

- WORKING AND LIVING *PERMANENTLY* IN NEW ZEALAND  
Residence from Work (see Work to Residence)  
> Skilled Migrant Category

## SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY

### ■ WHAT IS THE SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY?

The Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) is the main pathway to residence in New Zealand. It is designed to make sure that people migrating to New Zealand have the skills the country needs. This category works on a points system. You earn points on the basis of your qualifications, work experience and job, or job offer, in New Zealand.

You need to have the right mix of skills, qualifications and experience. You will also need to meet health, character and English language requirements.

Applying for residence under Skilled Migrant Category is a two stage process:

- You complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) online or on a paper form.
- We select Expressions of Interest with sufficient points from a 'pool'. If yours is selected you will be invited to apply for residence under the Skilled Migrant Category.

When we have invited you to apply submit an application for residence, with all of the documents (passport, medical certificates etc) we require. Once we receive your application, we start assessing your eligibility for residence. We make sure that you meet all our requirements and that your points claims are valid.

### ■ AGE

You must be under 56 years at the time you apply. We are looking for migrants who can make a long-term contribution to New Zealand. You get a varying number of points depending on your age with more points for younger applicants.

### ■ IS A FULL-TIME (MINIMUM 30 HOURS PER WEEK) JOB OFFER REQUIRED?

Generally, to get sufficient points you will need an offer of ongoing *skilled employment*. in New Zealand. Skilled employment is employment that requires specialist, technical or management expertise. Please refer to our website for full information.

Employment or an offer of employment in an occupation included as a Skill Level One, Two or Three occupation in the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)* can be considered skilled employment (providing certain policy requirements are met).

### ■ HOW LONG CAN I STAY?

If we approve your application for a residence visa or permit you can stay indefinitely in New Zealand, though you will need to ensure you have a valid returning resident's visa if you want to leave the country and re-enter. A *Returning Resident's Visa* is initially issued for two years when you are granted a permanent residence permit.

### ■ WHAT TYPE OF WORK CAN I DO?

Once you are a permanent resident of New Zealand you can work in any occupation. However, we grant some permanent residence permits with conditions such as having to remain for several months in the job you submitted evidence of in your application.

## DID YOU KNOW



You can include your *partner* and *dependent children* under the age of 25 in your application for residence under the Skilled Migrant Category.

If you and your immediate family want to be in New Zealand before we have approved your application, you will each need to apply for your own *visitor*, *student* or *work* visas and/or permits. You must remain on a valid permit while you are in New Zealand.

The time we take to process your application is influenced by a number of things, such as waiting on documents or the volume of applications currently being processed by Immigration New Zealand (check online for your local branch's (<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/aboutnzs/contactus/>) expected processing times)

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■ DO I NEED TO SHOW THAT I HAVE THE SKILLS FOR THE JOB?

Yes. You may be able to claim additional points for your previous work experience. However, your experience must be relevant. This means your experience is in the same field as:

1. your recognised qualification, or
2. your current employment in New Zealand/your offer of skilled employment in New Zealand.

For some occupations you must have *occupational registration* if you want to work in New Zealand.

■ WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

We need to be assured that you and any family members included in your application:

- *are healthy*. If we invite you to apply for residence you will need to provide completed Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Medical and Chest X-Ray certificates for each member of your family included in your application.
- are of *good character*. If we invite you to apply for residence will have to provide *police certificates* as evidence of good character for everyone 17 years and over included in their application.
- meet a minimum *standard of English*. The level of English language you must meet will be different depending on whether you are the principal applicant or an accompanying family member.

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## SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY APPLICATION PROCESS

1	You calculate your points using the Self-Assessment Guide for Residence in New Zealand (NZIS 1103) or the <a href="#">online Points Indicator</a>
2	You obtain a job offer (if you wish to work in New Zealand while going through the SMC application process you must apply for a work permit or visa.
3	You submit an Expression of Interest either online or using the paper form (EOI Checklist)
4	The Expression of Interest goes into the pool
5	Expressions of Interest are ranked and selected according to current immigration selection criteria every two weeks.
6	We check the Expression of Interest and invite you to apply based on the information provided. We send out an application form which contains the information you provided in the Expression of Interest.
7	You make any necessary changes to the application form with the help of the <a href="#">Application for Residence Guide – Skilled Migrant Category (NZIS 1105) PDF</a> , and collect <a href="#">necessary information</a> . Send the application to the office address shown on the invitation to apply letter.
8	We assess your application

## POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

We approve your application	You receive a residence visa or permit, and can live and work in New Zealand
We defer your application	You receive a nine-month Work to Residence temporary permit for the purpose of obtaining an offer of ongoing skilled employment in New Zealand. Once you provide evidence of this to INZ your application will be approved
We decline your application	You may still work in New Zealand if a temporary work visa/permit is granted