

Web address: www.immigration.govt.nz/moscow

INZ **reception** is open to the public **9.30 am – 11.30 am** Monday to Friday (except public holidays). INZ can be contacted for phone **inquires** between **9.30 am – 11.00 am**, and **4 pm to 5 pm**, Monday to Friday (except public holidays). Telephone: **(+7 495) 956 2642** or Fax: **(+7 495) 232 0180**

INFORMATION ON SPONSORED VISITOR VISA APPLICATIONS

It is the basic requirement for all visa applications that the applicant should visit New Zealand for a lawful purpose. Lawful purposes for a maximum period of 9 months for visiting New Zealand include visiting family, social visits, tourism, business and to get married.

There is no specific visitor visa that allows an applicant to visit New Zealand to **meet** a sponsor or **test** a relationship with a New Zealand citizen. Applicants who fall within this category must therefore be tested against general visitor visa criteria to establish that they are bona fide visitors.

When lodging an application for a general Visitor Visa which is based on an association which has developed between a sponsor/NZ citizen/resident it is the applicant's responsibility to provide proof of an established connection or relationship.

A sponsorship form should be presented with the application, it is also the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence with the application which demonstrates their ability to meet visa policy requirements.

In particular a Visa Officer must assess the nature of the connection between the applicant and the New Zealand sponsor and what incentives the applicant has to return to their home country. A Visa Officer may consider after assessing the following that this application could be approved and **refer the application to the Branch Manager for consideration as an exception to policy.**

- **sufficient funds** – evidence of funds provided to support their stay in New Zealand. (sponsorship form, bank accounts, employment earnings etc);
- **overseas travel** - evidence of previous overseas travel to demonstrate previous travel history and returning to the country of residence (copies of visas etc);
- **communication** - evidence that both the applicant and the sponsor speak the same language or can communicate with each other.
- **sponsorship** - reasonable proof of an established genuine connection and whether it is a stable relationship which is likely to endure, such as how and when you met, frequency and length of meetings (*When the applicant has never met their sponsor or met once only for a brief period it is considered they are unable to do this*);
- **contacts** – evidence of meetings with each other (photos, copies of tickets, visas etc), evidence of other contacts (letters, telephone bills, e-mails, etc); length of time, frequency of communications;
- **dependants/employment/study** - considering whether the applicant has intentions to return to the country of residence at the expiry of the New Zealand permit, what social and economic incentives they have, the strength of family and employment obligations (details of: dependant family members staying in the country of residence; strong employment or study commitments; approved leave etc);
- **return travel** – evidence of travel arrangements (travel bookings and/or itinerary).

If you are applying for a visitor visa with the intention of getting married or if you have recently married in addition to the above you need to provide evidence of the marriage arrangements or marriage/civil union certificate. Full medical certificates and police certificates will also be required to be submitted at the time of lodging your application.

The sponsor needs to be an eligible sponsor who has not previously sponsored more than one other successful principal applicant or been sponsored themselves in the five years immediately preceding the date this application is made. Definition of an eligible sponsor refer policy F2.10.10