

FINDING THE RIGHT JOB FOR YOUR VISA

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If you're planning to live and work permanently in New Zealand, it's likely you will need an offer of employment in order to get your visa.

If you're applying for a Temporary Work Visa/Permit or Permanent Residency under the Skilled Migrant Category, your job offer must meet a number of criteria. Requirements will differ from case to case, but make sure you check your job meets requirements for your visa before you formally accept the offer! Here are a few things to get you started:

1. ANZSCO

Your job must feature on the Australian New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), which you can access through the toolbox on www.immigration.govt.nz. The core tasks of your job are more important than the job title.

2. Skilled Employment

Your job offer must be considered skilled. Skilled employment requires specialist, technical or management expertise.

An offer of employment in an occupation classified by ANZSCO as skill level one, two or three may be considered skilled employment providing certain policy requirements are met.

You must have a job offer in an occupation classified as skill level one, two or three in order to satisfy requirements for permanent residency under the Skilled Migrant Category. You can find a list of these occupations in Appendix 11 of Immigration New Zealand's Operational Manual. Again, the core tasks of your job are more important than the job title.

3. Essential Skills in Demand

Your job offer should feature on one of Immigration New Zealand's Essential Skills in Demand lists.

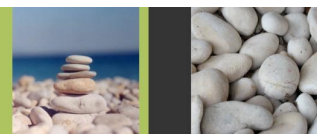
The Government uses the Long Term Skill Shortage List (LTSSL) in relation to both Temporary Work Visas/Permits and Permanent Residency. The Immediate Skill Shortage List (ISL) is used in relation to Temporary Work Visas/Permits only.

If you meet the requirements on the list, and the policy requirements, the Government will accept that no New Zealanders are available for the position.

If you want to apply for a Temporary Work Visa/Permit, your occupation does not have to be on one of the lists. However, your employer must show that they have genuinely searched for suitably qualified and trained New Zealand workers. The Government will also undertake a labour market test.

4. Job Type

Your job offer must be a full time permanent position – ie. at least 30 hours per week. Some contract positions may be suitable for residency depending on the terms and conditions of the contract.



5. Relevance

Your job offer must be relevant to your qualifications and/or your work experience. You will need to provide evidence of your qualifications and/or work experience as part of your visa application.

6. Salary

If you are applying for a Temporary Work Visa/Permit or Permanent Residency through the Skilled Migrant Category, there is no minimum salary required. However, your salary or base salary must be at least equal to the minimum New Zealand wage and cannot be purely commission based.

7. Established Business

Your employer must be operating an 'established' business in New Zealand and have registered offices as your primary place of work – no working purely from home.

The Current Job Market

New Zealand employers are typically open to considering applications from overseas candidates. However, because some don't understand the visa process or have had bad experiences in the past, be prepared for rejections.

The New Zealand job market is more competitive in these tougher economic times. There are more Kiwis looking for work and fewer jobs being advertised. Employers are also looking to minimise any further risk to their business by employing New Zealand residents. Nevertheless, New Zealand still needs skilled and experienced migrants to fill gaps in many areas.

At the moment, you will almost certainly need to be in New Zealand to be considered for interviews. It's a big investment of time and money, but making the trip to New Zealand will demonstrate your commitment to the employer and ensure you are the right fit for the organisation.

Remember, finding the right job takes time, persistence and patience. Approach the process with an open mind, learn and seek advice from an expert if necessary.

For advice or information about migrating to New Zealand, contact Glen and the Golden Sands Migration team on +64 3 5257960 or email your CV to visa@goldensandsmigration.co.nz for a free, no obligation visa eligibility assessment.

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