

Immigration Guide

New Zealand

PwC International Assignment Services



Introduction

Foreigners visiting New Zealand may be required to apply for the appropriate New Zealand Immigration clearance before they travel to New Zealand.

Visiting

Foreigners who would like to come to New Zealand temporarily to visit friends and family, explore New Zealand, enjoy amateur sports or adventure activity, should apply for a visitor visa. This type of visa is not appropriate for foreigners who are intending to undertake employment or a programme of study or training in New Zealand. Generally speaking, visitor visas may be granted for up to 9 months.

Immigration New Zealand's website provides a list of those nationals (visa-waiver countries) who do not need to apply for a visitor visa before travelling to New Zealand if their intended visit is for 3 months or less.

Business Visitor

Foreigners can enter New Zealand as a Business Visitor provided that they intend to stay in New Zealand for no longer than 3 months in any calendar year, and the scope of their activities is limited to exploring business opportunities, business negotiations and representing official trade missions recognized by the New Zealand government.

Business visitors are not permitted to undertake employment in New Zealand, be it for a New Zealand company or an overseas company. This is the case irrespective of where the individual is being remunerated.

Undertaking Employment/Work

A foreigner may be eligible to apply for a work visa if:

- the foreigner has a job offer from a New Zealand employer
- there is a specific purpose or event for which the foreigner needs to work in New Zealand
- the foreigner is a student or trainee who wants to work in New Zealand, or
- the foreigner wants to join their partner in New Zealand and work.

A work visa allows the holder to work in New Zealand for a set period of time, usually the extent of the foreigner's employment contract. Work visas may be granted from one to five years.

Family Members

If a foreigner's non-working spouse or children accompany them to New Zealand, they must apply for a visa under the family stream. The visa will typically be granted in line with the duration of the principal applicant's visa.

Residence

New Zealand Residence status allows a foreigner to live, work and study in New Zealand indefinitely. The benefits of being a resident include being able to work for any employer, eligibility to publicly-funded healthcare and disability services, having access to all courses of study without the need to pay international student fees – most of the rights of a citizen, including the right to vote.

A Resident Visa is typically issued with an expiry date of travel of 2 years from the date of issue of the Resident Visa.

A Permanent Resident Visa is a Resident Visa that has no travel conditions, which allows the foreigner to travel freely in and out of the country indefinitely as a New Zealand Resident.

Investing and Doing Business in New Zealand

New Zealand Immigration's business immigration instructions are designed to contribute to economic growth, attract 'smart' capital and business expertise to New Zealand, and enable experienced business people to establish or invest in businesses in New Zealand.

Investors

Foreigners who wish to invest funds in a New Zealand business and live in New Zealand may apply for residence under the Investor 1 or Investor 2 Category, or apply for a visitor visa (valid for up to two years) under the Temporary Retirement Category.

Entrepreneurs

Experienced business foreigners who wish to establish and run a business in New Zealand can apply for a work visa under the Entrepreneur Work Visa Category and then apply for residence under the Entrepreneur Residence Visa Category.

Application Process

All applications are to be submitted to Immigration New Zealand (INZ). Some visa types can be submitted online, while others require submission of a paper copy of the relevant application form and supporting documents.

Supporting Documents

Documents to support a visa application will typically include but are not limited to a valid travel document (passport), passport-sized photographs, education certificates, letters from the employing organisation or persons supporting the visa application, police clearance and medical certificates. An official translation may be required if documents are not in English

Processing timeframes

Visa processing times depend on the type of visa applied for, the country in which the foreigner resides in and the location of the closest visa application centre.

Non-Compliance

Foreigners who are unlawfully in New Zealand include visa holders who breach any of their visa conditions, or over-stay in New Zealand without a valid New Zealand visa. A person unlawfully in New Zealand is liable for deportation.

For a visa applicant or visa holder, it is an offence to provide false or misleading information or submit forged documents with a visa application. Upon conviction, possible penalties include visa revocation, deportation from New Zealand and/or a fine.

For an employer, it is an offence to employ a foreigner without the right visa that entitles the foreigner to work in New Zealand. It is also an offence to provide false or misleading information in support of an employee's visa application. Upon conviction, the employer could be liable to a fine and/or jail term.

Contact

This guide is intended to provide a general overview of the immigration requirements and types of visas for foreigners seeking to visit, work or reside in New Zealand. For advice relating to New Zealand immigration matters, the use of a licensed adviser is recommended. Our licensed advisers can be contacted as below:

Name	Email	Telephone
Jaqueline Chong	jaq.a.chong@nz.pwc.com	+64 (0)9 355 8102
Tom McCallum	tom.j.mccallum@nz.pwc.com	+64 (0)4 462 7154

Last updated: October 2016

© 2016 PricewaterhouseCoopers. All rights reserved.

Disclaimer: This publication is intended to provide only general information and it does not amount to professional, legal or tax advice. Readers should therefore not rely on the contents of this publication as a basis of specific action, without seeking professional advice.

"PricewaterhouseCoopers refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers or, as the context requires, the PricewaterhouseCoopers global network or other member firms of the network, each of which is a separate legal entity.