



**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION**

HOW TO SHOP CHEAPLY AND EUROPEAN FOOD SHOPS

FOOD

Shopping in big supermarkets such as Lidl, Tesco etc. will save you money. These supermarkets are chains, so you can find a local branch in most big cities within Northern Ireland (NI).

In Lidl you will find some labels on food products that are in their language of origin such as Polish, Lithuanian, etc. The food sold there is also similar to the food from Central and Eastern Europe.

CLOTHES AND OTHER GOODS

The cheapest clothes shops in NI are often charity/ second hand shops eg. Oxfam, Cancer Research, Simon Community etc. Some of them also sell things for the house or toys.

You can get cheap new clothes from shops like Primark or Dunnes Stores.

Very cheap things such as household items, decorations and many more are also available from shops such as Mr Pound, Poundstretcher or catalogue retail shop called Argos (sell many really cheap and good brands).

SALES

You will find that many shops in NI sell clothes at certain times of the year very cheaply. Regularly the goods are sold for less than half price.

Those sales are usually in January/February and June/July .

Many shops have also mid-season sales (March and December).

BANK ACCOUNTS

You will need the following documents to be able to open a bank account in NI:

1.Proof of your identity

(ID card such as passport, national ID issued in English and your native language or driving licence).

2.Proof of your address.

It can be utilities bills (gas, electricity, phone bill or TV licence), letter from your landlord or contract with your landlord or any official mail with your name on it.

Private correspondence will not be accepted.

3.Proof of your employment.

A letter from your employer. Recommendation letter from your employer may be useful as well.

When you have required documents you will have to fill in an application form in a bank and wait approximately 1 week for your cash card and PIN number.

Please note that this is only general guidance as different banks have different conditions. Always ask for the list of documents needed and make sure you bring all of them.

In some banks it may be more difficult to open a bank account than in others, so try more banks.

TRANSPORT AND CHEAP TRAVEL

Transport in NI is provided mainly by **Translink** which operates Metro (Belfast's bus service), NI Railways and Ulsterbus (serving all main towns and villages).

CHEAP TICKETS

In NI buses are generally less expensive than trains.

However NI Railways offers a cheaper ticket on the Sunday called Sunday Day Tracker which allows you travel on all scheduled train services within NI on Sunday for £4.50.

You can get also integrated bus and rail tickets for 1 day, 3 out of 8 days and 7 days offering unlimited travel on all buses and trains within NI for less money.

CONCESSION FARES

You may obtain great savings when travelling throughout NI and also on Cross Border services if you fall with certain categories such as student or senior citizen.

To be entitled to free travel or any discount you have to possess a discount card.

- **Senior SmartPass** - entitles you to free travel within NI.

Who can apply - all men and women who are 65 years old or over and who are resident in NI for 3 months or more.

How to apply - applications are available from any main bus and rail stations.

Documents needed:

1. proof of age, for example passport
2. recent colour passport- sized photo
3. proof of residency, for example recent bank statement;

These documents must all confirm your permanent address in NI. The card is issued free of charge.

- **The Translink Student Discount Card** - offers special savings and discounts for students

Who can apply - students on a full time course or full time professional training in NI, the Republic of Ireland and the UK. Also school pupils in full time education from age of 12.

How to apply - if you had a card last year you can renew online at www.translink.co.uk/students

new applicants - take application from any main bus or rail station or download a copy from www.translink.co.uk/students

Documents needed:

1. passport-sized photo (name and date of birth on back);
2. college photo ID (A registration receipt/ letter from college plus passport or driving licence will be accepted in the absence of college photo ID). It costs £7.

For more information check Translink at www.translink.co.uk which contains a journey planner, latest travel news and full timetable information on all Translink services.

Information on trains and buses timetable, phone (028) 90666630.

Information, timetables and different leaflets are available from any bus or train station.

CAR INSURANCE AND DRIVING LICENCE

DRIVING LICENCE

If you want to drive a car in Northern Ireland (NI) you have to hold a **valid community licence**.

A **valid community licence** means bilingual driving licence (driving licence in two languages- English and your native language).

If you have a valid community licence, this will authorise you to drive in NI for the period set in your driving licence. It is advisable that after 1 year you exchange your licence for UK driving licence.

The fee for exchanging the licence is constantly changing it is currently about £38. Arrange exchanging your licence in the nearest **Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland (DVLNI) branch**.

CAR TAX AND CAR INSURANCE

Your vehicle must be taxed and insured when driving in NI.

Driving a car without tax and insurance is illegal.

By doing so you can risk a penalty fee or jail sentence.

For further information about taxing or insuring your car contact **DVLNI office** (24 hours information service at tel: (028) 90250500 or check www.dvlni.gov.uk)

The car insurance can be arranged through different private insurance companies.

To apply for local (NI) car insurance the best way is to look up the internet or Yellow Pages for different companies and as the prices differ compare more choices before you decide. Be aware also that some companies may accept only people from England and not people from NI.

Insurance brokers can provide you with contacts on several insurance companies and will be able to compare prices for you. Find the contact in the Yellow Pages.