

## Update on the Employment of Stamp 2 Workers

Dear Member,

We have received a number of queries in relation to Stamp 2 workers. As you are probably aware students who's IRP (cards) are due to or have expired during the Covid-19 outbreak will automatically have their permission extended until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Please see below some FAQ's specific to stamp 2 holders.

### Students

('Stamp 2' permissions apply to Non-EEA students (Degree programme, Non-Degree programme and Language students) currently residing in the State under Ministerial permission for the purpose of study on a programme listed on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP). A number of school/college have closed down arising from the COVID-19 outbreak. . The following questions arise in the context of non-EEA nationals who attend these colleges and are who hold Stamp 2 permissions which allows them to work 20 hours a week. )

**Q 4. How many hours can I work each week while my school/college is closed due to COVID -19?**

- A. In these circumstances, you can work 40 hours a week. This is conditional on you completing your course online if this service is provided by your school/college and represents a short term and temporary measure.

**Q 5. I lost my part time job, can I access the COVID- 19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?**

- A. Students who were in employment and lost their employment due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic can apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Students will be required to demonstrate that they have been in employment, that their employment has been terminated because of COVID-19 and that they are experiencing financial hardship as a consequence. Receipt of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment will not constitute a breach of the conditions of the student's immigration permission.

**Q 6. I paid my course fees, and the college has now closed, am I entitled to a refund?**

- A. This is not a matter for the Immigration Services.

**Q 7. I have lost my job, and cannot find a new job. Can I become self-employed?**

- A. No. You cannot become self employed as a student in the State

**Q 8. I am on Stamp 2A permission, can I work?**

- A. Stamp 2A permission holders are not entitled to work under any circumstances

**Q 9. Is there any update on extending the online renewal system that was previously used for third level students?**

- A. There is no update available at the present moment.

**Q 10. Is the [unit4residence@justice.ie](mailto:unit4residence@justice.ie) email address still active? If not, can a contact email address be provided for urgent ICC queries?**

- A. Arrangements are being made to have this email address made available again. This may take a further week.

**Q 11. Do students whose permission has expired or is due to expire shortly need to register with a new course/college, pay fees etc. at this time when colleges are closed?**

- A. Student permissions are being extended in line with the current notice of March 20<sup>th</sup>. Developments in relation to these schools and colleges in the future cannot be known at this stage and ISD is not in a position to give any commitments in relation to future courses