



Global Immigration alert

July 2024

Ireland

New visa requirement for nationals of Botswana and South Africa

Executive summary

Effective 10 July 2024, nationals of Botswana and South Africa must obtain a visa prior to entering Ireland for business, work, study, family visit or tourism purposes or to transit through the country.

Key developments

Minister for Justice Helen McEntee announced that the new visa requirement is in line with the visa policies of the Schengen Area and the United Kingdom. South African nationals will be able to apply for visas via a dedicated “South Africa desk” at the Dublin Visa Office or at any of three Visa Application Centres to be established in South Africa.

Transitional arrangements are in place until 9 August 2024 for nationals of Botswana and South Africa who made travel arrangements (e.g., booked tickets to Ireland) before 10 July 2024. These individuals will be able to travel to Ireland without a visa until 9 August 2024, provided they can provide proof that they booked flight tickets before 10 July 2024. Travelers must consider transit requirements applicable in other countries before traveling. Those who make travel arrangements after 10 July 2024 must apply for and obtain a valid entry visa to enter Ireland.

Individuals who intend to reside in Ireland for more than 90 days will need to register for an Irish Residence Permit (IRP) once they arrive in the country and may use their IRP (instead of a visa) to re-enter Ireland.

Impact on employers

Employers who sponsor employment permits for nationals of Botswana or South Africa, or deploy business travelers who are nationals of these two countries to Ireland, may plan accordingly as the new visa requirement is expected to impact costs and timing related to business and work travel.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

Michael Rooney

Partner - People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 2857
Email: michael.rooney@ie.ey.com

Rachel Dillon

Partner - People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 2554
Email: rachel.dillon@ie.ey.com

Marie Caulfield

Partner - People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 1416
Email: marie.caulfield@ie.ey.com

Sinead Langan

Director - Head of Immigration
Tel: +353 1 221 2443
Email: sinead.langan@ie.ey.com

Aislinn Stanton

Senior Manager - Immigration
Tel: +353 1 221 1602
Email: aislinn.stanton@ie.ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

Seema Farazi

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEIA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122
Email: seema.farazi@uk.ey.com

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