

**Letter to the Examiner**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014**

Dear Editor,

*Landlords have been very unfairly tarnished (Letters, April 21) by Bruno Candeias. Your correspondent claimed that because he had no address, he could not secure accommodation, get work, or open a bank account. The reality of situations when non-EU citizens come to Ireland to study English is that they must have at least €3,000 already in a bank account in their name, so why is it necessary to open a new account? I would also have thought that before any foreign student makes arrangements for study, they would have sourced accommodation for the required period, and perhaps made some tentative enquiries about part-time work opportunities.*

*While Ireland (and landlords) welcome foreigners, It is surely naïve, if not foolish, to arrive in a new country without having the basics in place to sustain the visitor during the visa period. No responsible country should do it any other way. As your correspondent notes, he is required to have an 80% attendance record in class, along with 20 hours of study in a week. That is hardly much different to the normal class and study hours expected of native students who want to succeed. In Ireland, we have 168 hours in every week (the same as in Brazil, and everywhere else), so there should not be a major problem for any foreign student who has their papers in order - unless the desire to study English is of lesser concern!*

*It must be borne in mind that landlords are business people - not charities. They need to be certain that tenants are going to be in a position to fulfil the obligations of their tenancy or lease. It is a gross distortion of the facts for your correspondent to pin the blame for his naivety on the providers of accommodation.*

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