



# J1 VISA SUMMER GUIDE TO NEW YORK

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# HOUSING

Apartments are hard to come by. If you do not have a relative or friend to stay with upon arrival, you may be better seeking short term rental accommodation until you are here and able to tour apartments in person. Once you arrive and start looking, check the noticeboards in the local deli's, ask the locals if they know of any availability! Visit your local coffee shops, check notice boards of delis, or ask your local bar man!

- You can find a list of short-term rentals [here](#).
- All available apartments or shared rentals around the local area are listed on the Aisling Irish Community Center website [here](#) which we update daily. Apartments go quickly so act fast!
- Also check out J1 Accommodations New York [here](#)



# EMPLOYMENT

J1 visa holders take on seasonal roles in hospitality, tourism, retail, and recreation, gaining valuable work experience and building professional skills. When searching for a job, students should start early and polish their résumé.

Networking, attending job fairs, and reaching out directly to businesses in tourist areas can also be helpful.

- The Aisling Center updates their job board daily [here](#)
- Outdoor/Unique Jobs Across the United States [here](#)
- Contact the Aisling Center for an updated document of local employers hiring specifically for J1s each summer



# NETWORKING

Prepare to step out of your comfort zone and put yourself out there. Attending events held by Irish groups/organization/clubs can be a great start!

- A networking breakfast takes place the first Friday of every month at the Irish Consulate of New York. They are free; however, tickets are required and sell out quickly. Subscribe to their newsletter [here](#) to receive the invitation.
- Join your home county association in New York [here](#)
- The Irish Network NYC (INNYC) harnesses the energy and talent of the Irish Diaspora by providing a forum where young professionals can connect and contribute to New York's Irish community. Check their website [here](#) for updates
- Join the IBO at a reduced rate for JIs [here](#)
- Join local Facebook groups to see what events are going on:
  - [Let's make Our Lives Easier](#)
  - [J1 Graduate NY](#)
  - [We are Woodside](#)
- Another way of making connections with possible work opportunities is through local sports organizations:
  - [New York Men's G.A.A.](#)
  - [New York Ladies G.A.A.](#)



# TRANSPORTATION

- [Subway, train and bus information](#)
- Local bus information
  - If living in Woodlawn or Yonkers, you can connect to the Woodlawn subway station by taking the #34 bus (various stops along Katonah Ave) or the #16 bus at the end of Katonah Ave., on E 233rd St. Pay with your metro card on the bus, and you can then transfer free of charge to the subway train
  - Bx34 – Local service from Woodlawn to Fordham Road (stops at Woodlawn subway station).
  - Bx16 – Service between Norwood and Eastchester – stops at Webster/McLean Ave and E233rd St (end of Katonah Ave) and at Woodlawn subway station
  - Bx25 – Goes from McLean Ave/Woodlawn Ave to Cross County Mall and onwards to Getty Square
- METRO NORTH TRAIN: The Metro North train from Manhattan (Grand Central) to Woodlawn is on the Harlem line. Check [here](#) for the schedule.
- Local Taxi Companies:
  - Break to the Border – 914-664-4444
  - Home & Away – 914-964-9300
- Uber/Lyft: Uber and Lyft are also another alternative to getting taxis. All you need to do is download the app, set up on account with a valid Debit/Credit card and you can request a lift straight away.
- Biking: Another way people get around in the warmer weather is by biking. New York City has designated bike lanes in some streets, Through [Citi Bike](#), you can rent bikes at the nearest available bike rack using their app. A single ride is \$5 and a monthly pass is \$20.



# THINGS TO DO

- Museums: [Irish Arts Center of NYC](#), [Museum of Modern Art](#), [Hudson River Museum](#), [Brooklyn Museum](#), the [United Nations](#), [The Metropolitan Museum](#), [the Guggenheim Museum](#), the [Whitney Museum of Art](#), [American Museum of Natural History](#).
- Some fun neighborhoods to walk around are: Greenwich Village, SoHo, Chinatown, and the Upper East Side on Park Avenue. Overall, downtown, which contains areas such as SoHo, Nolita, Greenwich Village and West Village, is easier to walk around than Midtown or Uptown
- Other: [Coney Island](#), [Yankee Stadium](#) or [Citi Field](#), [Playland](#), [Empire State Building](#), [One World Observatory](#), [Circle Line Boat](#), [Central Park](#), [Bryant Park](#), [The High Line](#), [SummerStage](#) Concerts in Central Park, [Top of the Rock](#), [Brooklyn Bridge](#), see a show on [Broadway](#) or at the [Irish Repertory Theatre](#)
- Follow [@nycforfree](#) on Instagram for daily updates of free activities/events and giveaways



# VISA REQUIREMENTS

- Make sure you register with SEVIS/CIEE within the required time period
- Please do not ignore emails or calls from your visa sponsor. If you travel with USIT/CIEE etc., you have to register with SEVIS/CIEE first before you can apply for your social security number. Do all of this on your first week of arrival. It is also realistic that you will be waiting 3-4 weeks before receiving your social security number although you should have documentation from SEVIS stating that employers can hire you and that your S.S. # will be issued soon.
- You will also receive a letter from the S.S. office stating that your application for S.S. # is in progress: [Social Security Office Locator](#)
- Take a photo/scan of your visa, passport, and ID so you have a spare copy



# LAWS AND SAFETY

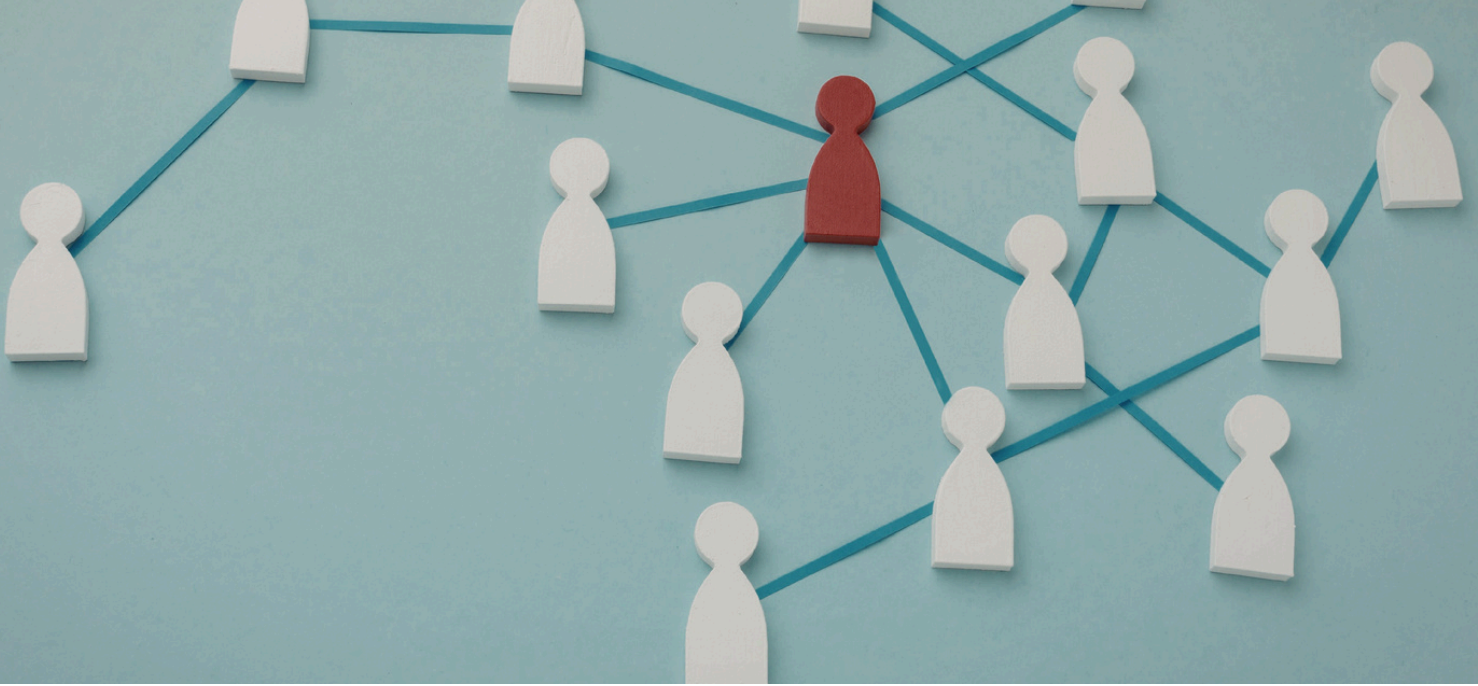
- Laws and regulations can vary from state to state. You should be familiar with the rules of New York, and any other states you may visit while in the US

## IF YOU ARE ARRESTED:

- You have the right to remain silent without the presence of a lawyer
- You have the right to legal representation, if you cannot afford a lawyer, request a public defender
- Right to know the charges, you must be informed of such charges
- You have the right to contact your Embassy or Consulate for assistance

## PASSPORTS: LOST OR STOLEN

- The loss or theft of a passport is considered very serious by the Passport Service because it compromises the safety and security of your personal data. If you locate your old passport, you should return it immediately to the Passport Service for cancellation. Do not attempt to travel on it, as the lost or stolen status is reported to Interpol. If you travel on it you risk being detained by the border authorities.
- Your new passport has a new passport number. If you intend travelling, for example, to the United States in the future but have already completed your ESTA, you must reapply, providing your new passport number.
- You are strongly advised to keep your new passport secure at all times. If you have further losses, your next passport will have a restricted validity period.
- A full fee applies with all applications.
- You are reminded that a passport remains at all times, the property of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland
- If you lose your passport right before your flight home you will need an Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC) and they can be obtained from the [Irish Consulate of New York](#)



# USEFUL CONTACTS

- Medical – Hospitals and Doctors:
  - Montefiore Hospital, 600 E 233rd St, Bronx – 718-920-9000
  - New York Presbyterian – Lawrence Hospital, Bronxville – 914-787-1000
  - Dr Johnny Kovoor, 30 Kimball Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704 – 914-237-8282
  - Dr Edwin Pan/OBGYN 914-668-5585
- Dental:
  - Dr. John Constantine, 300 Kimball Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704 – 914-237-3600
  - Dr. John Castanaro, 970 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY – 914-964-9500
  - Yonkers Avenue Dental, 637 Yonkers Ave, Yonkers, NY 10704 – (914) 423-1900
- Police:
  - In case of emergency, dial 911
  - Yonkers Police 2nd Precinct, 441 Central Ave, Yonkers – 914 377 7452
  - NYPD Bronx, 47th Precinct – 718-920-1200
- Irish Consulate of New York – 212-319-2555
- Passport Office – 212-319-2556 – [www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/newyork](http://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/newyork)
- Emerald Isle Immigration Center (John Stahl Esq.) 718-478-5502 ext. 201-Any Visa and Immigration related matters
- Hotline numbers:
  - Domestic Violence – 1-800-942-6906
  - Rape/Sexual violence hotline – 800-942-6906
  - Alcoholics Anonymous – 212-870-3400 – (The Better Way hosts a meeting on Sunday mornings at the Aisling Center)
  - Narcotics Anonymous – 800-522-5353
  - Suicide Hotline 988
- If you need any kind of assistance, you can call the Aisling Center during our office hours Monday through Thursday 9am–5pm, and Friday 9am–2pm. We will assist where we can and refer you out to other specialists if need be.
- Find all of the Irish centers in the US [here](#)
- Find all of the Irish Consulates in the US [here](#)