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Global Immigration alert

June 2026

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Ireland

Ireland introduces new visa requirements for nationals of Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia

Executive summary

On 11 June 2026 Ireland's Minister of State for Migration announced the introduction of new visa requirements for nationals of Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia. Effective 15 June 2026, affected individuals must obtain a visa prior to their travel to Ireland, including for transit through the country.

Limited transitional arrangements will apply for a short period to accommodate existing travel plans. This measure aligns Ireland more closely with visa policies across the United Kingdom and Europe, and introduces additional compliance considerations for employers and individuals engaging in business travel, work or study activities.

Background

Ireland continues to review its visa policy to maintain effective immigration controls while facilitating legitimate travel for work, study and family reunification purposes. This announcement follows recent changes, including:

- The introduction of visa requirements for additional nationalities in [March 2025](#) and [May 2025](#). The full list of visa-required nationalities is available [here](#).
- The removal of appeal rights for certain short-stay visa refusals earlier in 2026

Key developments

- **New visa requirement:** Effective 15 June 2026, nationals of Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia are required to obtain a visa before their travel to Ireland. This requirement also applies to holders of diplomatic and service passports.
- **Transit visa requirement:** A visa will also be required for individuals of these nationalities who intend to transit through Ireland.

- **Transitional arrangements:** Transitional measures apply from 15 June 2026 to 14 July 2026 for certain travelers. Eligible individuals must demonstrate that:
 - They hold a valid passport.
 - They booked their travel prior to 15 June 2026.
 - Their travel occurs before 14 July 2026, supported with proof from the travel carrier.Individuals who book travel on or after 15 June 2026 must obtain a visa in advance, even if traveling within the transitional period.
- **Exemption for Irish Residence Permit (IRP) holders:** Individuals holding a valid IRP card are not required to obtain a separate visa.

Impact on employers

This development introduces immediate immigration compliance considerations for Irish-based employers and multinational organizations.

- **Business travel disruption:** Employers should anticipate short-notice travel disruptions for employees from affected countries who previously traveled visa-free, particularly where urgent travel is required.
- **Longer processing timelines:** Visa application requirements may increase lead times for business travel, intra-company transfers or onboarding activities involving foreign nationals from the affected jurisdictions.
- **Workforce planning:** Employers should review ongoing or planned assignments involving impacted nationals to ensure that appropriate visas are obtained prior to travel, particularly where activities fall within business visitor or short-term work categories.
- **Compliance and documentation:** Employers must ensure that employees traveling during the transitional period carry the required documentation, as failure to do so may result in denied boarding or refusal of entry.

- *Alignment with broader trends:* This change reflects Ireland's continued alignment with UK and European visa policies, suggesting a broader tightening of entry requirements, which may impact future workforce mobility strategies.

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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