



rian J-1

Introduction

- Jude Clarke - Rian Immigrant Center Boston
- Rian was formed as Irish Immigration Center 35 years ago by Irish Immigrants to help Irish Immigrants
- I live in Co Antrim (staffing our Irish office).
- Today I will help you with all you need to know about the J-1 Irish Work & Travel visa program.
- Thanks to Ruairi at UU for helping set up this event today.

Rian J1 work with Irish Universities – Uni visits, meet with careers staff, help students, etc.



What is the J1 Irish Work & Travel visa Program?

- J1 IWT, commonly known as the Graduate visa
- Work in the U.S. for up to 12 months
- Live in the U.S. up to 14 months (30 day grace period at both ends of the work period)
- Apply, and travel to the U.S., without work lined up.
- Up to 120 days from date of arrival / 90 from visa start date, to find work.
- QUB current students doing U.S. based placement
- QUB final year students graduating in 2025 (apply now if thinking of traveling in summer 2025)
- QUB 2024 graduates (must start program before anniversary of graduation date)
- All work must be directly related to area of study
- Live in Boston, New York, Chicago, Hawaii ... wherever you like.
- Opportunity of a lifetime. Have a great time in the U.S.
- Must have Irish passport. U.S. Dept of State issuing ruling in November restricting sponsors to passports of one country only. In 2024 we have 400 on our visa program, only 3 are non Irish passports (all UK).

You can go to any U.S. State.



J1IWT Preparation

- Where do you want to go?
- Resume preparation – convert your CV to a one page U.S. style Resume
- LinkedIn – are you on it? If not, you need to be.
- Research - at least 15 employers in your area of study in the city you are going to. Who is the right person in the organization to connect with? What are that person's contact details?
- Note – best time to reach out to employers is 2-3 months(graduates) before travel (for students 6 months). Then arrange Zoom meetings ahead of travel, or in-person meetings for when in the U.S. On Zoom meetings - always have your video on or add a note to notes explaining if you cannot.
- Networking plan (Irish networks, Sports networks, professional networks, etc). This is very important.
- Passport must run for at least 6 months after your visa end date.

Claire Gorman – Boston. Law.



Claire Gorman – QUB Law Graduate - advice for J1s

By participating in this visa program I hope that, not only will I gain valuable experience of a different legal system, it will also benefit me when I return to Ireland as it will help my CV to stand out. I hope to build on my knowledge of different legal systems and different ways of working.

Working in Law is highly competitive and when I applied I lacked some experience in the field. I took the advice of Rian J1 and volunteered one day a week in a Legal firm at home for a few months in order to get some insight into a Law firm. This paid off, as it was talking about this experience which helped me secure my job very soon after arriving in the U.S.

Rian J1 - support

Rian J1 will support your job search:

- Process your application
- Manage your full visa program
- Providing research / outreach advice
- Providing networking advice
- Helping convert your CV to a U.S. style Resume.
- Helping set up a LinkedIn profile
- Help you find work.
- We will share your Resume with some of our best employer contacts
- Whatsapp community
- Free tickets to events (if in Boston)



Olivia McAleese – QUB 3rd year student
placement as Public Health and Human Services
Intern in Nantucket - 2023



Manager of Intern Placements

Phil Kirschner is our Manager of Intern Placements.

Phil will look at 3 key data points and try to match with employers:

1. where you are going in the U.S?
2. when is your visa due to start?
3. what is your area of study?

Rian J1 support – we connected Mia with her HR role at Arbella in Boston



Networking Tips

- **Effort** here = better placements, better pay, better overall visa experience.
- **Be proactive and open to connecting with people!!!**
- **General** – Research terms like ‘effective networking’ on the internet.
- **Register** with Irish Network: (<http://irishnetwork-usa.org>), Boston Irish Business Assoc, Irish Consulate NY, SF, etc in city visiting.
- **Networking Groups** - Google ‘Marketing networking groups Boston’, etc. Register, attend, volunteer, meet people who can help. If event online use ‘chat’ to post your ‘ask’ – J1 Graduate seeking year long placement in Engineering, upload your resume, etc
- **Alumni events** – does UU Alumni have a branch where you are going?
- **Outreach** – request meetings (in person or Zoom prior to travel).
- **Boston** - if in Boston attend any **Rian Center** networking events
- **Social Media** - <https://hbr.org/2019/03/the-best-ways-to-use-social-media-to-expand-your-network>
- **Facebook / Twitter**, etc – Be professional. Be careful with how you present yourself, e.g. a pic of you drinking beer on your LinkedIn Profile, or a non professional email address, e.g. ilovepartyingallnight@gmail.com can trip you up.
- **Business Cards**

J1s at Boston University v American University basketball – if going to Boston we will invite you to events such as Sports, etc, often with free tickets.



J1 Alumni - UCC Graduate, Shauna, BSc Genetics

- Work: Jnana Therapeutics, Boston, 2019-2020
- Shauna travelled alone and needed to meet people in her industry
- She researched then joined a networking organization in Boston called Women Accelerators, which empowers women in business and science.
- She then volunteered with the group, and in doing so she was able to network and meet influential people ... leading to her excellent well paid Lab job at a top Boston Scientific research center.
- Shauna made her own luck with confident networking.

The Power of Networking.

Rian took 14 J1s in NY to a 'New York – New Belfast' event ... 6 got jobs directly through connections made at the event



Some visa rules

- You must work in your area of study
- You cannot work in the hospitality industry unless you have a Hospitality management degree.
- Your employer must be properly registered (with an employer ID number, website, etc)
- Work cannot be fully remote. Hybrid is accepted with a min of 2 days a week in the work place / office environment.

QUB Graduate Heather Greig. Biobot Analytics, Boston. Biological Sciences.



Visa Costs in U.S. \$

- IIC fee – \$1250 USD (subject to change)
- SEVIS Fee - \$220
- U.S. Embassy / Consulate fee - \$180
- Insurance – Approx £300, pay more for more extensive coverage or if any pre-existing medical conditions. Must cover visa dates plus 30 days either side, so 14 months if doing a year visa.
- Flights – varies (you book your own to get best price)

Boston University Ice Hockey Nov 2024



When should I apply?

- Students: when you have agreed a work placement with an employer.
- Graduates: any time in final year, and through until 9 months after graduation scroll date.
- Application process takes 6 – 9 weeks (if no unnecessary delays)

Testimonials

- <https://www.rianj1.org/ev-stories/j-1-stories/>
- Here you can read accounts of individual visa experiences?
- Range of testimonials from students and graduates from various cities

If traveling to the U.S. without work we recommend you go to Boston (we are there to support, introduce to employers, etc.)



Register interest / Contact details

For further information
..... and to register your
interest:

<https://www.rianj1.org/>

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