or following a family breakdown
- Young people who have a Stamp 3 IRP Card

This is by no means an exhaustive list however these young people make up the majority of those accessing Nasc's for support with education.

What is an 'exceptional Stamp 4'

An 'exceptional Stamp 4' is residency permission that is often granted to young people in care when the Minister for Justice uses their power under section 4(7) of the Immigration Act, 2004 (as amended). It's not a formal legal term – it's a helpful term to between different types of residency status.



Dear [redacted]

I am directed by the Minister for Justice and Equality to refer again to your case to remain in the State.

In this connection, I am to inform you that, as an exceptional measure, the Minister has decided to grant you permission to remain in the State, on a Stamp 4 basis, from the date of this letter until the period up to your twenty-first birthday i.e. [redacted]

The following conditions will apply to your permission to remain in the State:

- That you will obey the laws of the State;
- That you will not become involved in criminal activity;
- That, at the appropriate time, you will make every effort to gain employment and not be a burden on the State;
- That you will reside continuously in the State;**
- That you accept that the granting of your temporary permission to remain does not confer any entitlement or legitimate expectation on any other person, whether related to you or not, to enter or remain in the State.

Example: Extract from an exceptional Stamp 4 letter

It's important to note that not all 'exceptional Stamp 4' letters will look like this one. The Department of Justice changes and updates template letters frequently.

> I have been always working since I was 16 or 17. I went to school, I went to college. What is the problem? What is the actual problem here... I have done a lot in my time here so why is it taking so long to get me... citizenship?
>
> Jhalil* young person

Case Study - Zee: Care Leaver (Exceptional Stamp 4)

Zee came to Ireland when he was 11 years old to live with his father David. Zee's home environment in Ireland became abusive and Zee was assigned a social worker. Tusla was granted a full care order for Zee by the time Zee was 15 and he was placed with a foster family. Zee's father cut off all contact with Zee at this point.

Zee has no idea residency status his father has and has never seen any of his father's immigration documents. These details were not collected or recorded on Zee's social work file. When Zee turns 16 and needs to register for an IRP Card, his social worker helps him to secure a residency status - an exceptional Stamp 4. Zee is able to register and has Stamp 4 on his IRP Card and is happy that he can start part-time work. After Zee sits his Leaving Certificate at 18, he realises that he doesn't qualify for a SUSI grant and the university course he wants to do will cost over €12,000 in fees.

Question: What might have made a difference here?
Ideally before a care order was in place, Zee's father's immigration details would have been noted. If David was an Irish citizen or a declared refugee or had subsidiary protection status, then that might have impacted the type of status that Zee was able to secure at 16.

If David had been an Irish citizen and was willing to cooperate, it's possible that an application for Irish citizenship for Zee could have been submitted and Zee might become an Irish citizen before turning 18.

Tips from young people formerly in care: When a child who is not an EEA citizen is being supported by a social worker, check to see what documents are available for the child. Things like birth certificates and passports are extremely difficult for young people to obtain themselves. Check:

- Does the child has a passport, is it in date and if not, can it safely be renewed?
- Is it possible to get copies of the parent or guardian's immigration documents?
- If the child is over 16, do they have an IRP Card and if so, is that IRP card up to date?
- Is it possible for the parent/guardian to apply for Irish citizenship for the child? This is worth investigating particularly if the child was born in Ireland or if one of the parents or guardians has naturalised as an Irish citizen.

> "Because I have a stamp 3 residence permit I'll have to pay over €4,000 to be able to gain access to further education."
>
> Jose* young person

Case Study - Gloria (minor): Stamp 3 holder

Gloria has lived in Ireland since she was 5 months old. She has a Stamp 3 IRP Card based on her father's residency permission as the parent of an Irish citizen child (Gloria's younger sister is an Irish citizen). The Stamp 3 means that Gloria cannot work in Ireland. This means that Gloria, now 16, is solely dependent on her father, who has a disability and unable to work.

Gloria did very well in her Junior Certificate and really wants to go to university to study Biochemistry after her Leaving Certificate. Her teachers are confident that Gloria can achieve the points she needs to gain entry. However, Gloria is aware that she cannot access a SUSI grant and would have to pay up to €16,000 p/a to attend university. This is completely unaffordable for Gloria and her family. Gloria risks being left in a limbo where she is blocked from both work and education when after her Leaving Certificate.

Explainer: What is a Stamp 3 IRP Card?

A Stamp 3 allows the holder to live in Ireland but to work. It's normally given to people who are a dependent child or spouse in a family unit. Many young Stamp 3 holders will not have their own residency letter so it's important to look at their parents' residency permissions.

Question: What can be done to help Gloria?

1. Encourage Gloria's father to check whether he is eligible to apply for Irish citizenship. If he becomes an Irish citizen before Gloria turns 18 then he can apply for Gloria's citizenship. This is usually a much easier and faster (and less expensive!) citizenship application process than for adults.
2. If Gloria's father becomes a citizen after she turns 18, this also benefits her. She can upgrade her residency permission to Stamp 4 on the basis that she is a dependent child of an Irish citizen and this will mean that she will qualify for SUSI. (See page 15)
3. If Gloria turns 18 and has not applied for or become an Irish citizen, she can (before she turns 23) use her father's 'reckonable residence' (accumulated legal residence that counts towards the 5 year requirement for citizenship) to make her own application for citizenship.
4. In the meantime an application could be made to the Department of Justice for an 'exceptional Stamp 4' for Gloria. Although this permission won't give her access to SUSI (see pages 17 & 18), it will allow her to work. This application is at the discretion of the Department of Justice but a letter outlining her father's disability, the strained family finances and Gloria's desire to find part-time work to help save for her future education while she continues in secondary school might be persuasive.

NOTES

Nasc, Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre
34 Paul Street, Cork City, T12 W14H

www.nascireland.org

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> "The [social workers] were like, "It's time to let you [ ] go, you can fly now."
>
> Fortune,*,young person

Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

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