



CAMPUS WATCH



An Garda Síochána. Keeping People Safe

STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY BOOKLET

Garda National Community Engagement Bureau



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www.garda.ie



Campus Watch

Foreword from Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman

Assistant Commissioner Roads Policing and Community Engagement



Campus Watch is an initiative, which aims to increase security awareness among third level students. Achieving this aim presents a challenge, given that, as indicated by the Public Attitudes Survey, young adults tend to be less concerned about becoming victims of crime and less inclined to perceive national crime as a significant issue. This tends to be the opposite with older people.

We in An Garda Síochána are committed in playing our part in keeping people safe at campus communities in Ireland. As students embark on their journey within the educational landscape, it is important to acknowledge the foundational importance of safety and security within the campus communities. The pursuit of knowledge and personal growth flourishes best in an environment where individuals feel secure and safe.

**Assistant Commissioner
Paula Hilman**



Campus security and safety involves a wide spectrum of considerations, ranging from physical security measures to online security. In modern society, the concept of campus safety has evolved to address complex challenges. While traditional concerns like crime prevention and community safety remain central, modern campuses must also consider the issues of cybercrime, hate crime, online harassment and fraud related crime.

Contributing to campus safety and security cannot be done by An Garda Síochána alone; it requires collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders to implement practices that prioritise prevention, intervention, and response.

Each member of the campus community plays a vital role in fostering an environment where everyone can thrive without fear or threat. This shared responsibility will ensure that campuses remain not only centers of academic excellence but also beacons of safety, support, and security. Together, let us build on the culture of safety and security that benefits everyone within the campus community. We hope that this booklet is a source that provides useful information that promotes the security and safety for students during their academic journey.

Your Personal Safety

While at public events or social evenings out, it is advisable that you are aware of your surroundings. It is recommended that you are particularly aware, when on nights out and commuting to and from locations.

When it comes to safety on a night out, you should remember that when you are going out you should be 'Streetwise' and have a PLAN.

Streetwise

Be drink aware and be wary of your surroundings:

- Mind your valuables.
- Protect your PIN at all times especially if using your device at cash terminals.
- Protect your mobile devices.
- Never hand your mobile/devices to an unknown person(s).

Have a PLAN

Use a PLAN, to encourage you to have a safe approach to going on a night out.

Plan your night out:

How are you travelling? Have you a designated driver?

Public Transport:

Busses, trains and taxis remain the safest modes of travel. If getting a taxi make sure it is a taxi. Use the TFI Driver Check App to verify details. See www.transportforireland.ie. Do not accept unsolicited offers of lifts.

- Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back.
- If your plan changes let someone know, send a message.
- Avoid walking alone and in dark places.
- Always try to stay in the company of friends, it's safer together.
- Never attempt to reason with drunk or aggressive people.
- Walk away and continue to enjoy your night out.

For more information visit www.garda.ie.



Campus Watch



Mobile Phone Security

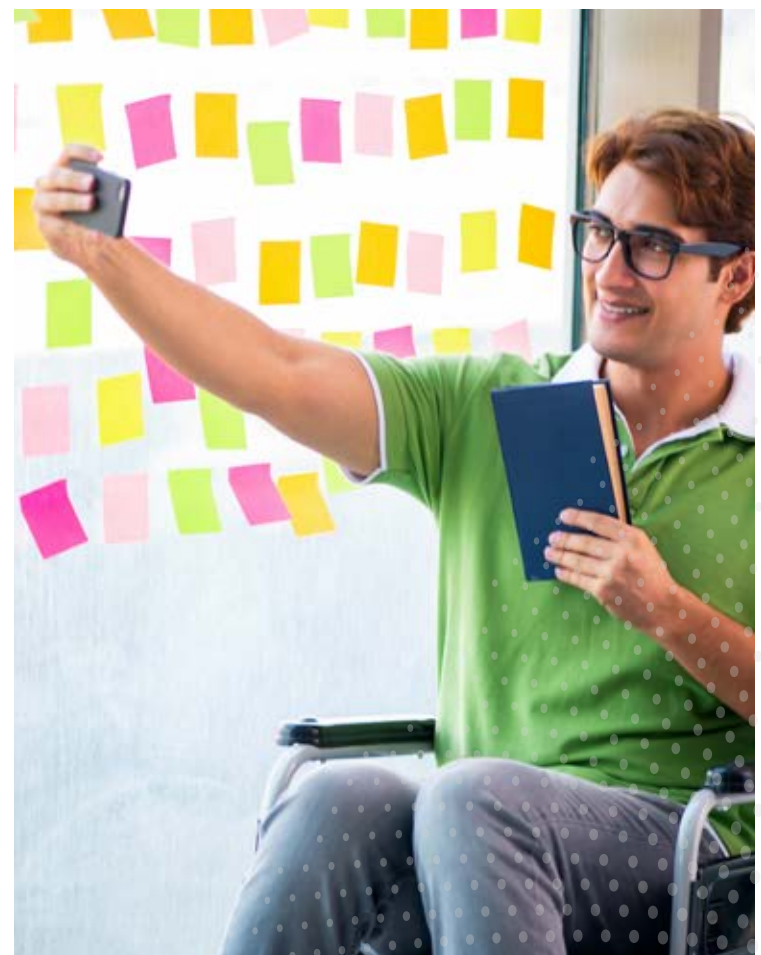
Your mobile phone is probably the most expensive item in your possession, when out socialising in public. Mobile phones are increasingly used as electronic wallets.

It is advisable that passwords and codes for Apple Pay, Revolut, banking apps etc., are all different and completely different to your mobile device access PIN.

To improve the security of your mobile phone against fraud and theft it is advisable to:

- Always protect your pin codes, when accessing your phone.
- Do not let others see you input your pin.
- Have limits set to what amounts can be transferred.
- Do not save pins, etc. on phone – always input them each time.
- Upload emergency contacts onto your phone. Ice initiative.
- Activate “find my phone” on your device.
- Keep a record of your IMEI number (Dial *#06# to get it).
- Take a screen shot of your IME number and email it to yourself or record it somewhere safely. (This will help with the return of your device if reported lost or stolen).

For more information visit www.garda.ie.



Security of Your Accommodation

Reduce the Risk of a Burglary

Here are some Do's and Don'ts:

Do

- Do lock all doors and windows and turn on some lights. 'Lock Up Light Up' campaign - Garda.
- Do use your house alarm and use timer switches/motion detectors.
- Do record details of valuables. An Garda Síochána App - Garda.
- Do secure external side/back garden doors and garage/shed doors.

Don't

- Do not put or "hide" keys outside your home or allow a build-up of letters/ leaflets.
- Do not leave valuable property items unsecured or on visual display inside your home. Securing your home - Garda.
- Do not be on social media making others aware that you or others are away from your accommodation or home alone.
- If staying at an apartment complex/student accommodation blocks please be aware the main entrance is the first line of defense to your property.
- Do not hold doors open for strangers who are arriving, as you are leaving.
- Do not admit any callers to your accommodation/home, until you are fully satisfied that they have a legitimate reason to enter. If in doubt, ask for Identification.

Make your neighbourhood/campus a safer place:

If someone is behaving suspiciously, or trying to gain unauthorised access to a residence, contact the Gardaí at 999/112 or make campus staff/security aware.

For more information visit www.garda.ie.



Campus Watch

Security of Your Vehicle

Every year students report incidents of bicycles theft. Theft of a bicycle can be prevented.

It is advisable to:

- Use a lock that is at least 10% to 15% the value of your bicycle. For improved security, use two separate locks.
- Lock your bicycle appropriately: lock the frame of your bicycle tightly to a bicycle stand or an immovable object. Keep the position of the lock off the ground.
- Record the details of your bicycle. Record the frame number, photograph your bicycle and use the Garda Property App. An Garda Síochána App - Garda.
- Mark or electronically engrave your bicycle using a unique identifier that can be verified to Gardaí.

For more information on preventing bicycle theft, visit www.garda.ie.

Theft from parked cars can be prevented.

It is advisable to:

- Do not leave valuables on show, inside your car.
- Lock doors and close windows.
- Fit an alarm install a GPS tracker.
- Park under streetlights and where CCTV footage is present.

For more information on preventing theft from your car visit www.garda.ie.



Road Safety

Increasing numbers of university students are using their own personal transport while at university, (i.e. car, motorcycle and bicycle). It is crucial to maintain your vehicle in a roadworthy condition and strictly follow road regulations.

Road Traffic Collisions

Please bear in mind that persons aged in the 18 to 24 group are usually overrepresented in road fatalities statistics. Road traffic collision statistics continually show that younger drivers are among the most vulnerable road users. www.rsa.ie.

Driving Safely and Legally

Drive within Speed Limits:

Statistics: It has been estimated that 10-15% of all collisions and 30% of fatal collisions are the result of speeding or inappropriate speed (inappropriate speed is where the driver drives within the speed limit, but not for the conditions of the road). www.rsa.ie.

Penalty: a fine for driving over the speed limit, €160 and 3 penalty points, added to your Driving License.

Do not Drink Alcohol or take Drugs while Driving:

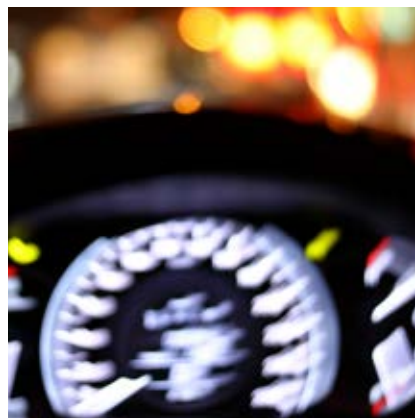
Statistics: National statistics inform us that a significant numbers of drivers involved in fatal traffic collisions have had positive toxicology for alcohol. www.rsa.ie.

Penalty: The maximum penalty for drink or drug driving is a €5,000 fine and/or imprisonment for up to 6 months.

Use Seat Belts when Driving:

Statistics: National statistics inform us that in the event of a traffic collision using/wearing a seat belt dramatically reduces the risk of death or serious injury. www.road-safety.transport.ec.europa.eu.

Penalty: a fine for driving without a seat belt is €120 and 3 penalty points added to your Driving Licence.



Do Not Get Distracted While Driving



Campus Watch

What is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving refers to any activity that diverts a person's attention away from the primary task of driving.

This can include activities such as texting, talking on the phone, eating, drinking, adjusting the radio or GPS, or even talking to passengers. Distracted driving significantly increases the risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities on the road because it reduces the driver's ability to react quickly and appropriately to potential hazards.

Statistics: According to international research distracted driving could be a factor in as many 20-30% of all collisions in this country. This means that driver distraction could be a contributory factor in over 1,400 fatal and injury collisions worldwide annually. www.rsa.ie.

General Road Traffic Offences that can involve a Distracted Driver are:

- Driving without reasonable consideration: The penalty may result in a fine being imposed of €80 and 2 penalty points added to a driving license.
- Dangerous driving causing death/serious injury: The penalty may result in a fine of up to €20,000 and a sentence of up to 10 years on conviction.

Driving while on a mobile phone:

Statistics: International research has revealed that drivers are four times more likely to be involved in a collision if they use their mobile phone while driving. Despite this, a RSA survey also found that 19% of respondents use their phone to read messages/emails, while 13% write messages/emails from behind the wheel. www.rsa.ie.

Penalty: A fine for holding a mobile phone is €60 and 3 penalty points added to your driving licence.

Do not drive while tired or fatigued:

Statistics: it is estimated that driver fatigue can be a significant factor in causing road traffic collisions in Europe, www.erso.eu, and causing 1 in 5 fatal traffic collision in Ireland www.rsa.ie.

Penalty: If a driver causes a road traffic collision due to fatigue or lack of sleep, they may face prosecution for offenses such as 'driving without reasonable consideration' or 'dangerous driving causing death/serious injury', as detailed in the penalties for distracted driving.

For more information visit www.garda.ie.

E- Scooters and E- Bikes

Are you using or considering to using, an E- Scooter or E- Bike as your personal mode of transport? Did you know that in Ireland there are regulations that provide legal and safe technical restrictions for the usage of e-scooters and e-bikes?

In addition, part of these regulations lay out the rules of the road, for people choosing to use light electric vehicles under the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023.

E- Scooters

- A new class of vehicles called Personal Powered Transporters (PPTs) have been introduced under the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023.
- E-scooters will now be classed as PPTs and must comply with technical and usage specifications in order to be legally used on public roads.
- An e-scooter is a vehicle with a small standing platform and no seat, for use by one person only. An e-scooter may have two or more wheels and be propelled by an electric motor.

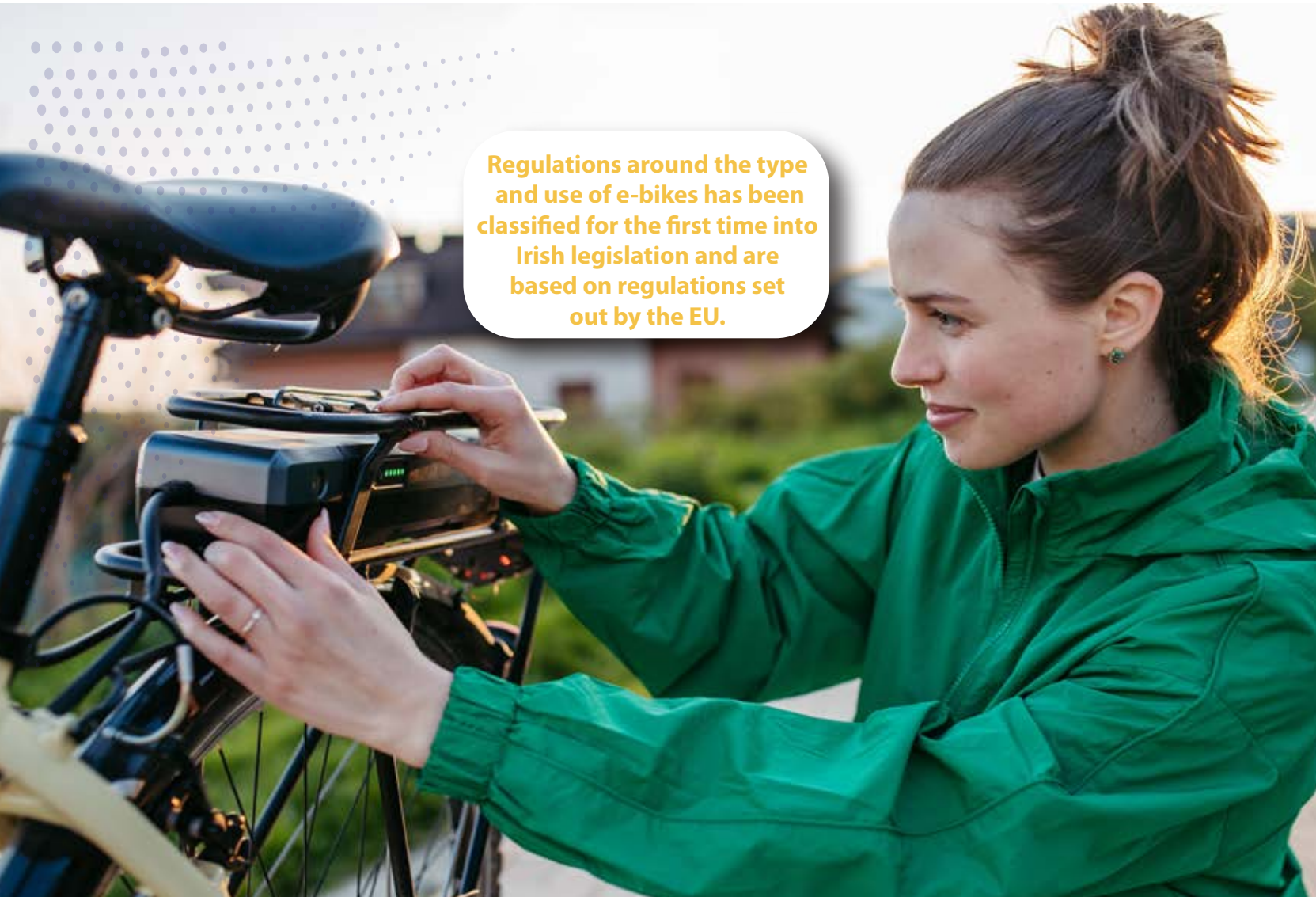
Technical Requirements

To be permitted for use on public roads, e-scooters must comply with the following:

- have a maximum continuous rated power output of 400 W or less,
- have a maximum net weight of 25 kg (including batteries),
- have a maximum design speed of 20 km/h or less,
- have wheels with a minimum diameter of 200mm,
- be fitted with front and rear lights and reflectors, brakes and a bell, and
- be fitted with a manufacturer's plate certifying power output, weight and design speed.

Any e-scooter that does not comply with the above technical restrictions will be illegal for use on public roads.





Regulations around the type and use of e-bikes has been classified for the first time into Irish legislation and are based on regulations set out by the EU.

Usage Requirements

E-scooters should be used in the same way as bicycles on public roads. Users must:

- Drive on the left (including bicycle lanes and bus lanes).
- Be 16 or older.
- Obey the rules of the road, particularly for traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, pelican crossings and zebra crossings.
- Obey signals given by a Garda or school warden.
- Obey all traffic lights, including bicycle traffic lights.
- Obey all traffic signs in the same way that they apply to cyclists.
- Not carry passengers or goods.
- Not use the footpath.
- Obey a speed limit of 20km/h.
- Not use a mobile phone.



E- Bikes

E-bikes are bicycles with electrical power-assist up to certain limitations as set out in EU legislation. E-bikes which are non-compliant with this legislation will be classed as e-mopeds.

Cargo bikes which meet the below requirements will also be treated as e-bikes.

Compliant e-bikes will be treated as bicycles in terms of traffic legislation and use on public roads. They will be permitted to use cycle lanes and bus lanes, but will not be permitted to use footpaths.

Usage Requirements

- Must have a maximum continuous rated power of less than or equal to 250W.
- Output of the motor cuts off when the cyclist stops pedaling.
- Output of the motor is progressively reduced and finally cut off before the vehicle speed reaches 25 km/h.

For more information visit www.gov.ie.

Victims of Crime

We believe that there is a special place for victims in the Garda Service and within the criminal justice system. We seek to put victims at the heart of the justice system and ensure that statutory rights to information, advice and other appropriate assistance are met effectively and efficiently. We will at every opportunity support the dignity, concerns and needs of all victims.

All members of the Garda Síochána will treat victims with dignity and respect – whatever your gender, race, religious beliefs, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, nationality, disability, economic circumstances, marital or family status.

If you are a victim of a crime or traumatic incident, we will:

- Respond quickly to your call and investigate your complaint.
- Give you the name, telephone number and station of the investigating Garda and the PULSE incident number - this is the number given to your incident so that we can quickly find the details of your case.

We will keep you informed of all significant developments in your case and provide you with details of support organisations. As a victim, with your co-operation an assessment will be conducted of your needs.

Other helpful information and details of policing developments are available at www.garda.ie or you can contact the Crime Victims Helpline at Freephone 116006.

Alternatively, for further advice and support you can contact:

The Garda Victim Liaison Office,
Garda National Protective Services Bureau,

Email : crimevictims@garda.ie

Phone: 01-6663453/35/49

(All are monitored during business hours).



Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is the threat of physical or sexual violence, or the actual use of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or digital abuse against family members and those who are involved in a close adult relationship. Domestic violence is more common than most people realise and is often unreported and misunderstood. Research suggests that in the region of 213,000 women and 88,000 men in Ireland have been severely abused by a partner at some point in their lives.

The term domestic violence goes beyond actual physical violence. It can also involve the: destruction of property, isolation from friends, family and other potential sources of support, threats to others, stalking, and control over access to money, personal items, food, transportation and the telephone.

Domestic abuse can include coercive control, which is recognised as an offence under the Domestic Violence Act 2018. Coercive control is a persistent pattern of controlling, coercive and threatening behaviour that causes fear of violence or serious alarm and distress that has a significant impact on the victim's day-to-day activities.

It occurs in all social classes, all ethnic groups and among people of every educational background. Recent changes to the Domestic Violence Act means that you can now apply for a Safety Order in a dating relationship.

For further information, advice or helplines please go to www.garda.ie and the 'Guide to Safety Orders in Dating Relationships'.

If you feel you are in danger, please contact the Gardai on 999 or 112.



Sexual Crime

Nobody may engage in a sexual act with you without your consent. To do so is a crime.

Consent means freely and voluntarily agreeing to engage in a sexual act and your consent may be withdrawn at any time before or during the activity. Failure or omission to offer resistance does not of itself constitute consent to a sexual act.

You do not consent if you are, for example:

- a. submitting because of the use/threat of force, or a well-founded fear that force may be used
- b. asleep or unconscious
- c. incapable of consenting because of the effect of alcohol or some other drug
- d. suffering from a physical disability preventing you from communicating consent
- e. mistaken as to the nature and purpose of the activity
- f. mistaken as to the identity of any other person involved
- g. unlawfully detained at the time that the activity occurs.

Nobody else may consent on your behalf. If you are the victim of a sexual crime, contact the Gardaí immediately, either by dialling 999 or 112, or by contacting your nearest Garda station. Do not wash or change your clothing or clean up the immediate vicinity – you may unintentionally destroy vital evidence.

For further information or support visit www.garda.ie. Other supports:

www.hse.ie/satu - Sexual Assault Treatment Units operating throughout Ireland.

www.rapecrisishelp.ie/find-a-service - Rape Crisis Network Ireland.

www.drcc.ie - Dublin Rape Crisis Centre) - National 24-hour Helpline – Free Phone 1800 778888.

www.itstopsnow.org a project of the National Women's Council of Ireland to combat sexual harassment and violence in third level institutions

Garda Síochána Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Line - Free Phone 1800 555 222.



Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social behaviour is a major issue affecting quality of life in modern Ireland. While people have a right to lead different lifestyles, it is not acceptable if their lifestyles interfere with the rights and freedoms of other people.

Many families and older people live in close proximity to student accommodation. Please ensure that your behaviour does not impact negatively on their rights to peaceful enjoyment of their property. Noise levels should be kept to a minimum, especially at night.

If you or your neighbours are the victims of anti-social behaviour, do not suffer in silence. Report it to An Garda Síochána or make campus security/staff aware. We will treat you with courtesy, consideration, understanding and respect. Working together through Campus Watch we can and will make a difference.

What is Anti-Social Behaviour?

Anti-Social behaviour is when a person acts in a way that causes or is likely to cause someone harassment, significant or persistent alarm, distress, fear or intimidation, inability to enjoy their property, in a significant or persistent way. The law does not apply if the person is living in the same household (Criminal Justice Act 2006 – Parts II - Civil Proceedings in Relation to Anti-Social Behaviour (113)).

How We Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

A Garda may issue a Behaviour Warning to the person involved in anti-social behaviour. A Behaviour Warning lasts for three months. A Garda can issue a warning verbally, and later issue it in writing. If a person over 18 years of age fails to obey a warning, the Gardaí can apply to the District Court for a Behaviour Order. A Behaviour Order states what the person is not allowed to do. These behaviour orders last for two years.

The Gardaí actively enforce the law in respect of repeat offenders whose anti-social behaviour affects their neighbours. They investigate and charge the people involved, and can use laws such as; Criminal Damage Act, Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act and various other criminal legislation to tackle anti-social behaviour.





Drug Awareness



Drug Awareness

Using drugs without a prescription or outside of regulation could adversely affect your life, hindering your ability to realise your full potential and leading to underachievement across various aspects of your life.

Be aware, a drug addiction can affect your health, academic studies, future career and travel prospects. A criminal conviction for a drug offence, could result in a loss of career opportunities and effect your ability to gain travel visas therefore restricting international travel.

Health Implication

If you consume controlled or non-prescribed drugs you are putting yourself at risk of addiction or of having an adverse physical or mental effect.

If you have an immediate concern in relation consuming a controlled or non-prescribed drug, make immediate contact with emergency services, on 999 or 112.

Addiction/Getting Help

Being addicted to drugs can have a lasting effect on your health, potentially leading to anxiety, psychosis and possible overdose with fatal consequences.

Drug addiction information and advice can be obtained by both consulting with medical professionals/Doctor or appropriate Drug addiction services or organisation. See: helpline@hse.ie www.drugs.ie www.health.gov.ie.

Mixing of Drugs

Multiple or poly-drug use is dangerous to your health, increasing the risk of overdose or death. For more information visit www.drugs.ie.

Drug Prosecution

It is illegal in Ireland to have controlled drugs in your possession or supplying controlled drugs to another person. A conviction or caution for a drug-related offence can negatively affect your life.

Controlled Drug

Controlled or illegal drugs in Ireland, include drugs as cannabis, cocaine, heroin and psychoactive substances. There is also a considerable number of other controlled drugs. To see the most recent up to date list of controlled substances please refer to Statutory Instrument 173/2017 – Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2017.

Possession of Drugs for Personal Use

Offence explained: Section 3 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977: is an offence that concerns having in your possession a controlled drug for your personal use and is sometimes referred to as, 'simple possession'.

Court Outcome: Depending on quantity and class of controlled drug, a first court conviction in a district court, for simple possession, can result in a fine of up to €1,000.

Adult Caution Scheme

Under certain conditions, an adult caution can be provided to a person who is found in possession of cannabis herb or resin. An adult caution is an alternative to the court process. For further information visit www.garda.ie.

Possession of Drugs with Intent to supply

Offence explained: Section 15 of the Misuses of Drugs Act 1977: is an offence that concerns having in your possession a quantity of a controlled drug that is in excess of what could be considered appropriate for personal use and is considered to be possession with intent to supply others (deal).

Court Outcome: Depending on the quantity and class of controlled drug, a conviction can result in both a fine of up to €2,500 and a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months in a district court. Longer terms of imprisonment can be given if the matter is being dealt with at a higher court level (e.g. Circuit Court).



Psychoactive Drug Use

Definition: Psychoactive drugs are substances that, when taken in or administered into one's system, affect mental processes, e.g. perception, consciousness, cognition or mood and emotions. www.who.int.

Health implication: Studies completed over the past 10 years are continuously showing that 'New' Psychoactive Substances are having negative physical and psychological impact on users.

Offence explained: Section 3 of the Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substance) Act 2010 is an offence that concerns the selling and supplying of psychoactive substance to others.

Court Outcome: A court conviction in a lower court can result a fine up to €5,000 and a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months, however longer terms of imprisonment, in a higher court can go up to 5 years.

Report Drug Dealing And Use

Make your neighbourhood/campus a safer place. Report illegal drug use or dealing. Pass on information about drug misuse. Make contact with your local Garda Station or (if on campus) make university staff/security aware.

Alternatively, if appropriate, use the Garda Confidential Line Free-phone 1800 666111 or the emergency service number 999/112.

For more information visit www.garda.ie.



Age Card

The Age Card is issued under the Intoxicating Liquor Act of 1988.

The card is the most widely recognised “Proof of Age” in Ireland today. The card basically proves that the owner has reached the legal age to purchase alcohol.

The card is available to order on www.agecard.ie for a fee of €10.

You can purchase an Age Card Voucher in any Post Office.

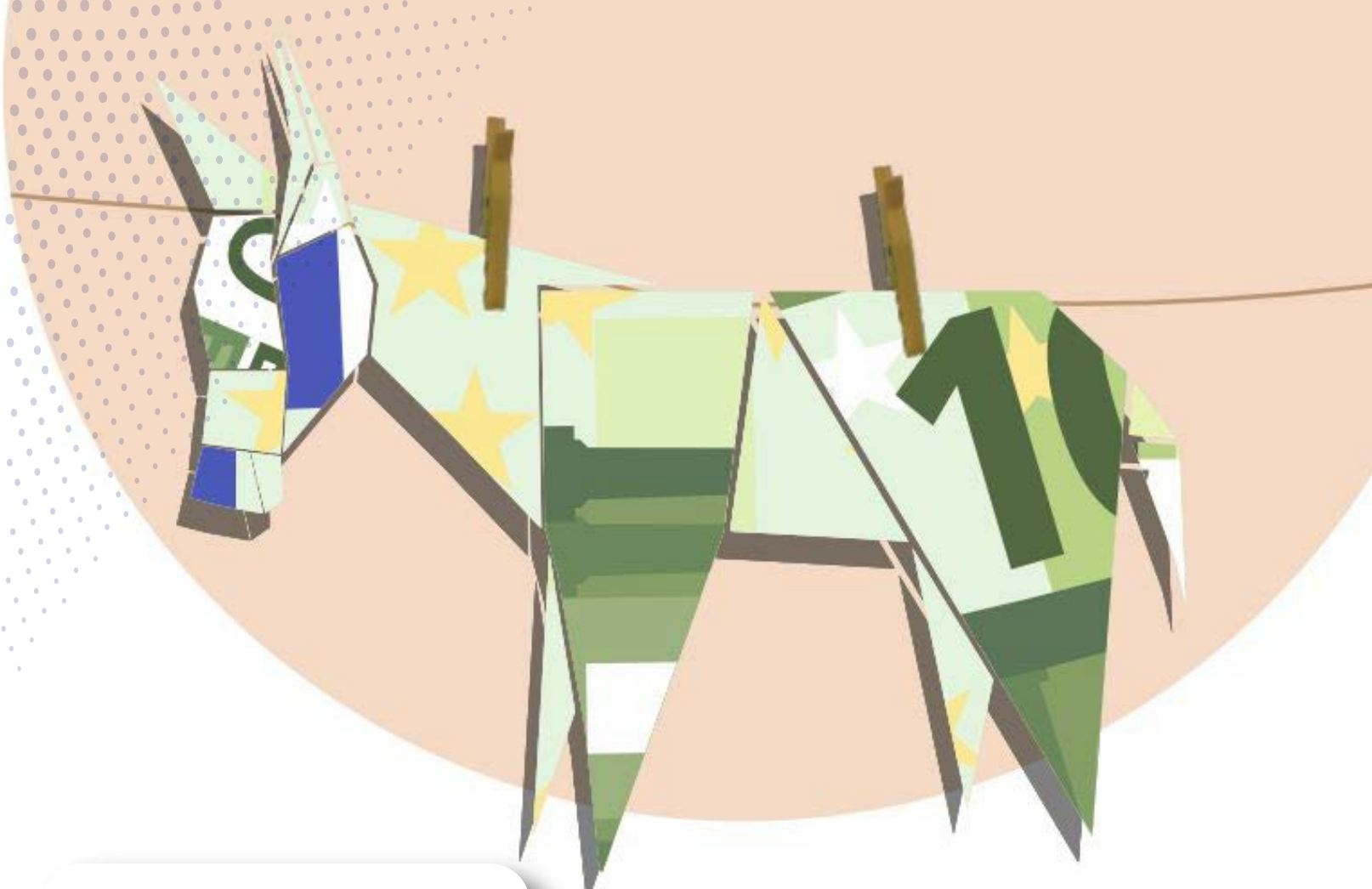
Alcohol is not the only thing that is age restricted, did you know that you must be 18 to purchase Scratch Cards and Lottery tickets and even teeth whitening products?

So, the sensible thing is to get an Age Card and bring it with you on nights out.

Leave your Passport PSC or Driving Licence at home, if you lose them it will be expensive and time consuming to replace them.

Bring your Age Card instead – it was developed for just this purpose so use it wisely.





Money Laundering

Students are often targeted and approached by organised crime gangs to launder money and therefore act as money mules, laundering thousands of euro through their accounts in exchange for a few hundred euro. Approaches of this nature may take place online, on campus, or while out socialising.

What is a Money Mule?

A 'Money Mule' is a person who transfers money illegally on behalf of other people. They allow their account to be used for the transfer of ill-gotten gains. They may or may not be aware of the crime. However, they are complicit if they recklessly allow their account to be used to launder the proceeds of these crimes.

Is Money Muling a Crime?

If you agree or are reckless to allow your account be used in this way you are committing the offence of money laundering. Money laundering is a serious offence which on conviction carries a penalty of up to 14 years' imprisonment.

For more information visit, www.garda.ie or visit Europol, the European police agency website www.europol.europa.eu.

Do not become a victim of money muling. The advice is:

- If an opportunity sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Be very cautious of unsolicited emails or approaches over social media promising opportunities to make easy money.
- Verify any company that makes you a job offer and check their contact details are correct and whether they are registered in your country.
- Be especially wary of job offers from people or companies overseas as it will be harder for you to find out if they really are legitimate.
- Never give your bank account or any other personal details to anyone unless you know and trust them.
- Report to your local Gardaí any suspicious activity happening with your account or suspicious approaches to use your account.



Campus Watch



Phishing

It is advised while online not to respond to unsolicited emails, links or attachments. Please be aware, there are dishonest people operating online with the intention of deceiving people and causing them a financial loss.

What is Phishing?

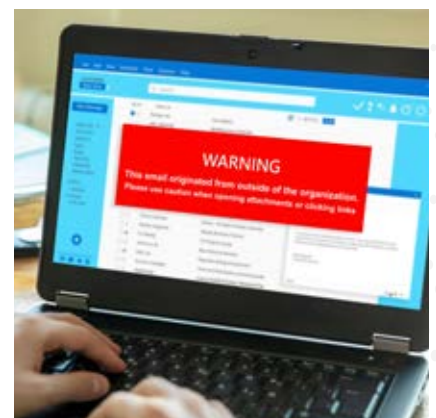
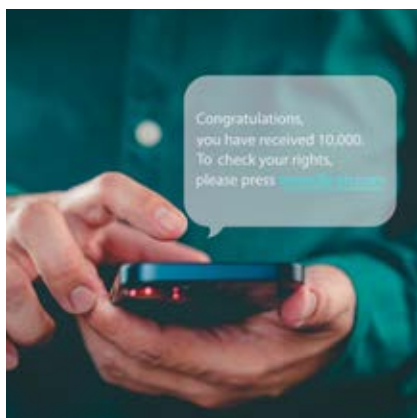
Phishing is a type of cyber-attack where malicious actors impersonate legitimate organisations or individuals to trick people into providing sensitive information such as passwords, credit card numbers, or personal data. This is often done through deceptive emails, messages, or websites that appear authentic but are designed to steal information or install malware on the victim's device.

How to identify a Phishing contact?

Identifying a phishing contact involves scrutinising various aspects of the communication for signs of illegitimacy. Here are some tips to help identify a phishing attempt:

- Check the sender's email address: Be wary of email addresses that look suspicious or slightly altered from the official domain. Legitimate organisations usually have consistent email addresses.
- Inspect the email content: Look for spelling or grammatical errors, as well as generic greetings like "Dear Customer" instead of your actual name. Phishing emails often create a sense of urgency or fear to prompt immediate action.
- Hover over links: Without clicking on any links, hover your mouse cursor over them to reveal the actual URL. Phishing emails often contain links that lead to fake websites designed to steal your information.
- Beware of attachments: Avoid opening attachments from unknown or unexpected sources, especially if they ask you to enable macros or download additional software.
- Verify requests for personal information: Legitimate organisations typically won't ask you to provide sensitive information like passwords, credit card numbers, or PPS numbers via email. If in doubt, contact the organisation through official channels to verify the request.
- Look for secure communication: Legitimate websites and emails often use encryption (HTTPS) and display security indicators like padlock icons. Lack of these security measures can indicate a phishing attempt.
- Trust your instincts: If something feels off or too good to be true, it's better to err on the side of caution and investigate further before taking any action.

By remaining vigilant and applying these techniques, you can better protect yourself from falling victim to phishing attacks. For more information visit www.garda.ie or visit Europol at www.europol.europa.eu.



Accommodation Fraud

What is Accommodation Fraud?

Accommodation fraud typically involves a scam where individuals or entities offer fake accommodations for rent or sale. This can happen through online platforms, classified ads, or even in person. The fraudster may advertise properties that they do not own or have no authority to rent or sell. Victims who respond to these ads may be asked to provide payments, deposits, or personal information upfront, only to find out later that the accommodation does not exist or is not available for rent/sale.



Warning Signs

- The rent seems too good to be true.
- The listing contains grammar or spelling mistakes and is on social media.
- All communication is only via WhatsApp or social media.
- The landlord says they are away and can't meet you to show you the accommodation.
- Payment is requested immediately before signing a lease.
- Payment is requested in cash/PayPal/wire transfer/iTunes gift cards/ cryptocurrency.
- The account to pay into is in a different country.

Prevention Tips

- Only use recognised letting agencies; websites can be cloned too so check the URL to ensure it's a real website.
- Be wary of social media adverts and landlords who will only communicate via social media.
- Make sure the property exists and ask questions about the property - disengage immediately if the responses are vague.
- Only use trusted money transfer systems such as credit cards. NEVER transfer money using methods that cannot be reversed (e.g., cash, cryptocurrency, PayPal, etc.).
- Do a landlord check through the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) website.
- Check the IBAN of the landlord's account (e.g., on <https://www.iban.com/iban-checker>) to make sure it is not in a different country.



Always report incidents of accommodation fraud
If you believe you have been a victim of accommodation fraud, please report it to your local Garda Station or Police Station if you reside outside Ireland.

For more information visit, www.garda.ie or visit the competition and consumer protection commission www.ccpc.ie.

Romance Scams

Lots of students chat online, often using dating sites and messaging apps. However, some people online are dishonest and might try to trick you into losing money.

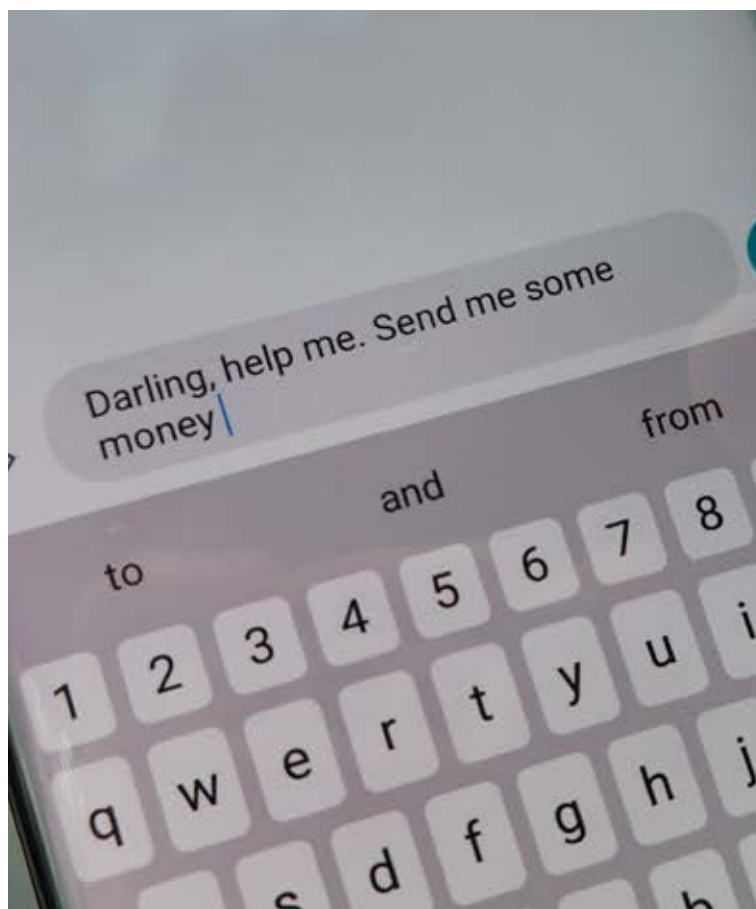
What is a Romance Scam?

A romance scam is a type of fraudulent scheme where individuals create fake personas on dating websites or social media platforms to establish romantic relationships with unsuspecting victims. These scammers often build emotional connections with their targets over time, gaining their trust and affection. Once the trust is established, they may ask for money under various pretexts, such as emergencies, travel expenses, or investments. Victims may end up sending significant sums of money to the scammer before realising they've been deceived.

Romance scammers use manipulation and psychological tactics to exploit their victims' emotions, often preying on those who are vulnerable or seeking companionship. These scams can have devastating financial and emotional consequences for the victims, as well as erode their trust in future online interactions.

Here is some crime prevention advice to help avoid falling victim to romance scams:

- **Be cautious:** Approach online relationships with caution, especially if you have never met the person in real life. Remember that not everyone online is who they claim to be.
- **Verify identities:** Before developing a relationship with someone online, try to verify their identity through video calls or by asking for additional photos and information. Be skeptical if they avoid or make excuses to avoid such requests.
- **Keep personal information private:** Avoid sharing sensitive personal information, such as your address, financial details, or passwords, with someone you've just met online.
- **Watch for red flags:** Be alert to signs of a potential scam, such as inconsistencies in their stories, requests for money or financial assistance, or attempts to rush the relationship.



- **Trust your instincts:** If something feels off or too good to be true, trust your gut instincts and proceed with caution. Do not ignore warning signs or dismiss your concerns.
- **Discuss with friends or family:** If you are unsure about someone you have met online, discuss your concerns with friends or family members you trust. They may offer a different perspective and help you assess the situation objectively.
- **Report suspicious behavior:** If you suspect that you are being targeted by a romance scammer or have encountered suspicious behavior online, report it to the Gardaí.
- **By staying vigilant and following these guidelines,** you can reduce their risk of falling victim to romance scams and protect yourself from financial and emotional harm.

For more information visit, www.garda.ie or visit Europol, www.europol.europa.eu.



Respect for Diversity



Irish campuses are diverse and multicultural locations. Today, students and staff members of many different nationalities and backgrounds work and study at Irish universities. A significant part of the work of Gardaí is to improve the lives of diverse communities living in Ireland and importantly make these communities feel like they belong.

Gardaí provide support to members of the public in relation to diversity with trained and operational Garda Diversity Officers and their ability to record and investigate incidents of hate crime.

What is a Garda Diversity Officer?

Throughout Ireland there are a network of Garda Diversity Officers, (GDO) and they are trained, developed and supported to actively engage with and attend to the concerns of diverse minority communities - providing reassurance, building trust, extending the accessibility of the Garda service and working in collaboration with local Garda Victim Service Offices to prioritise victim needs. To find your local GDO go to www.garda.ie.

What is Hate Crime?

In Ireland, hate crime refers to criminal acts that are motivated by prejudice or hostility towards a person or group based on actual or perceived age, disability, race, colour, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender.

These acts can include violence, harassment, intimidation, property damage, or other offenses committed with the intention of targeting individuals or communities because of their perceived differences.

Hate crimes are taken seriously by An Garda Síochána. Additionally, various organisations and initiatives in Ireland work to raise awareness about hate crimes, support victims, and promote tolerance and understanding within society.

Reporting hate crimes is crucial for both addressing individual incidents and addressing systemic issues related to discrimination and prejudice.



Reporting Hate Crime

Always report any incident to An Garda Síochána you perceive as motivated by hate. In an emergency, you must call 999/112.

You will be attended to by a Garda who will take your report.

- He/She will make an assessment to commence an investigation. An investigation will involve gathering evidence such as taking statements from victim(s) and witnesses, etc.
- You will be offered a choice to be referred to victim support.
- You will be kept informed of developments throughout the investigation.

There are a network of Garda Diversity Officers appointed throughout the country who can assist you in the course of the investigation, if you so wish.

Should you require further information about hate crime, please contact the staff at the Garda National Diversity Unit, who will deal with any query on this.

If you feel that you are a victim of a hate crime incident, in an emergency always ring 999/112 or contact the Garda Confidential telephone line 1800 666 111 or you can report an incident of hate crime online by visiting www.garda.ie.



Studying in Ireland

Non-EEA nationals coming to study in Ireland must be enrolled in an eligible full-time course. You can read a list of frequently asked questions for non-EEA students on the website of Immigration Service Delivery (ISD).

Students, who are from a country that requires a visa to enter Ireland, must apply for a student visa. Their visa application must include evidence that they have access to €10,000 when they come to Ireland.

All non-EEA students, including those who do not require a visa, must register with their local immigration officer to get permission to remain in Ireland for more than 90 days. Students who plan to study for up to 6 months must have access to €700 per month or €4,200 (whichever is the lesser) when they first register with their local immigration officer.

Finding a full-time course

Non-EEA nationals coming to study in Ireland must be enrolled in a full-time course in one of the following categories. They are not allowed to come to Ireland to do a part-time or distance learning course.

Higher education programmes

Non-EEA nationals can enroll in an eligible course at level 6 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Eligible courses are listed on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP). The maximum time they can study in Ireland at this level is 7 years. There are exceptions to this limit for students doing a Ph.D. or a course such as medicine and for students in special circumstances such as illness.

Students must have a certain standard of English. They must also prove that they are progressing in the course, for example, passing exams. The ISD website has more information on the requirements, including immigration rules for students on higher education programmes, and the requirement to have medical insurance.

Third Level Graduate Scheme:

When they graduate, students may get an extension of their permission to remain in Ireland under the Third Level Graduate Scheme. The scheme allows them to find employment and apply for a General Employment Permit or Critical Skills Employment Permit.

Graduates with a level 8 qualification may get a 12-month extension to their residence permission up to a maximum of 7 years of student permission overall (that is, total time spent on Stamps 2 and 1G).

Graduates with qualifications at level 9 or above may get a 24-month extension (2 blocks of 12-months) to their permission up to a maximum of 8 years of student permission overall.

English-Language Programmes

The immigration permission to attend a 25-week English-language course is for 8 months. New students attending language courses may be granted permission for a maximum of 3 language courses. This amounts to a total immigration permission of 2 years (3 x 8 months). ISD has published frequently asked questions for students.

Student Visa/Permission Renewals:

You can renew your permission with the local immigration officer for the district in which you live. If you live in Dublin, Kildare, Meath or Wicklow you can renew your student permission online. Your Irish Residence Permit will be sent to you by post.

If your registration is refused and you believe that you have exceptional circumstances, you can apply for an extension of your student permission by post only.



Campus Watch

How to Report a Crime



GARDA

How do I report an emergency?

Always call 112 or 999 in an emergency. An emergency is any incident, which requires an immediate Garda response, for example:

- A danger to life.
- Risk of serious injury.
- Crime in progress or about to happen.
- Offender still at scene or has just left.

Is there an emergency SMS option?

Yes. The 112 SMS service lets deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired people in the Republic of Ireland send an SMS text message* to the Emergency Call Answering Service (ECAS) where it will be passed to An Garda Síochána, the ambulance service, the Fire service, or the Irish Coastguard. The ECAS operator will act as a relay between the texter and the required emergency service.

Before you can use the 112 SMS service, you will need to register your mobile phone on www.112.ie. Remember that this is an Emergency Service and should only be used in an emergency i.e. life is at risk, crime or incident is happening now, anyone is in immediate danger.

*An SMS text message is a non-real-time service and therefore there is no guarantee that your SMS will be delivered.

How do I report non-emergency crimes?

To report non-emergency crime, you can contact your local or any Garda Station. A Garda can also take a report of a crime from you in person in any station. Contact details of your local Garda Station should be readily to hand in both your home and place of work, and on speed dial on your home and mobile phones. Telephone numbers for all Garda stations and key offices are available on the Garda website.

Can I report crime online?

You can report the theft of property that is valued at €1,000 or less online at www.garda.ie.

NOTE: DO NOT USE THIS ONLINE DECLARATION IF:

- the incident is happening now.
- an offender is still at the scene or nearby.
- evidence has been left at the scene.

For further information on reporting crime, please go to:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/victim-services/reporting-a-crime-faqs>

Garda National Community Engagement Bureau



This Booklet was Supported By:



www.garda.ie

An Garda Síochána. Keeping People Safe

