



Chairperson Dr. Martin Lamb

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## **Immigration and Residence in Ireland Policy Proposals Discussion Document**

**Response from  
Institute of Physics in Ireland\*  
June 2005**

The Institute of Physics in Ireland welcomes the opportunity to respond to this Discussion Document. Our comments are confined to the sections relating to Visa Admission for the purposes of work and research, study and the attendant considerations of the admission for the purpose of family reunification.

### **Chapter 7, Researchers Scheme**

Given the importance of scientific research in Ireland in terms of economic activity, the Institute strongly welcomes the facilitation of attracting international researchers to the country. At a European level it is recognised that the increased investment in research as outlined in the Barcelona target will lead to a Europe wide requirement of an additional 700,000 researchers by 2010.<sup>1</sup> In the Republic of Ireland this suggests an increase of some 8000 researchers over this period.<sup>2</sup> It is clear that many of these researchers will have to come from outside Ireland.

In addition, at a time when the USA is experiencing a down-turn in the number of overseas students<sup>3</sup> there is a distinct opportunity for Ireland to actively encourage scientific talent to come here.

Hence given the critical nature of such employment in Ireland any such Visa scheme needs to be as clear and uncomplicated as possible and should allow applications to be speedily processed. One suggestion is that a register of host institutions such as third-level colleges could be established with a set of established guidelines for employment. The offer of employment from such a host institution should then be sufficient grounds for entry without further bureaucracy. Such a list of approved host institutions could be linked to the suggested list of approved educational institutions in Chapter 8 for the intention of handling visas for the admission for the purpose of study.

## **Family Reunification**

In Chapter 9 it is suggested that a non-national entitled to reside in Ireland on a long term or permanent basis should be 'entitled to apply to be joined by his/her spouse and minor unmarried children'. The Institute suggests that in the case of workers, such as researchers who are vital to the Irish economy, there should be an automatic right of entry for the spouse and minor children of the visa holder. Further, given, that many high level researchers are likely to be married to other highly qualified individuals, the spouse should have the right to work in Ireland without having to undergo further visa application.

## **References:**

1. European Commission Communication, 30 April 2003, Investing in Research: an action plan for Europe.
2. Building Ireland's Knowledge Economy – The Irish Action Plan for Promoting Investment in R&D to 2010
3. Research Europe, 2 June 2005

## **\*The Institute of Physics in Ireland**

The Institute of Physics in Ireland (IOPI) is the professional and scholarly organisation for Physics in Ireland, both Northern Ireland and the Republic. It represents over 1700 physicists active in education, research, industry, the public service and commerce in Ireland. It is a branch of the London-based Institute of Physics, a leading international body and learned society with over 37,000 members in Ireland, the United Kingdom and elsewhere, which promotes the advancement and dissemination of a knowledge and education in the science of Physics, pure and applied.