



New Zealand  
Immigration Service  
*Te Ratonga Manene*

New Zealand  
*the right choice*

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To work in New Zealand, you may need to apply for a Work Visa or Permit. This booklet will provide you with information about how to apply.

## A Work Visa is

an endorsement you get in your passport to allow you to enter or re-enter New Zealand. It shows you have permission to travel to New Zealand and may be granted a Work Permit when you arrive. The visa may be single for one journey or multiple for more than one journey.

## A Work Permit is

an endorsement in your passport which allows you to work in New Zealand. It will state the expiry date of your permit and conditions of your permit. The conditions may include the type of employment, the employers name and the location in New Zealand you are permitted to work in.

## Who does not need a Visa or Permit to work in New Zealand?

You do not need a visa or permit to work in New Zealand if you are:

- a New Zealand citizen or a New Zealand Resident Permit holder (to re-enter you need a current New Zealand Returning Resident Visa) or
- an Australian citizen or an Australian resident who holds a current Australian resident return visa or
- one of a group of people who are also exempt from the requirement to hold a Permit to be in New Zealand or
- a Business visitor to New Zealand who will stay no more than three months in any one year and will only discuss and negotiate business arrangements.

## How do I apply for a Work Visa or Permit?

You may apply for a Work Visa or Permit if you:

- hold an offer of employment for which you are qualified and there are no suitable New Zealanders available or
- meet one of the special categories or exchanges the Government has approved.

You may apply for a Work Visa before you travel to New Zealand (the total stay may be up to three years) or to re-enter New Zealand if you hold a Work Permit.

You may apply for a further Work Permit, if you arrived in New Zealand on a Work Visa. The maximum normal stay is three years from the date you first arrived in New Zealand

If you are already in New Zealand as a visitor, you may apply for a Work Permit for a total stay of nine months from the date of your arrival as a visitor.

## What do I have to provide to get a Work Visa or Permit?

Work Visa and Permit requirements are found on the Application to Work in New Zealand form, under The Worker's Guide.

### **New Zealand Employers**

If you are an employer in New Zealand and need to recruit a person(s) from overseas, because you are unable to locate suitable New Zealanders you should:

- write to the local office of the New Zealand Immigration Service to obtain Approval in Principle.
  - write on letterhead paper with the following details: job title, description of the job, requirements of the job, what efforts you have made to find suitable New Zealanders and the reasons why you are unable to employ suitable New Zealanders.

If you have the name and address of the person(s) you

wish to bring to New Zealand, you should also include these details.

- We will write directly to you about the Approval in Principle and if we know the country of residence of the person(s) you wish to bring to New Zealand, will also inform the nearest New Zealand Immigration Service Branch overseas of the approval.
- The person(s) you wish to bring to New Zealand will need to obtain a Work Visa before they enter New Zealand. The normal maximum stay is three years. Accompanying spouse and children should apply for a Visitor or Student Visa.

## Special Categories

### **Citizens of Kiribati, Pitcairn Island and Tuvalu**

Special arrangements are available for the citizens of these countries.

### **Crew of Chartered Foreign Fishing Vessels**

You may apply for a Work Visa with evidence you hold a contract to work on a vessel in New Zealand. The normal maximum stay is two years and for several crew travelling together a “Group Visa Form” may be used. Your New Zealand agent will need to contact the local office of the New Zealand Immigration Service, and comply with special procedures before you travel to New Zealand.

### **Exchange Schemes**

You may apply for a Work Visa to come to New Zealand as part of an approved exchange scheme. These may be Government to Government, established formal exchanges or private exchanges arranged for one off situations only. To arrange an exchange scheme contact the local office of the New Zealand Immigration Service.

### **Entertainers, performing artists and associated support personnel**

Before you apply for a Work Visa, your promoter, agent or producer will need to negotiate with the local office of the New Zealand Immigration Service and the appropriate New Zealand Union for approval.

### **Fiancé(e)s of New Zealand citizens and Residents.**

A fiancé(e) may apply for a Work Visa and be granted three months on arrival and may apply for a further permit for a maximum stay of nine months. The fiancé(e) needs to be an income earner for the couple and the marriage must take place within nine months of arrival. An offer of employment is not required.

### **Halal Slaughtermen**

You may apply for a Work Visa for a stay up to 12 months. An offer of employment from the New Zealand Meat Industry Association (NZMIA) is required.

### **Operation Deep Freeze**

You will need to apply for a Work Visa before travelling to New Zealand if you intend working on the mainland of New Zealand. Those working on the Ross Dependency are exempt from the requirement to hold a permit, however they will need to meet visitor requirements to travel to New Zealand. Any military personnel with orders to be in New Zealand are exempt from the requirement to hold a visa or permit.

### **Overseas students who require practical work experience**

If you are a student in your home country and require practical work experience as part of your course. You may apply for a Work Visa for a stay of up to six months, if you hold an offer of employment in New Zealand.

### **Part time work**

If you are a visitor in New Zealand and wish to work part time, you may apply for a Variation of

Conditions. You must pay a fee (see New Zealand Immigration Service Fees Leaflet) and provide an offer of employment, which is checked to see if suitable New Zealanders are available. The Variation of Conditions changes the conditions of your present permit to allow you to work.

### **Partners of New Zealand Citizens and Residents**

A spouse, defacto or homosexual partner can apply for a Work Visa or Permit for a maximum stay of two years from date of first arrival. You do not need to provide an offer of employment.

### **Player on tour or competing in tournaments**

You must apply for a Work Visa if you are undertaking a short term tour or tournament and you will receive any form of reward or assistance with accommodation, airfares, maintenance or wage.

### **Player taking up a paid position for a season**

You may apply for a Work Visa for a stay up to nine months you will need to provide a letter from the New Zealand sports club, no check is made to see if suitable New Zealanders are available.

### **Professional Coaches**

Once your sport's national body obtains approval from the New Zealand Immigration Service you can apply for a Work Visa. If you wish to undertake additional employment you will need an offer of employment which will be checked to see if suitable New Zealanders are available.

### **New Zealand racing conference apprentices**

You may apply for a Work Visa if you are aged 16 years or over. An offer of employment from a New Zealand trainer and the support of New Zealand Racing Conference is required.

### **Secondment of executive staff of multinational companies**

You may apply for short and long term secondments

for a normal maximum of three years. An offer of employment is required and no check is made to see if suitable New Zealanders are available.

### **Spouses and children of US Government Personnel**

You may apply for a Work Visa if your spouse or parent is working for the US Government in New Zealand. Under this agreement dependants are defined as spouses, unmarried dependent children under 21 years of age, unmarried dependent children under 25 years of age who are full time post secondary school students and unmarried children who are physically or mentally disabled.

### **Working holiday schemes**

If you are a Canadian, Japanese or United Kingdom citizen aged 18 to 30 and want to have a working holiday in New Zealand you may apply for a Work Visa. These schemes are:

- New Zealand/Canada Working Holiday Scheme
- Japan/New Zealand Working Holiday Scheme
- United Kingdom Citizens' Working Holiday Scheme.

## **Other Special Categories**

If you meet one of the categories below you may apply for a Work Visa to travel to New Zealand. You would need to provide a letter from your employer or sponsoring body to confirm your employment. No check is made to see if suitable New Zealanders are available.

- Black Birch Astrometric Observatory
- Dance and music examiners
- Domestic staff of diplomatic and consular personnel
- Domestic staff of seconded business personnel
- German law students/graduates for stays of six months with a New Zealand law firm
- Japanese interpreters

- Installers and servicers of machinery for non New Zealand purchased equipment
- Korean national assisting deer velvet producers for stays of six months
- Medical and Dental Personnel for New Zealand Hospitals
- Medical and Dental trainees for six month practical training
- Ministers of religion, missionaries, and members of religious orders
- Pastors and lay missionaries
- Research and Post doctoral fellows
- Senior executive staff of multinational companies
- Show judges and sports referees
- University lecturers, polytechnic tutors and secondary education teachers

## Could I be refused a Visa or Permit?

Yes,

- if you do not meet the entry requirements or
- if you are a person to whom section 7 of the Immigration Act 1987 applies and you do not have an exemption:

### **Section 7 applies to persons who:**

- have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 5 years or more (this applies even if any of your offences have later been taken off the record)
- in the past 10 years were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more
- are the subject of a current New Zealand removal order
- have been deported from any country
- are suspected of being likely to constitute a danger to New Zealand's security or public order
- are believed to be associated with an organisation

or group with criminal objectives and for that or any other reason considered to be a threat to the public interest or public order.

## Medical Insurance

Most temporary workers are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand unless they are a resident or citizen of Australia or a national of the United Kingdom in New Zealand, or hold a temporary permit that is valid for two years or more. If you do not belong to one of these special categories then, if you receive medical treatment during your visit, you will be liable or your sponsor may be liable for the full costs of that treatment. We therefore strongly recommend that you have medical insurance for the duration of your visit.

## Where can I get more information and advice?

You can get more information about Work Visas or Permits:

- from New Zealand diplomatic and consular offices
- from any of our NZIS branch offices, which are located in Auckland, Manukau, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.