

## 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. The lower age profile of available children is rising in almost all countries
- 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	<p>Married heterosexual couples and sole applicants may apply</p> <p>There is no stated time requirement for the length of marriage</p>	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	<p>2 trips required, each of approx. 1 week</p> <p>First trip is to meet the child and make decision to proceed or not</p> <p>Second trip is 3-5 months later to complete the adoption</p>	Waiting list is maintained by the Bulgarian Central Authority, the Ministry of Justice and currently it is 7+ years waiting time to referral
China	<p>Applicants must be at least 30 years old, and the age differential between the applicants and child to be adopted should be no more than 50 years. In the case of joint applicants, the age of the younger applicant may be used</p> <p>Single applicants upper age limit 50</p> <p>Age limit applies at time of application</p>	<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 &lt;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. a deaf applicant may adopt a deaf child</p>	<p>Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted at: 6, 12, 24 months</p> <p>Additional reports from the applicants at: 36, 48, 60 months</p>	<p>1 trip required, duration 2 weeks</p>	<p>Guardians are required and applicants with a history of mental health issues may be required to undergo psychological evaluations</p> <p>Current waiting time for non-additional medical needs category from China is over 10 years</p>

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Haiti	Minimum 30 years old, maximum 50 years old	Married heterosexual couples, cohabittees where one is a sole applicant, and single females may apply  Applicants required to be in a stable relationship for 5 years	Applicants must be healthy and provide a GP letter to that effect  A psychologist's report is required as part of the dossier	Post Placement Reports completed by a Social Worker must be submitted at: 6, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60 months  Reports required in French	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	Dossier must be submitted in French and duly authenticated in the Haitian embassy in London Most children over 4 years old. Programme currently suspended due to civil unrest
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, cohabittees 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  Only suited to Indian nationals  Very long time to referral

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Ireland	No stated upper age limit for applicants	Married couples, civil partners, co-habitants 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	Adoption can only be finalised after the required post placement reports have been submitted
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	Post Placement Reports at 1, 3, 5 and 8 months after placement. Guardianship granted to non-Filipinos in Philippines, and applicants must pursue domestic Irish adoption on return	Familiarisation period required with child of about 7 days	Preference given to applicants of Filipino origin. ICA not technically available to non-Filipinos (see post placement note). Programme awaiting accreditation of Helping Hands by Central Authority
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	Only suited to Polish nationals/heritage, preference is given to them in the matching process due to language and culture needs of older children, many aged over 7yrs old

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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 Adoptions finalised approximately 12 months after placement, in Thai Embassy in London	2 weeks in Thailand for applicants	More boys available than girls, many over 4 years
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 up to 12 weeks  Adoption is not complete in the US at this stage 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 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  Matching process is conducted internally by Vietnamese Central Authority