

HHAMA COUNTRY PROGRAMME INFORMATION TABLE

General Comment:

1. 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.
2. Children of ages up to 15 years are available for intercountry adoption. The age of children placed is determined by the age of approval on the applicants Article 15 Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability and not on availability of child. **It should be noted that the child age profiles on ALL programmes, with the exception of the US new born programme, are increasing. In HHAMA's experience, the children available are older than previously seen and waiting time to be matched with younger children, under 48 months is increasing.**
3. Children are considered additional needs due to age of child, medical diagnosis, birth family history, racial profile or sibling status and the placing of children with any additional need will be determined by the matching criteria in applicants' homestudy reports. Preparation for additional needs is required for all country programmes and **early engagement with HHAMA support service is a crucial element of this preparation.**
4. Generally, in all programmes, there are more boys than girls available. Selection of Gender is not recommended by HHAMA and is not acceptable on many country programmes. If applicants wish to select a gender that information must be contained in the Homestudy Social Worker assessment report. If gender is not specified and approved by the assessing social worker then Either gender will apply to the application.
5. Twins are available, subject to applicant approval. Rare but available. The time to discuss approval for twins is during your assessment.
6. Siblings are only available [other than twins] in some country programmes. An applicant would have to have specific approval for siblings and the age of child approval would need to be wide to be suitable for siblings.
7. **HHAMA requires all applicants to 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.**
8. **HHAMA requires all applicants to submit a HHAMA additional needs Adoption Preparation Document 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 submit a dossier, subject to the country programme parameters.**
9. Costs in Donor countries are outside of HHAMA's control. Fee schedules indicate the approved costs but there are additional cost factors such as notary and authenticating costs and flights to and from donor country with normal travel logistics.
10. All Donor countries do require complex dossier of paperwork, updated paperwork and translated paperwork. It is the applicants' responsibility to comply with any request from a donor country authority or nominated agency.

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Country Programme	Applicant Age parameters	Applicant Marital status	Applicant suitability considerations	Child availability	Travel / Time in country	Sundry Comments
Vietnam	<p>No stated upper age limit for applicants.</p> <p>NOTE : Vietnam will not accept apps who have a negative Assessing SW recommendation even if Article 15 is granted by the AAI.</p>	<p>Single females and Married heterosexual couples may apply. There is no stated time requirements for the length of marriage.</p>	<p>Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No serious mental health history accepted. No debilitating physical or medical condition accepted. <p><i>It would be necessary to discuss your individual medical history with HHAMA to confirm suitability on all programmes</i></p>	<p><i>Review page 1 in detail. Expectations on age of child must be realistic in terms of increasing age profile of child and HHAMA invitation policy.</i></p>	<p>One visit Vietnam for approx.. 3wks with flexible return.</p>	<p><i>The Vietnam adoption process has changed significantly in terms of matching process. This change was implemented in November 2019. It is now a single referral process and no longer subject to lengthy delays between match and travel.</i></p>
USA	<p>No age limit applies to applicants</p>	<p>Single male and female applicants may apply.</p> <p>All married couples may apply including same sex couples.</p>	<p>There are no specific medical or other criteria for suitability. As this is a birth family selection programme it will be up to the choices made by birth family as to whether an applicant is suitable/selected.</p>	<p>This is a new born baby only programme.</p>	<p>One trip required duration approx. 10/12wks</p> <p>Adoption is not complete in the US - adoption completion process may take up to 12months culminating in a court video appearance.</p>	<p>Many elements of the Dossier paperwork need to be updated annually, including homestudy report with the assessing social worker.</p> <p>HHAMA partners with a number of US agencies and dossier listings and requirements differ by agency.</p>

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<p>THAILAND</p> <p>Thai Authorities apply a quota to the number of Irish applications they will accept in any given year. That quota is usually issued early in the calendar year.</p>	<p>No stated age limits.</p> <p>However, the Thai authorities are keen to ensure there is no major age gap between parent and child.</p> <p><i>It is necessary to discuss this in detail with HHAMA if you are over 45yrs old.</i></p>	<p>No relationship criteria in terms of length of time married but this programme is only suitable for married heterosexual couples.</p> <p>Single applicants may apply only for a specific and separate special needs programme.</p>	<p>Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.</p> <p>A psychologist's report is required as part of the dossier.</p> <p><i>It would be necessary to discuss your individual medical history with HHAMA to confirm suitability</i></p>	<p><i>Review page 1 in detail. Expectations on age of child must be realistic in terms of increasing age profile of child and HHAMA invitation policy.</i></p> <p>The Thai authorities operate a quota system with exceptions granted for exceptional age of child approval.</p>	<p>1 trip required duration approx. 2weeks</p>	<p>Dossier must be submitted in English and duly authenticated in the Thai embassy in London. [can be done by post].</p> <p>Note : adoption is not complete until approx. 12/18 months after returning home with the child and is completed by a visit to the Thai embassy in London</p>
<p>THE PHILIPPINES</p> <p>ICAB Authorities apply a quota to the number of Irish applications they will accept in any given year.</p>	<p>No stated age limits.</p> <p>However, the Philippines Authority [ICAB] are keen to ensure there is no major age gap between parent and child. The maximum age gap is 45 years</p>	<p>Married couples who have been married for 3 years.</p> <p>Single applicants may apply only for children over 9years old. Same sex or defacto couples are not accepted.</p>	<p>Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.</p> <p>A psychologist's report is required as part of the dossier. No criminal history or no history of mental health issues will be acceptable</p> <p>There are some income and health considerations which we can review individually</p> <p><i>It would be necessary to discuss your individual medical history with HHAMA to confirm suitability</i></p>	<p><i>Review page 1 in detail. Expectations on age of child must be realistic in terms of increasing age profile of child and HHAMA invitation policy.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>NOTE : approval for this programme was provisionally granted to HHAMA by ICAB on 20th December. Full details remain to be finalised.</p> </div>	<p>1 trip required duration approx. 2/3 weeks</p>	<p><i>NOTE – adoption is not complete in the Philippines and must be completed in the Irish Domestic Adoption System. This places certain restrictions on the number of children available to Irish applicants and is an additional process which must be undertaken with TUSLA following return home.</i></p>

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HAITI	<p>Minimum 30 years old Maximum 50 years old.</p> <p>Age limits apply at time of application.</p>	<p>Single females and Married heterosexual couples may apply.</p> <p>5 years is the minimum length of a relationship, marriage or civil. No combination of types is allowed.</p> <p>Co-habiting heterosexual couples may apply [1 applying as a sole applicant, subject to 5 year minimum]</p>	<p>Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.</p> <p>A psychologist's report is required as part of the dossier.</p> <p><i>It would be necessary to discuss your individual medical history with HHAMA to confirm suitability</i></p>	<p><i>Review page 1 in detail. Expectations on age of child must be realistic in terms of increasing age profile of child and HHAMA invitation policy.</i></p> <p>The process of birth certificate generation in Haiti is lengthy therefore children not available until > 24mths old. Apps must be open to older children or exceptional needs for a younger child.</p>	<p>Two trips required.</p> <p>1st trip is to meet child and decide to proceed or not. This trip is for a minimum of 17days.</p> <p>2nd trip, 3-12months later, to complete the adoption.</p>	<p>Dossier must be submitted in French and duly authenticated in the Haitian embassy in London.</p> <p>Applicants can continue to visit Haiti, or can maintain contact with the child, during the legal processing time.</p>
China	<p>Min app age 30 yrs & Age diff between app & child no more than 50 years, based on younger app.</p> <p>Single applicants upper age limit 50 - at time of application</p>	<p>Single females and Married heterosexual couples may apply.</p> <p>Married applicants married for 2 years [exceptions may be allowed if the applicants have been together for longer and that detail is outlined in the homestudy report] Single applicants must sign an affidavit to attest they are heterosexual.</p>	<p>There are health, Mental Health, BMI, financial eligibility and suitability requirements published by CCCWA. However, there can be exemptions if an applicant is adopting a child with the same medical condition e.g. Deaf applicant may adopt a deaf child.</p> <p><i>It would be necessary to discuss your individual medical history with HHAMA to confirm suitability and applicants should review the CCCWA eligibility document to be familiar with the rules.</i></p>	<p><i>Review page 1 in detail. Expectations on age of child must be realistic in terms of increasing age profile of child and HHAMA invitation policy.</i></p> <p><i>It should be acknowledged that the children awaiting homes in China are significantly older than in the past unless the additional needs approval is exceptional</i></p>	<p>One trip to China required duration 2 weeks.</p>	<p>Guardians have to be nominated during the assessment to be included in Homestudy approval and applicants with a history of mental health issues will be required to undergo psychological evaluations.</p>

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BULGARIA New applications paused*	No age limit applies to applicants	Single females and Married heterosexual couples may apply. There is no stated time requirements for the length of marriage.	Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect.	<i>Review page 1 in detail. Expectations on age of child must be realistic in terms of increasing age profile of child and HHAMA invitation policy.</i> Waiting time is lengthy but always subject to matching considerations.	Two trips required, each of approx. 1 week. 1 st trip meet the child decision to proceed 2 nd trip, approx. 3-5 mths later, to complete adoption.	*The Bulgarian MOJ is working to reduce waiting time – in the meantime HHAMA is not accepting new applicants unless applicants have exceptional matching circumstances in terms of either age of child or additional needs.
INDIA HHAMA is not accepting new applicants unless for Article 5 approved Relative Adoption	Age differentials exist. Approvals must be stated in either 2-4 years or 4-6 years	Single females and Married heterosexual couples may apply. stated time requirements for the length of marital relationship of 2 yrs. Co-habiting heterosexual couples may apply [1 applying as a sole applicant]	Applicants must be healthy and provide GP letter to that effect. <i>It would be necessary to discuss your individual medical history with HHAMA to confirm suitability</i>	<i>Review page 1 in detail. Expectations on age of child must be realistic in terms of increasing age profile of child and HHAMA invitation policy.</i> Currently suspended	2 trips required, 1 st trip is to meet child and make decision to proceed or not, 2 nd trip, unknown time but usually in months.	Online application database. HHAMA has no history of completed adoptions to date.
POLAND	NOT OFFERING THE POLAND PROOGRAMME	Discuss directly with HHAMA	HHAMA is not accepting new applicants unless for Article 5 approved Relative Adoption			