

New Zealand's thriving economy offers many opportunities. If you are interested in migrating to New Zealand, and have the skills we need, the time has never been better.

The Skilled Migrant Category is the main path to residence in New Zealand. It is designed to make sure that those migrating to New Zealand have the skills the country needs in a time of low unemployment and high skill shortages.

This category works on a points system. Points are earned on the basis of your qualifications, work experience and job, or job offer, in New Zealand. Bonus points can be earned if your expertise is in an industry which has been identified as having a skills shortage or growth potential. See the complete list of factors for which you can earn points inside this brochure.

You can find more information on the Skilled Migrant Category and other options for working in New Zealand at www.immigration.govt.nz

For information on life and living in New Zealand go to www.newzealandnow.info

New Zealand Residence

The Skilled Migrant Category



Immigration New Zealand is the international arm of the Department of Labour

Department of Labour
TE TARI MAHI



NZIS1002

Immigration New Zealand
TE RATONGA MANENE





SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY POINTS

You can work out how many points you score at www.immigration.govt.nz/pointsindicator or in the *Self Assessment Guide for Residence* which is available to download on our website or on request from our call centres or branches.

If you score 100 points or more you can begin the application process which has four steps.

Step 1: You fill in and submit an *Expression of Interest (EOI)* form, either online or on paper. This includes information on things like your skills, education, experience, family circumstances and all of the factors for which you are claiming points. You do not need to supply evidence at this stage but do need to pay the *EOI* fee.

Step 2: Your *Expression of Interest (EOI)* goes into a pool in which it is ranked alongside other *EOIs*. Every fortnight *EOIs* are selected in sufficient numbers to meet the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) targets.

- Firstly *EOIs* with 140 points or more are selected from the pool.
- Secondly *EOIs* with 100 to 135 points, which include points for a skilled job or job offer in New Zealand, are selected from the pool next if places are available in the NZRP.
- And if there are further places available, more *EOIs* can be selected using criteria set every six months by the Minister of Immigration.

Selection criteria may change. Current selection criteria and New Zealand Residence Programme numbers are published on our website.

Step 3: If your *Expression of Interest* is selected, the information in it will be checked. You may be asked to supply evidence of some of your claims at this point. If your *Expression of Interest* passes these checks you may be invited to apply for residence. You then have four months in which to collect your documentation and get your *Application for Residence* in.

Step 4: Once you have submitted your *Application for Residence*, fee and supporting documentation, including medical and police checks, it will be rigorously checked. You may be asked to attend an interview at an Immigration New Zealand branch. If successful in your application, you will need to pay the migrant levy and will then be issued with residence visas or permits for you and the family members you included in your application.

If your *Expression of Interest* is not immediately selected, it remains in the pool for six months. If your situation changes while your *EOI* is in the pool, you are able to update your information. For example, if you receive a skilled job offer you can amend your *EOI* and claim points for the job offer, which will increase your points total and improve your chances of being selected from the pool. If your *EOI* is not selected within six months, it will be removed from the pool. You are able to submit a new *EOI* and try again.

Tips for the Skilled Migrant Category process

- The more points you can earn, the more likely you are to have your *Expression of Interest* selected from the pool.
- The best way to earn points is to get a skilled job offer from a New Zealand employer.
- Selection criteria may change so check the immigration website from time to time to see what the current selection criteria means for you.
- The cheapest and easiest way to submit your *Expression of Interest* is online at www.immigration.govt.nz
- Make sure that the documentation you submit with your *Application for Residence* is complete – incomplete documentation slows the process down.
- Claiming points that you are not sure you are eligible for will not give you a better chance of getting residence. It could slow down the assessment of your *Expression of Interest* and result in it being resubmitted to the pool or even declined.

Skilled employment	Points
Offer of skilled employment in NZ	50
Employed in skilled occupation in NZ for less than 12 months	50
Employed in skilled occupation in NZ for more than 12 months	60
Employment or offer of employment:	
in an identified future growth area	10
in an area of absolute skills shortage	10
in a region outside Auckland	10
for spouse/partner's employment or offer of employment	20
Work experience	
Work experience relevant to your qualification, occupation and/or job offer	
2 years	10
4 years	15
6 years	20
8 years	25
10 years	30
Work experience in New Zealand	
1 year	5
2 years	10
3 years or more	15
Work experience in an identified future growth area	
2 to 5 years	10
6 years or more	15
Work experience in an area of absolute skills shortage	
2 to 5 years	10
6 years or more	15
Qualifications	
Recognised basic qualification (trade qualification, diploma, bachelors degree, bachelors degree with honours)	50
Recognised post-graduate qualification (masters degree, doctorate)	55
Two years of full-time study in New Zealand towards a recognised qualification	5
Recognised basic New Zealand qualification (trade qualification, diploma, bachelors degree, bachelors degree with honours)	5
Recognised post-graduate New Zealand qualification (masters degree, doctorate)	10
Qualification in an identified future growth area	10
Qualification in an area of absolute skills shortage	10
Spouse/partner's qualifications	20
Age and family	
20 to 29	30
30 to 39	25
40 to 44	20
45 to 49	10
50 to 55	5
Close family in New Zealand	10