



COUNTRY GUIDE
EA INTERNATIONAL - IRELAND

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THE LEGAL MARKET

Dublin has for many years now been a leading financial and technological hub in Europe. Although the legal market is significantly smaller than the major European capital markets it remains sophisticated and offers very high quality work for lawyers. The larger Irish law firms in particular will offer lawyers good quality transactional exposure with a significant international flavour.

The legal market is dominated by firms in particular and these are by and large the firms that will on a regular basis hire antipodean lawyers and indeed have a long history of doing so with great success. The leading Irish firms in terms of size and reputation would be as follows:

- A&L Goodbody
- Arthur Cox
- Matheson Ormsby Prentice
- McCann Fitzgerald
- William Fry

In terms of size and as a comparison to the larger US and UK firms, the top tier of Irish firms have between 250 and 350 lawyers working across their various practice areas, which is significantly smaller than what you would find in London, but is representative of what is a far smaller market.

In general deal volume is smaller however the top end firms offer a high degree of sophistication and quality in terms of work and training in smaller and generally more collegiate environments. Lawyers with experience in the following areas are generally most highly sought after:

- Banking & Finance
- Corporate
- Capital Markets
- Construction
- Real Estate
- Funds

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SALARIES AND TAXES

Generally salaries in Dublin are lower, however tax rates operate at 20% of the first 35,400 and 41% on the balance of income, and as such offer a more attractive tax structure compared to UK tax rates.

COST OF LIVING

Dublin generally ranks in the top 20 most expensive cities in the world and indeed despite a recent 7% drop in real estate prices in the last 12 months the cost remains relatively high even by major European city standards. Rental accommodation on the other hand is far more affordable and one can expect to pay between 350€ and 600€ per month for a reasonably sized apartment in a central location. The price of course varies depending on the number of bedrooms and location however 600€ would certainly be at the top end of what one would expect to pay.

The following table provides some examples as to the basic costs:

VISAS AND WORK PERMITS

Australian and New Zealand citizens will require a work permit to work as a Lawyer in Dublin and firms will provide appropriate sponsorship for suitable applicants. This is generally the easiest means of securing an appropriate visa short of having an EC Passport already.

LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE

Dublin is a diverse and culturally rich city that has retained its historic charm to the present date. Ireland more generally is very accessible with beautiful scenery and an open culture that is very welcoming to Australians and New Zealanders. With a smaller village feel Ireland is definitely a good lifestyle option that will offer you a better experience from a work-hours point of view. With Europe on your doorstep there is no limit to the varied travel options and of course flights are relatively cheap and short.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

www.lawsociety.ie

www.workpermit.com/ireland/ireland.htm

www.immigrantcouncil.ie

www.myhome.ie

For more information on living and working in Ireland contact one of our international experts on +61 2 9266 2900 or Email at ea@ea-int.com or visit our website: www.ea-int.com.