

LIVING AND WORKING IN NEW ZEALAND Main Visa Categories

The category under which you apply for a visa to live and work in New Zealand will depend on your individual circumstances.

This information is designed to provide you with a general overview of the requirements for the most common categories under which you may be able to apply for a temporary visa or permanent residency of New Zealand.

This information has been provided by our Director of Immigration, **Glen Standing**, who is a **Licensed Immigration Adviser No. 200800361**.



The content of this document is generic and does not replace the professional advice you would receive as a client of Golden Sands Migration (NZ) Limited.

TEMPORARY WORK VISA

In our experience, a Temporary Work Visa is most commonly used to enable a migrant to start work in New Zealand within a relatively short space of time before applying for permanent residency, if they wish to do so.

Your application for Permanent Residency can take up to **9 months or more** to be approved by Immigration NZ. A Temporary Work Visa and or Permit may take between **4-8 weeks** to be approved from the date your application is submitted to Immigration NZ (INZ).

If you are eligible for residency and wish to apply, it is then possible to progress your application once you are here in New Zealand on your Temporary Work Visa.

Basic Requirements for Temporary Work Visa

- An offer of employment from a New Zealand employer.
- The role you have been offered must feature on the Australian New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).
- Your occupation may be listed on one of Immigration NZ's Essential Skills in Demand Lists.
- Your employer must show that they have genuinely searched for suitably qualified and trained New Zealand workers.
- Your job must be full time (ie. 30+ hours per week).
- Your job offer must be relevant to your qualification and/or work experience - you will need to provide evidence of this.
- Acceptable standard of English.
- Good health and good character.

In many cases, Immigration NZ will conduct a **Labour Market Test** to confirm that no suitable New Zealand workers are available for the position you have been offered.

PERMANENT RESIDENCY

There are three main categories under which a Permanent Residency application may be lodged with the New Zealand Government – **Skilled Migrant, Family, or Business/Investor.**

Skilled Migrant Category (SMC)

The Skilled Migrant Category is the main path to residence in New Zealand. It is designed to make sure that people migrating to New Zealand have the skills the country needs.

Requirements

To apply under the Skilled Migrant Category, you **must** meet certain requirements. You need to be aged from 20-55 (inclusive). You also have to meet standards of health, character, and English language proficiency before you start the process.

The Expression of Interest (EOI)

This is the first step towards making an application. If you qualify, you can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), in which you claim points for skills, experience, age, offer of full-time skilled employment, and other factors.

The EOI pool and the pool draw

If you have claimed 100 points or more on your EOI, it goes into the Pool. Every fortnight, all EOIs over 140 points are automatically selected for an Invitation to Apply. After this, lower scoring EOIs with certain factors, such as skilled employment in New Zealand, are selected.

Invitation to Apply (ITA)

Once your EOI is drawn from the pool, Immigration NZ (INZ) examines it and if they find it credible, they send you an Invitation to Apply (ITA). You will have to show proof of the claims made on your EOI. This means your employment contract, medical and police certificates, proof of English language ability, and documentation regarding your skills, experience, and other factors.

The application form contains the information that you provided in your EOI. You will check the information and return it to INZ with your documentation.

Full assessment

Once INZ receives your application and documents, they start assessing you for residence. They make sure that you meet all their requirements, and that your points claims are valid.

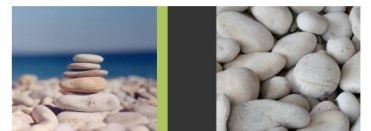
They will also assess you on your ability to settle in New Zealand successfully. They may consider you able based on your application, or they may wish to interview you before making their final decision.

Family Category

Many people already settled in New Zealand wish their close family to join them, and family members, often alone, wish to come to New Zealand to be close to relatives.

Immigration NZ (INZ) has a range of family policies facilitating partners, dependent children, parents, siblings or adult children of New Zealand citizens or residents to come to live in New Zealand.

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You may apply to come to New Zealand to live if you are sponsored by a family member who is already a New Zealand citizen and/or resident. You must be in one of the groups shown below.

- Partner – you are the husband, wife, defacto or civil union partner of a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- Dependent Child – you are a dependent child with a parent who is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- Parent – you have a child who is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- Brother, sister or adult child – you have a brother, sister or adult child who is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

If you are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident you may be able to sponsor your partner, dependent child, parent, adult child, brother or sister.

Business & Investor Category

The New Zealand Government has launched a new business migration scheme to help boost economic performance by making New Zealand more attractive for business and entrepreneurial migrants.

The new policy package is designed for migrants who want to invest or set up a business in New Zealand and gain permanent residence.

Please note that this category has very strict requirements and criteria. The application process is very involved and requires a lot of time, work and commitment. Other categories for obtaining your visa should be seriously considered before opting to apply through the Business & Investor Category.

For more information and to discuss your plans, contact Golden Sands' Director of Immigration, Glen Standing, email glen@goldensandsmigration.co.nz Tel +64 3 525 7960.

USE A LICENSED ADVISER

If you decide to employ the services of an immigration adviser to assist you with your visa application, make sure they are licensed.

The Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007 requires anyone providing New Zealand immigration advice from New Zealand to be licensed by 4 May 2009.

Offshore Advisers (ie. those not in New Zealand) giving advice on New Zealand immigration matters must have a licence by 4 May 2010.

Golden Sands Migration (NZ) Limited has two fully licensed advisers - **Glen Standing** (No. 200800361) and **Leanne Climo** (No. 200900181).

New migrants can be confident they are getting sound advice and professional service when they work with a Licensed Adviser. Look out for this symbol.



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The IAA keeps a publicly available register of licensed Immigration Advisers, administers complaints against licensed advisers, and takes enforcement action against agents not licensed.

To view this list or for more information visit www.iaa.govt.nz

For a FREE assessment of your eligibility to live and work in New Zealand contact Golden Sands Migration (NZ) Limited email your CV/resume to visa@goldensandsmigration.co.nz or Tel +64 3 525 7960.

For general information about migrating to New Zealand visit www.immigration.govt.nz

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