



## Guide to Special China Temporary Class Visas

Arising from the China-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)



This guide will give you information about a number of New Zealand temporary class visa categories which have come out of the China-New Zealand FTA.

The China-New Zealand FTA is a treaty between New Zealand and China that liberalises and facilitates trade, improves the business environment and promotes cooperation in a broad range of economic areas.

For more information on the FTA, see [www.chinafta.govt.nz](http://www.chinafta.govt.nz).

### Temporary entry for skilled workers

The FTA includes commitments for workers from China to enter New Zealand for temporary employment under the China Special Work Instructions and the China Skilled Workers Instructions. For both instructions, applicants must:

- be qualified and experienced in a particular occupation
- have registration, if required for that occupation
- have a genuine full-time New Zealand job offer.

If you apply under either of the skilled worker instructions you must lodge your application at either our Beijing branch or our Shanghai branch.

### China Special Work Instructions

Under these instructions limited numbers of workers from China may enter New Zealand for temporary employment, if they work as:

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- traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners, including TCM nurses (maximum of 200 at any one time)
- Chinese chefs (maximum of 200 at any one time)
- Mandarin teachers' aides (maximum of 150 at any one time)
- wushu martial arts coaches (maximum of 150 at any one time)
- Chinese tour guides (maximum of 100 at any one time).

If you want to know whether there are places available under these instructions, contact your nearest Immigration New Zealand branch, or visit our website [www.immigration.govt.nz/chinafta](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/chinafta).

If you want to apply you must complete the form *Work Application for China Skilled Work Instructions (INZ 1158)*. You must meet our normal health and character requirements. In addition, you must have a genuine full-time New Zealand job offer in one of the occupations below, and you must provide evidence that you meet the relevant qualification requirements, and any other requirements.

Occupation	Qualification requirement	Other requirements
Chinese chef	Chinese Occupational Skills Testing Authority Certificate Level 3 in traditional cuisine	–
TCM practitioner (including a TCM nurse)	Higher education degree requiring at least three years' successful study in TCM from an institution recognised by the Chinese government	–
Mandarin teachers' aide	Higher education degree requiring at least three years' successful study	The New Zealand job must require you to carry out a range of language-teaching duties, which support the acquisition of the Mandarin language by New Zealand school students.

Wushu martial arts coach	Grade 3-5 Certificate and a post-compulsory education qualification in either physical education or teaching requiring at least two years' successful study from an institution recognised by the Chinese government	–
	<b>OR</b> Wushu Grade 6-9 Certificate	Five years' teaching experience
Chinese tour guide	International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Level 5* in Listening and Speaking English	Valid Tour Guide Licence in China, and a demonstrated knowledge of New Zealand**.

\* See [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) to find test centres throughout the world, including many in China, where you can take an IELTS test.

\*\* **Tour guide:** to demonstrate your knowledge of New Zealand, you must complete the North and South Island online training modules. See Tourism New Zealand's website [www.newzealand.com/travel/zhs/trade](http://www.newzealand.com/travel/zhs/trade). Chinese language versions of these modules are available. When you have successfully completed the training, Tourism New Zealand will issue you with a certificate.

You may be granted a work visa under these instructions for the length of your employment agreement up to three years. You will need to have been back in China for at least three years before you can apply under these instructions again.

## China Skilled Workers Instructions

Under these instructions a maximum of 1000 skilled Chinese workers at any one time may be granted temporary employment for up to three years, in specified occupations where New Zealand has a skills shortage. Entry will be limited to no more than 100 workers in each occupation at any one time.

If you want to know whether there are places available under these instructions, contact your nearest Immigration New Zealand branch, or visit our website [www.immigration.govt.nz/chinafta](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/chinafta).

If you want to apply you must complete the form *Work Visa Application for China Skilled Work Instructions (INZ 1158)*. You must meet our normal health and character

requirements. In addition, you must have a genuine New Zealand job offer in one of the occupations below, and you must provide evidence that you meet the relevant qualification requirements, and any other requirements.

Occupation	Requirements
	Qualifications must be comparable to the standard of the New Zealand qualification listed.
Auditor	Degree level (Level 7) qualification majoring in accountancy and membership with New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (NZICA)
Automotive electrician	National Certificate in Automotive Engineering (Level 4) or National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Electrical Engineering) (Level 4)
Boatbuilder	National Certificate in Boatbuilding (Level 4)
Computer applications engineer	Degree level (Level 7) qualification majoring in computer science, information science or information technology and three years of relevant work experience
Design engineer – electronics/product engineer	Degree level (Level 7) qualification majoring in electronics, computer science or telecommunications and three years of relevant work experience with at least 12 months' relevant work experience in the past 18 months
Diesel mechanic	National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Heavy Engineering) (Level 4)
Early childhood teacher	A qualification in Early Childhood Education (ages 0-5) at a minimum of Level 7 which is approved by the New Zealand Teachers Council, and New Zealand registration
Electronics technician	National Diploma in Engineering (Level 6) (Electronics), or relevant degree-level qualification (Level 7) (for example, BTech in Electronics, BSc or BE) and three years' work experience and at least 12 months' relevant work experience in the past 18 months
Electrician	New Zealand Electrical Registration
Film Animator	Degree level qualification (Level 7) in one of the following: Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Computer Science, Software Engineering or Film, specialising in multimedia, computer graphics, digital design, computer programming or software development
Fitter and turner	National Certificate in Maintenance and Diagnostics in Mechanical Engineering (Level 5) or National Certificate in Engineering, Machining and Toolmaking (Level 5)

Fitter/Welder	National Certificate in Maintenance and Diagnostics in Mechanical Engineering (Level 5) or National Certificate in Engineering - Fabrication with strands in welding or heavy fabrication (Level 5)
Medical diagnostic radiographer/ Medical radiation therapist	Bachelor in Health Science specialising in medical radiation therapy or specialising in medical imaging and New Zealand registration
Motor mechanic	National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Engineering) (Level 4)
Plumber	New Zealand Plumbing Registration
Registered nurse	Bachelor of Nursing or Diploma in Comprehensive Nursing, diploma or hospital-based certificate and New Zealand registration
Senior test analyst	Degree level (Level 7) tertiary qualification (eg BTech in Electronics, BSc or BE) and three years' work experience with at least 12 months relevant work experience in the past 18 months
Structural engineer	Degree level (Level 7) qualification and registered on the International Professional Engineers Register or Asia Pacific Economic Co-Operation (APEC) Engineers Register or a Washington Accord accredited engineering degree
University and higher education lecturer and/or tutor	Masters Degree or PhD
Veterinarian	Bachelor of Veterinary Science approved by the Veterinary Council of New Zealand and registration with the Veterinary Council of New Zealand

You may be granted a work visa under these instructions for the length of your employment agreement up to three years. You will need to have been back in China for at least three years before you can apply under these instructions again.

## Registration

If you are required to have New Zealand registration, and you must come to New Zealand in order to gain registration in your occupation, you may apply for a visitor visa to do so.

You will need written confirmation from the appropriate registration body that you are eligible to undertake the registration process in New Zealand and that you have completed any enrolment requirements.

If assessment of qualifications is part of your successful registration, you will not normally require any further qualifications assessment.

If you successfully obtain registration in New Zealand, you may lodge your application for a work visa under the China Skilled Workers Instructions at the nearest Immigration New Zealand branch in New Zealand.

## China Working Holiday Scheme (WHS)

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New Zealand has also established a working holiday scheme with China. The scheme provides for a maximum of 1000 Chinese nationals per year to enter New Zealand for one year.

To be eligible under the China WHS you must:

- hold a valid passport from the People's Republic of China
- be ordinarily resident, and actually residing, in the People's Republic of China at the time of applying
- be at least 18 and not more than 30 years old
- not be accompanied by children
- have a return ticket, or enough money to purchase a return ticket
- hold enough money for your maintenance while you are in New Zealand (currently NZ\$4200)
- be of good character and have an acceptable standard of health
- submit an application and pay the appropriate fee
- have a senior high school qualification (*gao zhong xue li*) granted in respect of a minimum of three years' full-time study. Your qualification must be verified by the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre (CDGDC) and such verification provided with the qualification.

You must also have a level of proficiency in English we assess as at least functional. To show this, you must provide evidence that you have an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) certificate showing you achieved an average level of 5.5 over the four components of the test (see [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) for test centres throughout China).

You must also agree to hold medical and comprehensive hospitalisation insurance that will remain current throughout your stay in New Zealand. You will not be permitted to work for one employer for more than three months.

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Lodge your application for the China WHS online at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz). Your application will be referred to either our Beijing branch or our Shanghai branch to verify:

- that you have enough money
- that you have been granted the *gao zhong xue li* qualification and your qualification is verified by CDGDC
- evidence of your English language ability
- your health (you will probably have to provide an *X-ray Certificate for Temporary Entry (INZ 1096)* as evidence).

## Chinese business people transferred to New Zealand

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Chinese executives or managers who have been employed by their employer for at least 12 months prior to their proposed transfer to New Zealand may apply to enter New Zealand for an initial stay of up to three years.

Such people may apply to remain for a further three years if the need for the executive or manager still exists. The *Work Visa Guide (INZ 1016)* has more information in the section on Specific Purpose or Event Instructions.

## Group transit visa for Chinese nationals

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Chinese nationals who will be transiting New Zealand as part of a group may apply for a group transit visa. Each individual must apply on the form *Transit Visa Application (INZ 1019)*, and the tour organiser or agent must complete the form *Group Transit Application (INZ 1155)* on behalf of the group.

Each person in the group must meet normal transit visa requirements. This means they must apply in the prescribed manner and, with the *Transit Visa Application*, provide:

- each applicant's current passport or travel document
- one passport-sized photograph of each applicant
- the appropriate fee
- travel tickets or evidence of onward travel arrangements relating to the relevant journey
- a confirmed travel itinerary including relevant arrival and departure times, and
- a statement of the purpose of the journey to the country of destination.

Applicants must genuinely intend to be in New Zealand only for the purpose of reaching a further destination. The group must remain together in the transit area during the whole

of their stay in New Zealand, and they may not remain in New Zealand for longer than 24 hours.

Group transit visa applications should be lodged at either our Beijing branch or our Shanghai branch.

## VisaView

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It is an offence to employ a person who is not entitled to work in New Zealand. One way for employers to avoid committing this offence is to check a person's entitlement to work with Immigration New Zealand's online VisaView system. The sharing of information through VisaView is authorised by legislation.

If you believe that an employer has been given the wrong entitlement information via VisaView you may contact the Immigration Contact Centre (0508 558 855) to request correction of that information.

## Interim visas

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If you are currently in New Zealand, hold a valid temporary visa and have an application for a further work visa being considered by INZ, you may be eligible for an interim visa. We will make a decision on whether to grant you an interim visa close to the day your current visa expires and will inform you by email or letter. You cannot apply for an interim visa, and there are no fees or forms for interim visas.

There is no guarantee that you will be granted an interim visa and if you are the conditions (including whether or not you can work) will depend on the type of visa you hold and the type of application you have made. Interim visas do not have travel conditions and are valid for a maximum of six months or until a decision is made on your application – whichever is earlier.

[newzealand.govt.nz](https://www.newzealand.govt.nz)