

10 TIPS ON RETURNING TO IRELAND

Planning a move back to Ireland?

Here's what 400 recently returned Irish emigrants want you to know about making a successful return.

1. Research & budget in advance

- Be prepared for a lot of paperwork and bureaucracy
- Bring all relevant documents
- Trial a short time stay in Ireland before moving back permanently
- Apply for any relevant tax refunds
- Keep your foreign bank account open for tax returns
- Seek professional advice
- Apply for schools before return

2. Arrange Employment

- Try to arrange employment before your return
- You might need to re-skill
- Career opportunities may be limited and wages may be lower



3. Have savings

- The cost of living can be expensive, particularly in Dublin
- It can take time to access help from public services, including social welfare
- You'll find information on social welfare payments at www.welfare.ie



To qualify for most social welfare payments, you'll have to satisfy the **Habitual Residence Condition**. See www.migrantproject.ie for more information.

4. Arrange accommodation before return

- Have a place to stay when you return, even if it's with family
- Accommodation in Dublin and other urban areas can be very expensive so start your search as early as possible

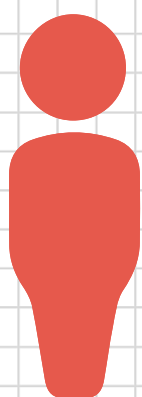


5. Have realistic expectations

- Commit and prepare mentally
- Make the right choice for you
- Retain your contacts abroad in case you ever consider emigrating again
- Be aware that some of your former support networks may have moved on
- Be prepared for weather, move back in spring or summer
- Think of your return as re-emigration

6. It takes time to resettle

- Take time to readjust to the way of life in Ireland
- Make of a list of challenges and how you might respond to these
- Planning a trip back to your country of return can help with the transition



Give yourself time on both sides to sort things out

7. Embrace changes

- Embrace the change in yourself, in Ireland as a country and in the culture
- Know that it might be challenging
- You might experience a culture shock
- See it as a new start
- Enjoy getting to know the country again and travel

8. Be prepared for the emotional impact

- It can be emotionally draining to leave established networks in your adopted home
- Talk to others who have done it
- Take time with the decision and think about the reasons for and against it
- Have a prepared mind-set, keep positive, and have specific goals
- Look after your mental health

9. Shop around for car insurance

- Car insurance can be expensive in Ireland
- Access can depend on experience and exchanging a foreign driving licence
- It can take 12 months to exchange a foreign driving licence in some cases
- Try to arrange to be a named driver on an existing policy if possible

10. Reach out to family for support

- Speak to family and friends in Ireland about what life is like here
- Reconnect with friends before you return and make time to make new ones



Non EU Spouses, Civil Partners and Defacto Partners of Irish citizens need immigration permission to live and work in Ireland. Find out more about this at www.migrantproject.ie

This information is adapted from the 'Home For Good?' report by **Crosscare Migrant Project**.

Find out more about returning to Ireland at our website:

www.migrantproject.ie

You can also find us on



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