

■ INFORMATION FOR PARTNERS AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF WORKERS AND RESIDENTS

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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.

■ PERMANENT RESIDENCE

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

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

TEMPORARY POLICY OPTIONS

You and your family might want to try living here before deciding to stay permanently, or you might want to live in New Zealand short term. If you work or study in New Zealand, the family and dependent child policies enable your family members to experience New Zealand with you. There are several policy options:

1. Family Stream Work Policy

If you hold a work permit valid for more than six months, your partner can apply for a work visa for the same length of time as you are allowed to work in New Zealand.

You must show that you:

- are living together in a genuine and stable relationship with your partner,
- meet the character requirement for partners supporting partnership-based temporary entry applications, and
- intend to be in New Zealand for the period for which your partner applies.

However, your partner will not be eligible for a permit if your work permit was granted under the:

- Working Holiday Scheme Policy, or
- Crew of foreign chartered fishing vessels policy, or
- Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Policy.

If you hold a New Zealand student visa and/or permit, your partner can apply for a work visa and/or permit for the same validity. You must be in a genuine and stable relationship with your partner, and you must hold a student visa and/or permit to study for either:

- a qualification in an area of absolute skill shortage as specified in the [Long Term Skill Shortage List](#), or
- a postgraduate qualification.

If you hold a student visa and/or permit which does not meet these criteria, your partner can apply for a visitor's visa and/or permit.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- Family members of a worker can apply for individual visas/permits at the same time. The outcome of these applications will be dependent on the decision on the worker's application.
- A partner of a worker may choose to apply for a work, student or visitor visa and/or permit in their own right. This means their visa and/or permit 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.
- Dependent children aged up to 24 years who are single and who have no children of their own can be included in a residence application. To be eligible they must rely mainly on the principal applicant (their parent) for financial support.
- 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.

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2. Student policy for dependants

If you hold a work visa and/or permit and your dependants want to study in New Zealand they can apply for student visas or permits unless your work permit was approved under the Crew of Foreign Chartered Fishing Vessels, Working Holiday Scheme, or Horticulture or Viticulture Seasonal work policies.

Generally, we see children as dependent if they are aged up to 19 years who are single and have no children of their own. They must rely mainly on their parent(s) for financial support. The sponsoring parent must hold a work visa and/or permit.

Education fees

Primary and secondary 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 permit 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](#).

If a dependent child is required to pay international fees (such as at tertiary level) they can apply under general student policy.

3. Visitor policy for dependants

In most cases, if you hold a student or work visa and/or permit your partner and dependent children can be issued with a visitor visa and/or permit for the same duration as your stay. However, this does not apply to you if your partner or parent holds a work permit granted under either:

- Crew of foreign chartered fishing vessels policy, or
- Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Policy.

If you hold a work permit granted under either of these policies, your family members must meet [general requirements](#) for a visitor visa and/or permit. Note that partners and children applying for a visitor visa and/or permit can be included on one application form.

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 ?

- If practical, it is recommended that family members submit their individual applications at the same time as the principal applicant. This makes it easier to show that the sponsor is eligible and any accompanying children are legal dependents. Don't forget to obtain original birth certificates showing the names of the parent(s) or original adoption papers if appropriate.
- New Zealand law prohibits any person on a temporary permit, including a partnership work permit, from providing commercial sexual services or operating or investing in a business which provides such services.

INFO SHEET

YOUR SITUATION	MOST RELEVANT POLICY	AGE	IS A FULLTIME JOB REQUIRED (MIN 30 HOURS PER WEEK)?	LENGTH OF STAY ALLOWED ON INDIVIDUAL PERMIT.	WORK RIGHTS	CONFIRMABLE SKILLS REQUIRED?	SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS	SEE ALSO
I would like to work and my partner has (is applying for) a work permit for at least six months.	Family Stream Work Policy	No age limit	No	In line with the duration of their partner's visa or permit	Full work rights*	No	Yes, see our family stream pages	Working Temporarily
My children would like to attend primary and secondary school while I work in New Zealand.	Student policy for dependants	Up to 19 years	N/A	In line with the duration of their parent's visa or permit	No	No	Yes, see the family study pages	Student
I would like to work and my partner holds (is applying for) a Student Permit to study postgraduate or LTSSL qualifications in New Zealand.	Family Stream Work policy	No age limit	No	In line with the duration of their partner's visa or permit	Full work rights*	No	Yes, see our family stream pages	Working Temporarily
I hold a student permit and my children would like to attend primary and secondary school.	Student policy	No age limit but they must independently apply as full fee paying students	N/A	Up to 4 years NB/ Duration of permit is limited by length of enrolment and/or fees paid	No	No	Yes, if child enrolled in years 1 to 8, or aged 13 or under. See our student pages	Student
My partner holds a work/ student permit and our children and I would like to stay together in New Zealand. We will not be working or studying during our stay.	Visitor policy for dependants	Children must be aged 19 years or younger	N/A	In line with the duration of their partner/parent's visa or permit	No	NA	Yes, see our special categories of visitors pages	
My older child will be included on our residence application but until the application is processed would like to begin tertiary studies.	Student Policy	No age limit but they must independently apply as full fee paying students	No	Up to four years NB/ Duration of permit 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 Category (Sibling/Adult Child Policy)	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 family categories pages	Working Temporarily SMC

WHICH OPTION SUITS YOU?