

Information on the Visa Waiver Programme for Turkish citizens who have recently entered the UK on a short term visa

This Programme provides that a person who enters the UK on a valid UK short stay visa may also enter Ireland during the period that he is permitted to remain in the UK. This Programme is a further step towards a joint visa for Turkish citizens for both the UK and Ireland.

Please find an information note outlining how this programme operates by following this link: (Insert hyperlink to

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Visa%20Waiver%20Programme%20Information%20Note%20March%202012.pdf/Files/Visa%20Waiver%20Programme%20Information%20Note%20March%202012.pdf>
)

Important points for Turkish citizens to note:

- This Programme applies to short term UK “c” visa holders only. It does not apply to Turkish nationals resident in the UK. They must still apply for a visa to the Irish Embassy in London, where their applications will be quickly processed.
- This Programme does not provide that Turkish nationals who have a valid UK visa in their passport need not apply for an Irish visa. Turkish nationals with a UK visa can only avail of this programme when they use their UK visa to enter the UK and are granted a period of time to remain in the UK (usually 90 or 180 days). During the period in which they are entitled to remain in the UK, they may also travel to Ireland without a visa.
- There is no requirement to travel directly from the UK to Ireland. A Turkish national may travel to the UK, receive permission to remain in the UK, return to Turkey or a third country during the period in which his permission is valid, and may then fly directly from Turkey or a third country to Ireland without the need to acquire an Irish visa during the period in which his UK permission to remain is still valid.
- There is no minimum time requirement which a person must remain in the UK before entering Ireland. They simply must clear Immigration and be granted permission to remain in the UK.

An example of how this Programme operates

A Turkish citizen travels to the UK on a multi entry business visa on 1 October 2013. This multi entry business visa is valid from 1 January 2013 to 1 January 2015. He enters the UK at London Heathrow Airport and is granted permission to remain in the UK for 180 days. This Turkish citizen may subsequently enter Ireland until 30 March 2014. He can, for example, fly home on 14 October 2013, and decide to visit Ireland for a week in December 2013 by flying directly from Ataturk Airport to Dublin. However, while his UK visa may be valid until 1 January 2015, after 30 March 2014 he can no longer enter Ireland directly as his permission to remain has expired. In order to avail of the programme after 30 March 2014, he must travel again to the UK and be granted a further permission to remain – and again during this period of permission to remain in the UK, he may also visit Ireland.