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03



# GENERAL INFORMATION

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*In this chapter you will find general information if you are going to the USA on a visit. It includes information on bringing money to the USA, forms of identification you may need and information on travel insurance.*

### **What forms of Identification should I bring?**

You should bring:

- Your passport - The passport must be machine-readable. You should check to make sure it will not go out of date during your stay in the USA otherwise permission to stay will not be granted beyond the validity date on your passport
- Your driver's licence or an International driver's licence if you have one
- Your International Student Card if you have one.

## **What is the best advice on bringing money to the USA?**

If you are visiting the USA it is advisable not to carry large amounts of cash so where possible use a credit card or travellers' cheques. Certain Irish bankcards can be used in American ATM bank machines. You should check with your bank to see if your bankcard will work before you leave (If the card has "Cirrus Maestro" on it, it will work in the U.S. ATM's). If you are planning to use your Irish bankcard in the USA, you should have a backup plan in case you lose your bankcard or if it is "eaten" by an ATM machine, for example, you could have some travellers cheques that you can cash in an emergency if you cannot use your ATM card.

## **What contact details should I bring?**

You should bring contact details for anyone you could contact in the USA if you run into difficulties. Before you go you should make sure names, addresses (including the correct zip code of the address) and telephone numbers are up to date and complete.

You should also make sure that you have the correct area codes for telephone numbers for the person you can contact, the full name of city, suburb, town for that person/s.

## **Do I need to have travel insurance if I am going to the USA for a short stay?**

Yes it is advisable to have travel insurance if you are going to visit the USA for a short stay, as the cost of medical treatment in the US is very expensive. Any Irish citizen who goes to another EU country for a short period can apply for a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which would cover the cost of emergency, however as EU regulations do not apply in the US, there is no such scheme available. You should get temporary health cover before you leave Ireland, for example, through your travel agent, bank or credit union. If you have private health insurance in Ireland you should contact your insurer to see if they offer worldwide coverage. You will usually pay some contribution towards treatment no matter what insurance coverage you have.

