

Country Specific Information for Prospective Adoptive Parents

Intercountry adoption is a child led service. Placing of the children will be determined by the matching criteria in applicants' homestudy reports. Waiting times are therefore not predictable for any programme.

- The age of children placed is determined by the age of approval on the applicants Article 15 Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability. Children up to the 14 years are available for intercountry adoption in all country programmes.
- Selection of Gender is not recommended and the referral of a child of either gender then applies to the application.
- Siblings are only available [other than twins] in some country programmes. An applicant would have to have specific approval for siblings or twins, and the age of child approval needs to be sufficiently wide to be suitable for siblings.

Costs in countries that place children for intercountry adoption are outside of the control of the Adoption Authority or of HHAMA. Fee schedules indicate the approved costs and there are additional cost factors such as flights to and from the country and logistics during the adoption trips.

All countries can require more paperwork, updated paperwork and translated paperwork. It is the applicants' responsibility to comply with any request from a donor country authority or nominated agency.

As the accredited body facilitating most intercountry adoptions, HHAMA requires that

- all applicants attend a pre-registration meeting before country programme selection to ensure all matters of eligibility and suitability are reviewed and found to be appropriate for the chosen country programme.
- all applicants submit a HHAMA additional needs checklist and allied care plan before HHAMA can finalise a country programme recommendation. Following approval, HHAMA also requires a copy of the Article 15 and the homestudy assessment report to formalise the request to join the waiting list for invitation to register, subject to the country programme parameters.
- discussion of applicants' medical history is necessary to ensure suitability and compliance with the chosen country's criteria.
- charges are made for translation of post placement reports

The information below is given alphabetically in relation to all countries where Irish prospective parents adopt children from, and further information can be found on the country's official Central Authority website.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME INFORMATION TABLE

Country Programme	Applicant Age	Applicant Marital status	Applicant suitability considerations	Post Placement Requirement	Travel / Time in country	General Information
Bulgaria	No age limit applies to applicants	Married opposite gender couples and sole applicants may apply. There is no stated time requirement for the length of marriage.	Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.	Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted at : 6, 12, 18,24 months	2 trips required, each of approx. 1 week. First trip is to meet the child and make decision to proceed or not; second trip is 3-5 months later to complete the adoption	Waiting list is maintained by the Bulgarian Central Authority, the Ministry of Justice and currently it is 5-6 years waiting time to referral
China	Applicants must be at least 30 years and the age differential between the applicants and a child to be adopted should be no more than 50 years. In the case of joint applicants, the age of the younger applicant	<p>Married heterosexual couples and single heterosexual females may apply.</p> <p>Married applicants must be married for 2 years. Exceptions may be allowed if the applicants have been together for longer and that is outlined in the homestudy report.</p> <p>Single applicants must sign an affidavit to attest they are heterosexual.</p>	<p>There are specific health, BMI max <40, financial and educational eligibility and suitability requirements published by the Chinese Central Authority, the CCCWA.</p> <p>Exemptions can apply where an applicant is adopting a child with the same medical condition e.g. Deaf applicant may adopt a deaf child.</p>	<p>Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted at : 6, 12, 18 months</p> <p>Additional reports from the applicants at: 24, 36 and 48 months</p>	1 trip required duration 2 weeks.	Guardians are required and applicants with a history of mental health issues may be required to undergo psychological evaluations.

	<p>may be used</p> <p>Single applicants upper age limit 50</p> <p>Age limit applies at time of application</p>					
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Haiti	<p>Minimum 30 years old</p> <p>Maximum 50 years old.</p>	<p>Married heterosexual couples, cohabittees where one is a sole applicant, and single females may apply.</p> <p>There is no stated time requirement for the length of marriage.</p>	<p>Applicants must be healthy and provide a GP letter to that effect.</p> <p>A psychologist's report is required as part of the dossier.</p>	<p>Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted at : 6, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60 months</p> <p>Reports required in French</p>	<p>2 trips required, each of approx. 1 week. First trip is to meet the child and decide to proceed or not. Second trip is 3-12 months later, to complete the adoption.</p>	<p>Dossier must be submitted in French and duly authenticated in the Haitian embassy in London.</p>

India	Age differential applies. Couples where total age < 90 years may adopt a child under 4. Couples > 90 to 100 years must apply for a child 4-6 or 6-8 years. Single applicants over 45 must apply for a child aged 4-6 or 6-8 years	Married heterosexual couples, cohabitantes where one is a sole applicant, and single females may apply. There is no stated time requirement for the length of marriage.	Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.	Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted at : 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months Individual Judges may request additional reports.	2 trips required, first trip of one week is to meet the child and make the decision to proceed or not. Second trip is to complete the adoption and can be one trip for several weeks or split in two.	Online application database.
Country Programme	Applicant Age	Applicant Marital status	Applicant suitability considerations	Post Placement Requirement	Travel / Time in country	General Information
Ireland	No stated upper age limit for applicants	Married couples, civil partners, co-habitees and sole applicants may apply. Sole applicants are deemed suitable on a case-by-case basis.	As required under the Adoption Act 2010, Section 34	Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted at : 3 and 6 months and later if required	Familiarisation period dependent on age of child	

Philippines	Age Differential applies when applicants are aged over 45 years	Married heterosexual couples and sole applicants may apply Sole applicants for children with additional needs only i.e. older child or sibling group	BMI must be <35 and without 'metabolic syndrome' Psychological assessment required	at 1,3,5 and 8 months after placement	Familiarisation period required with child of about 7 days	ICA not available to non-Filipinos – guardianship granted and applicants must pursue domestic Irish adoption on return. Preference given to applicants of Filipino origin.
Poland	No stated upper age limit for applicants.	Married heterosexual couples, heterosexual cohabitantes where one is a sole applicant, and single females may apply. There is no stated time requirement for the length of marriage.	Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.	Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted annually for the first three years, and then every two years until the child turns 18. Reports required in Polish.	2 trips required, first trip is to meet the child to decide to proceed or not, approx. 1week. Second trip, 3-5 months later, to complete adoption. Can run to several weeks	Preference is given to Polish heritage applicants in the matching process due to language and culture needs of older children, many aged over 6yrs old.
Country Programme	Applicant Age	Applicant Marital status	Applicant suitability considerations	Post Placement Requirement	Travel / Time in country	Sundry Comments

Thailand	Applicants over 40 considered for a child > 2 years and applicants over 45 considered for an older child	Married heterosexual couples and sole female applicants may apply Sole applicants will be considered for children with additional needs	Applicants should be healthy and have sufficient income to take care of a child	3 PPRs within 6 months after placement	2 weeks in Thailand for applicants.	Adoptions finalised twelve months after placement, in Thai Embassy in London. More boys available than girls.
USA	No age limit applies to applicants	Married heterosexual and same sex couples, and single male and female applicants may apply.	There are no specific medical or other criteria for suitability. Families are selected by birth parents.	Post Placement reports are required prior to completion at intervals determined by the state in the US where the adoption process is underway. Typically 4 post placement reports required but can be more.	1 trip required duration of about 10 weeks Adoption is not complete in the US and the adoption completion process may take up to 12 months	Paperwork needs to be updated annually, including homestudy report with the assessing social worker
Vietnam	No stated upper age limit for applicants.	Married heterosexual couples and single heterosexual females may apply. There is no stated time requirement for the length of marriage.	Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mental health history accepted. No debilitating physical or medical condition accepted. 	Post Placement Reports completed by Social Worker required at: 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months	One visit, recommended 3 weeks with flexible return.	Paperwork must be updated annually.

