



north west
regional college

Derry-Londonderry • Limavady • Strabane

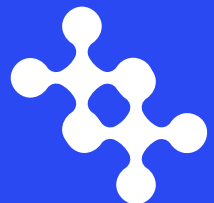


International Student Booklet

Application Guide

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Why choose NWRC?

North West Regional College (NWRC) is an outward and forward-looking College that is internationally connected; we have set our sights on a future where learning will become truly international while also being individual to each learner.

We welcome student applicants from across the globe.

We are a large further and higher education college situated in the city of Derry~ Londonderry in Northern Ireland. We are one of the UK's major colleges and have over 100 years' experience in delivering high quality vocational education and training.

We enrol thousands of students each year and help them achieve their personal, educational and career goals.

<https://www.nwrc.ac.uk/about/the-college/why-choose-nwrc>



Meet * **our** International Team



Yanna Ladopoulou

*International Office
Administrator*



Magda Boyle

International Manager

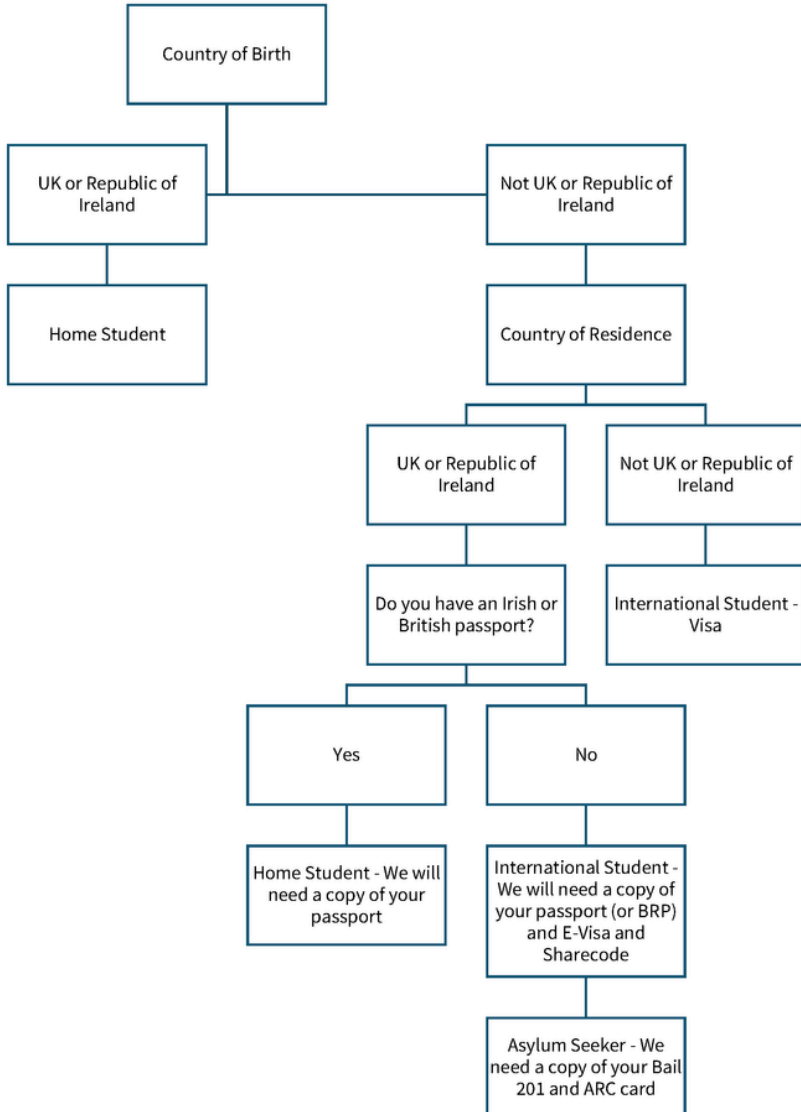


Contact Details

Email: international@nwr.ac.uk

AM I AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

Follow the diagram below to check if you are considered an International Student and which documents you will need to provide.





DISCLAIMERS AND STATEMENTS

1. **All information included in this booklet is subject to change based on Department for the Economy (DFE), Home Office - UK Visas and Immigration and North West Regional College guidance, policy and regulation updates.**
2. Copies of your supporting documentation need to be **Clear, Scanned, Coloured and in PDF format.**



International Student Guide (Student Visa)

How to apply

International Student applicants can now **apply online**, directly from our college's website - NWRC - How to Apply.

You can find the “**apply now**” button on each individual course's page.

Apply now ▶

You will be asked to make an account using your personal email and password.

Course entry requirements

Entry requirements vary from course to course - course entry requirements can be found towards the end of the course listing.

The entry requirements section will look something like this:

Entry Requirements

UK Requirements

4 GCSEs (Grade C or above) including a Science subject, plus English and Maths.

ROI Requirements

4 OLCs (Grade O5 or above) including a Science subject, plus English and Maths; OR Leaving Cert Applied - (Merit) to include one

International Student Guide (Student Visa)

What can I apply for?

As an International Student you are eligible to apply for any Full-Time course that is Level 3 or above. Be advised that Apprenticeships and Traineeship programmes are not eligible courses for our International Students.

You can find a list of our courses here: <https://www.nwrc.ac.uk/courses>

If you are not sure which course would be the best fit for you, you can book an appointment to discuss course options with our Careers Academy by emailing them directly at careers@nwrc.ac.uk.

Your qualifications

You can upload copies of your qualifications to support your application.

We require, **scanned, clear copies of your qualifications in PDF format.** We will forward your qualifications to our Careers Academy so they can check comparability against UK qualifications and check that you meet course entry requirements. After checks are complete, we will contact you with the next steps.

Be advised that in a few cases, especially for courses validated by **Ulster University, Queens University Belfast or Open University**, we also have to contact Curriculum for a decision – in these cases there may be a delay in our response to you.

International Student Guide (Student Visa)

English Language Proficiency

As an International Student, you will have to prove your English Language proficiency. This is part of the Home Office compliance regulations as well as a requirement for Student Visa. There is a list of English speaking countries that are exempt from this. You can find the list here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english>

Recently we have been getting an influx of enquiries in regards to exemptions from English Language proficiency requirements from Nigerian students. Please be advised that **Nigeria is not an exempt country at this time.**

For all courses under degree level, we can only accept approved **SELT** results (Secure English Language Test). You can find more information here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt> This would typically be in the form of **IELTS** or equivalent. As per Home Office compliance, the grades to be accepted in **Level 3 or Level 4 courses have to be a minimum of 4.5 across all language competencies – Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening (B1)**. The grades to be accepted in **Level 5 or higher courses have to be a minimum of 5.5 across all language competencies – Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening (B2)**.

Be advised that for courses validated with **Ulster University, Queens University Belfast or Open University**, we will comply with their English Language requirements. In most cases, this would be a **minimum of 5.5 across the board.**



Fees

International Student course fees are **£7500 per year for all courses**. When you receive your conditional offer you will be required to pay a **£3500 deposit** to secure your place on the course and the remaining balance must be paid before the 1st day of your course.

Be advised that **our college does not offer instalments at this time** - the fees have to be paid in full before the first day of the course.

Accommodation in Northern Ireland



As part of your conditional offer you need to **provide us with a Northern Ireland address**. Please be advised that NWRC **does not offer accommodation or accommodation services**.

There are many student rentals around the area, you can take a look in websites such as:

- * [Student Rentals in Derry City Area - PropertyPal](#)
- * <https://www.propertynews.com/property-for-rent/derry/>
- * [Derry ~ Londonderry Student Accommodation](#)
- * [Student Rentals In County Londonderry](#)
- * [Student Rentals | Student Accommodation Derry | Magee Accommodation](#)
- * [Derry Student Lettings | Derry | Facebook](#)

This list is not exhaustive. If you plan on living outside the North West region, please consider commuting distance and travel times to and from the college. For example, those living in Belfast, would have a minimum of 2+ hours commute each way. NWRC does not give recommendations for accommodation - we have only included these as a general guide for the convenience of student applicants.



Conditional Offer and Bank Statement

Once you receive your Conditional Offer you will be asked to provide a **bank statement** to show that you will be able to financially support yourself for the duration of your studies. As per Home Office regulations, your bank account **must include £1,171 per month (for up to 9 months) along with your fees and the money has to be there for at least 28 days.**

The bank account provided must be in the applicants name, or a parent/guardian's name. In the case of the latter, the applicant's guardian must provide a supporting letter, detailing the relationship between them and the student .

You can find more details here:

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/money>.

CAS Number

Once everything above has been completed and your deposit has been paid, we will request a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) and issue you with this for your student visa application.

You can find more details on the Student Visa process here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Please be advised that NWRC does not offer advice on Visas or the Visa application process.





Right to Work - Work Hours

For qualifications **under degree level**, you are allowed to work a **maximum of 10 hours per week during term time**. Outside of term time – which includes holidays and the time before you start your course – you are allowed to work full time.

You can find more details on work hours here:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student-advice/working/student-work/>

Visa Extension

If you would like to continue studying at **below degree level, you can extend your visa up to 2 years in total**.

However, in order to extend your visa, **you will need to apply for a course that is a higher level than the one you did initially**. For instance, during year 1 you can do a level 3 course and then apply for a 1 year level 4 course.

Changing institutions would require a new visa application.

Further Information

If you have any questions or require further information, feel free to contact us on international@nwrc.ac.uk.

Our working hours are **Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm GMT and Friday 9am to 4pm GMT – excluding bank holidays**. We will do our best to get back to you within 5 working days but it may be more during busy periods.

International Student Guide (E-Visa)

If you currently live in the UK, do not have an Irish or British passport and your country of birth was outside the UK, then you will need to provide us with a copy of your **passport** or other form of **valid ID** and your **E-Visa share-code**.

If you do not know how to access your share-code, follow the steps below:

1. Log in to your account on: **<https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>**
2. Under your picture you should see the option to "get a share code"
3. When asked why you're requesting the share code, choose the option "*to prove my immigration status for anything else*". **It is important to remember we are trying to check your right to study and NOT your right to stay or work.**

Please be mindful of point 3, as we often get share-codes that are generated to prove the student's right to work. When this happens, we don't have access to the student's E-Visa; this will cause delays in processing your application.

Important Note for Republic of Ireland residents

If you currently reside in the Republic of Ireland, do not have an Irish or British passport, your country of birth is outside the UK and do not have an E-Visa, then you will have to take the route of Student Visa. However, if you have applied for naturalization and are awaiting a decision, we can progress your enrolment if you provide us with proof of your naturalization application.



Fees

As an International Student you will most likely have to pay International Fees. This applies even if you currently reside in the country, based on your visa. The International fees are:

Full-Time Courses:

·£7500 per year for all courses

Part-Time Courses:

·£15 per Course hour for all courses

For example, if you are studying a course that runs for 36 weeks, one day a week, for 3 hours then fees will be:

$36 \times 3 \times £15 = £1620$ - 36 weeks x 3 hours per week x £15 per hour

International Fees Exclusions:

International fees do not apply for those with:

- Refugee Status
- Settled or Pre-settled status

If you hold any of the above, home fees apply.



ASYLUM SEEKER INFORMATION

If you hold Asylum Seeker status, you need to forward us a copy of:

1. The front and back of your ARC card.
2. All the pages of your Bail 201 document.

NWRC may offer Asylum Seeker scholarships.

Contact us on international@nwrc.ac.uk for more information.



— Further Education College of —
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary
Proud to be a place of Sanctuary

In recognition of its work and ongoing commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of being a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution

North West Regional College
is hereby awarded the
FE College of Sanctuary Award
June 2025



Signed on behalf of City of Sanctuary UK



International Student Guide (E-Visa)

English Language Requirements

As an International Student you will be required to prove your English Language proficiency.

Entry requirements for English proficiency per course level

- Non accredited courses - Good understanding of spoken and written English
- Further Education Courses - Minimum of B1
- Higher Education courses - Minimum of B2

Minimum for Further Education courses:

- GCSE English
- Level 2 Essential Skills Literacy
- ESOL Entry Level 3 FE courses (Equivalent to B1 in Common European Framework of Reference for Languages scale)
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) B1 achieved through one of the following English Languages tests: IELTS, Pearson, Trinity College London, LANGUAGECERT, TOEFL, Cambridge, Oxford
- A minimum of 1 academic year completed study in a UK or ROI school or FE college to have taken place in the last 5 calendar years.

International Student Guide (E-Visa)

English Language Requirements cont.

Minimum for Higher education courses:

- CEFR B2 achieved through IELTS, Pearson, LANGUAGECERT, Trinity College London (for students applying from within UK), PSI Services UK Ltd (for students applying from outside UK)
- ESOL Level 1 (B2) for HE courses.
- A degree, awarded by an UK institution, that was taught in English and is of a higher level than the course applied for.
- Ecctis assessment if the applicant has completed a degree taught in English in an institution outside of the UK or ROI.

For courses validated by partner universities, applicants must meet the university's entry requirements, including those relating to English language proficiency.

If an applicant from within the UK does not hold any of the above qualifications and is unable to afford the cost of a SELT test, they may be offered an in-house assessment by the discretion of Head of Client Services, or the International Manager or the Curriculum Manager for the course applied for.

What can I apply for?

As an International Student that currently lives in the UK you can apply for **any** course, **excluding apprenticeships**. Be advised that you are eligible to apply for traineeships, but you will not be able to progress to the relevant apprenticeship, unless you hold **refugee** or **settled** status and have been living in Northern Ireland for a minimum of **three years**.

If you hold **refugee** or **settled** status, you are considered a **Home Student** and can apply for any course.



IMPORTANT NOTES FOR E-VISA HOLDERS

1. Please ensure that your E-Visa sharecode and your ID are sent **in the same e-mail.**
2. If you hold Refugee status and do not hold a valid form of ID, ensure you send us **your Date of Birth** along **with your sharecode in the same e-mail.**



Home Student Guide

If you have British or Irish citizenship then you are considered a Home Student.

All you will need to do is send us a clear copy of your British or Irish passport.

Please **ensure your passport is valid and currently in date** – if you have applied for a passport renewal, forward us a copy of your expired passport along with an email proving you have applied for the renewal and we can progress your application until you receive your new passport.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING
YOUR APPLICATION AND
WELCOMING YOU TO NWRC**



Website

<https://www.nwrc.ac.uk>



E-mail

international@nwrc.ac.uk

College address

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