

INFORMATION FOR PARTNERS AND DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN OF WORKERS AND RESIDENTS

## PARTNERS & DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF WORKERS & RESIDENTS

If you want to work or study in New Zealand and want to bring your family with you, this guide will help you check the requirements you must meet.

### ■ RESIDENCE OPTIONS

If you are applying under any of the residence categories, your partner and your dependent children aged under 25 years can be included on your application. The requirements that your dependent children must meet depend on which residence category you apply under. See our [Residence pages](#).

There are also limited numbers of places available under our residence categories for people who are the partner, dependent child, parent, brother, sister or adult child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder. See our [Family categories pages](#).

### ■ TEMPORARY ENTRY OPTIONS

You and your family might want to try living here before deciding to stay permanently, or you might want to live here short term.

If you are a citizen or hold a residence class visa, or you work or study in New Zealand, the family and dependent child visa categories enable your family members to experience New Zealand with you. There are several options.

#### 1. Partners and dependent children of workers

If you have a work visa, your partner can apply for a work visa, a student visa, or a visitor visa valid for the same length of time as your work visa. To be eligible for the partnership-based work visa, your own work visa must be valid for more than six months.

Your dependent children can apply for student visas or visitor visas valid for the same length of time as your work visa. If your work visa was granted under the Essential Skills work instructions after 30 November 2009 (and you did not have an Essential Skills work visa before that date), you will have to show that you meet a minimum income requirement before your children can be granted a student or visitor visa.

If your work visa was granted under any of the categories below, your partner and children cannot have temporary entry visas based on your family relationship:

- Working Holiday Schemes
- Crew of Foreign Chartered Fishing Vessel
- Horticulture and Viticulture Seasonal Work
- Silver Fern Job Search.

They may still be able to come to New Zealand if they meet the requirements under another visa category.

## DID YOU KNOW



- If practical, it is recommended that family members of a worker submit their individual applications at the same time as the main work visa application. This makes it easier to show that the supporting partner is acceptable and any accompanying children are legal dependants. Don't forget to obtain original birth certificates showing the names of the parent(s) or original adoption papers if appropriate.
- Single parents bringing children to New Zealand may be asked to show that they have the right to remove the child from their home country. To avoid delays, it is recommended that parents have appropriate documentation showing that they have sole custody of their child(ren) or a signed statement from the parent not travelling to New Zealand agreeing to allow the child(ren) to remain in New Zealand for the intended visit.

INFORMATION FOR PARTNERS AND DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN OF WORKERS AND RESIDENTS

## 2. Partners and dependent children of students

If you have a student visa granted to study for a postgraduate qualification or for a qualification in an area of absolute skill shortage (as specified in the [Long Term Skill Shortage List](#)), your partner can apply for a work visa or a visitor visa valid for the same length of time as your student visa.

If you hold a student visa granted to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme in a New Zealand university, your dependent children can apply for a student visa valid for the same length of time as your student visa.

## 2. Partners and dependent children of residents

If you are a New Zealand citizen or you have a residence class visa, your partner can apply for a student visa valid for:

- a student visa, valid for the length of their intended course of study
- a visitor visa, valid for up to 24 months depending on the length of your partnership
- a work visa, valid for up to 24 months depending on the length of your partnership.

Your dependent children can apply for a visitor visa valid for nine months, but can extend their stay and apply for further visitor visas to stay up to two years.

### Education fees

Primary and secondary school students do not have to pay international student fees if they are considered 'domestic' students. A child is classed as a 'domestic student' if their parent holds a work visa as per the above requirements and is entitled to subsidised education at New Zealand state schools. Domestic student criteria is administered by the New Zealand Ministry of Education and can be found on their website [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz). If a dependent child is required to pay international fees (such as at tertiary level) they can apply under general student instructions.

## ■ PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Whether you want to include your partner in your residence application or your partner wants to apply for a visa based on your relationship, you must living together with that partner in a genuine and stable partnership. To support a partnership-based temporary entry application, you must also meet the following criteria:

- intend to be in New Zealand for the period for which your partner wants a visa
- meet the character requirements for [supporting partners](#).

## ■ DEPENDENT CHILD REQUIREMENTS

To be included in a residence application as dependants, your children must:

- be aged 24 years or younger
- be single
- have no children of their own (if aged 18-24)
- be financially dependent on an adult.

To apply for a temporary entry visa as dependants, you children must:

- be aged 19 years or younger
- be single
- have no children of their own (if aged 18 or 19)
- be financially dependent on you or your partner.

## DID YOU KNOW



- A partner of a worker may choose to apply for a work, student or visitor visa in their own right. This means their visa is not reliant on their partner's immigration status.
- People who are not New Zealand citizens or residents must pay international study fees for any tertiary study. This is important to note for older children who may join the family in New Zealand while the parent(s) complete the residence application process.

INFORMATION FOR PARTNERS AND DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN OF WORKERS AND RESIDENTS

■ HEALTH AND CHARACTER REQUIREMENTS

Every person applying to travel or stay in New Zealand must meet *health requirements* and be of *good character*.

If you intend to be in New Zealand for more than six months it is essential to check whether you need to have a medical check before travelling or applying to stay in New Zealand. Restrictions do apply for people who are likely to use medical services while in New Zealand.

DID YOU KNOW



- New Zealand law prohibits any person on a temporary entry visa, including a partnership work visa, from providing commercial sexual services or operating or investing in a business which provides such services.

## INFO SHEET

YOUR SITUATION	MOST RELEVANT INSTRUCTIONS	AGE	IS A FULL-TIME JOB REQUIRED (MINIMUM 30 HOURS PER WEEK)?	LENGTH OF STAY ALLOWED ON INDIVIDUAL VISA.	WORK RIGHTS	CONFIRMABLE SKILLS REQUIRED?	SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS	SEE ALSO
I would like to work and my partner has (is applying for) a work visa for at least six months.	Family Stream Work instructions	No age limit	No	In line with the duration of their partner's visa.	Full work rights*	No	No	Working temporarily
My children would like to attend primary and secondary school while I work in New Zealand.	Student instructions for dependants	Up to 19 years	N/A	In line with the duration of their parent's visa.	No	No	No	Student
I would like to work and my partner holds (is applying for) a student visa to study postgraduate or LTSSL qualifications in New Zealand.	Family Stream Work instructions	No age limit	No	In line with the duration of their partner's visa.	Full work rights*	No	No	Working temporarily
I hold a student visa and my children would like to attend primary and secondary school.	Student instructions	No age limit but they must independently apply as fee-paying foreign students	N/A	Up to four years NB Duration of visa is limited by length of enrolment and/or fees paid.	No	No	No	Student
My partner holds a work/student visa and our children and I would like to stay together in New Zealand. We will not be working or studying during our stay.	Visitor instructions for dependants	Children must be aged 19 years or younger	N/A	In line with the duration of their partner/parent's visa.	No	NA	No	
My older child will be included on our residence application but until the application is processed would like to begin tertiary studies.	Student instructions	No age limit but they must independently apply as fee-paying foreign students	No	Up to four years NB: Duration of visa could be limited by length of enrolment and/or fees paid.	Limited	No	No but evidence of funds will be required.	Student, Working Holiday
My brother, sister or parent is eligible to sponsor me for residence and I wish to move to New Zealand.	Family categories (Sibling/Adult Child Category)	55 years or younger when you submit your application	Yes, and it must be ongoing and meet minimum salary requirements	Permanent (see temporary work options if you intend to work in New Zealand before obtaining permanent residence).	Full work rights	You must show that you have the skills required to do the work on offer, and the job offer must be genuine.	Yes, see our <i>Family categories pages</i> .	Working temporarily, SMC

**WHICH OPTION SUITS YOU?**