



## STUDENT VISA FAQs

### Trinity College Dublin at Belfast

The following pages provide an overview of visas for prospective students applying to the MPhil in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation or PhD study at the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies in Belfast.

#### Will I need a UK Student Visa?

If you are an international student, you are likely to need a UK student visa to study in Belfast. This includes EU and EEA citizens (except those with settled or pre-settled status in the UK).

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#### What do I need to apply for my UK Student Visa?

- You must have accepted an unconditional offer for your course.
- A CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) provided by us.
- Valid passport.

#### Financial Requirements

Please read the financial requirements. If your country qualifies for 'differential evidence requirements' there will be fewer checks on finances but you must still be able to cover your fees and up to 9 months of living expenses and could be asked to provide evidence. Students who do not qualify for these arrangements should familiarise themselves with how much money they will need to have, for how long and in what types of bank account.

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#### When do I apply?

If applying from outside the UK, the earliest you can apply is 6 months before the start of your course (3 months if applying from inside the UK).

### How long does it take?

You should usually expect to get a decision within 3 weeks (8 weeks if applying from inside the UK).

### Can I bring dependents?

Only postgraduate research students can bring partners and children to live in the UK while they study. The Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation MPhil is a taught master's course therefore you cannot bring dependents.

### Healthcare Surcharge

As part of the visa application, a healthcare surcharge is payable, currently £776 for each 12-month period which entitles students to access the National Health Service (NHS). Please note, those applying for a visa to undertake a PhD and any dependants will need to meet the costs of the healthcare surcharge covering the full course period up-front.

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### What form does my visa take?

You will receive a digital e-visa and a share code to give to anyone who needs to verify your immigration status. Please share the code with the Belfast office of the School once available: email [sradmblst@tcd.ie](mailto:sradmblst@tcd.ie). When arriving in the UK or Ireland, you may pass through an e-passport gate depending on your nationality. Your visa is digitally connected to the passport you used for the visa application, so if renewing your passport before travelling, be sure to update details in your UK visa account. To report an error with your e-visa, for example, it says work is prohibited and you think this is wrong, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/report-error-evisa>.

### When can I travel?

It is essential that you arrive on or after the start date of your student visa, otherwise it will not be valid. We are required to know the date of your arrival in the UK and will ask that you email a copy of your flight ticket once available. In the first few weeks of term, we will also arrange to collect passports to take a copy of any entry stamps as a record of arrival date.

### Can I work alongside my studies?

Yes, normally a student visa permits working for 20 hours per week during term time and full-time during holidays. This will be shown on your visa. There are limitations to the type of work students can undertake. You cannot be self-employed, carry out

business activity or work full time during term time. This includes the summer months when you are writing your dissertation.

Please note: the Conflict Resolution course includes an optional internship, Community Learning and Reflective Practice, and this is covered by the student visa. It is also worth knowing that other additional study outside your main course is permitted, such as evening classes.

### **How long can I stay on a UK student visa?**

Students are normally granted leave to arrive in the UK a month before the course start date and stay for 4 months after the course ends. The date of orientation and the start of teaching in September varies from year to year. The CAS requires a start and end date and for this we use the academic year dates of 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> August. Orientation and other key dates will be confirmed as soon as available.

### **Can I apply for the Graduate Visa after my studies?**

Currently students can apply for the graduate visa once they have successfully completed their course, and this has been verified by the School. You must be inside the UK and apply before your student visa expiry date. You can't leave the country while your application is being processed as it will be invalidated, so make sure to take any travel plans into account. For MPhil students the visa is for two years post-study, for PhD students it is three years.

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### **Can you tell me more about my CAS on the UKVI system?**

The CAS remains a live document on the UKVI system for duration of the period of study and some changes to student circumstances need to be reported. These include: not starting the course having obtained a visa, deferring to the following year, withdrawing from the course, moving to another sponsor (university), and as noted above, successful course completion.

### **Will I need an Irish visa to study in Belfast?**

No! Attendance at the main Trinity campus in Dublin is not required as the whole course is delivered in Belfast. For those students who do wish to travel to Dublin, most will not need a visa, but there may be a requirement to obtain a short Irish visitor C visa for up to 3 months for some students depending on nationality. In addition, do ensure that if you plan to arrive via Dublin airport at the start of your studies and are visa-required for Ireland, that you obtain the necessary visa before travelling. It is worth noting that as part of the Irish visitor visa application you will need to post off

your passport so do consider any travel plans. For example, if travelling home for Christmas, wait until returning to Belfast before applying. A Dublin field trip normally takes place in March/April, so applying for an Irish visitor visa in January would work well.

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## FURTHER RESOURCES

- A Guide for International Students is available on the [studying in Belfast page](#).
- [UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)](#) provides comprehensive and up to date advice and information on UK student visas.