

## I am in the protection system: Can I work or have my own business? \*

The conditions to either work or to start your own business while you are an applicant are different. This short list can help you see if you qualify.

### Work as an employee

Everyone in the protection system can apply for an employment permit

To apply for an employment permit you need to:

- Get a job offer
- The job must not be excluded from employment permits
- The pay offered must be €27-30K or more (depending on the conditions)
- You must have the qualifications, skills or experience needed for the job

You cannot apply for an employment permit if:

- The job you were offered is in the list of 'Ineligible Categories of Employment for Employment Permits'
- The pay is under the required €27-30K

How: You must make an application to the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation

You need: Your passport, your temporary residence certificate (IPO Card) and a passport-sized photo.

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### Start your own business

To start your own business, you need to apply for permission to be self-employed.

To be eligible, at the time you apply you must:

- Be waiting for a first instance decision on your application for 9 months or more.  
This means that you are eligible if:
  - You have not received any decision on your protection application (refugee or subsidiary protection)
  - You received a decision on your refugee application but are still waiting for a decision on subsidiary protection
- Have returned your IPO questionnaire
- Have made efforts to establish your identity. Do not contact your government if it is not safe for you or your family to do so.
- Be registered with Revenue

You cannot apply to be self-employed if:

- You applied for protection less than 9 months ago
- You received decisions on both your refugee and subsidiary protection, and your case is in the appeals tribunal or the High Court
- You have a Dublin transfer

How: You must make an application to the INIS Labour Market Access Unit.

You need: your temporary residence certificate (IPO Card), any ID you have and a passport-sized photo.

\* From the 09/02/2018, eligible protection applicants may access employment and self-employment in Ireland. These are **temporary measures** which will be effective until the EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive enters into force in Ireland.