



Information on Limited Purpose Visas and Permits

A guide to Limited Purpose Entry Policy



This leaflet will give you information on applying for a limited purpose visa or permit to visit New Zealand or study in New Zealand. Read this guide before you apply for a limited purpose visa or permit.

What is a limited purpose visa/permit for?

We issue limited purpose visas to:

- people who would not be accepted for another type of visa or permit because of a risk that they might remain in New Zealand after their permit expires; or
- people who choose the limited purpose visa as their preferred method of entry.

To get a limited purpose visa you must choose to enter New Zealand for an 'express purpose' – a particular reason. See the section 'What is an express purpose?', below.

A limited purpose visa allows you to travel to New Zealand. When you arrive in New Zealand an immigration officer will check your visa. If the officer is happy that you meet all the conditions on the visa, you will be granted a limited purpose permit.

What is an express purpose?

When you apply for a limited purpose visa you must tell us the reason that you want to come to New Zealand. This is the express purpose for which your visa is issued. When you have achieved your express purpose you must leave New Zealand, and you cannot apply for another type of visa or permit while you are in New Zealand.

An express purpose might be:

- study as a full fee-paying student (generally only for short courses)
- attending a significant event (for example a wedding, funeral, conference, seminar, graduation, sporting event, anniversary, reunion, religious event or ceremony)
- medical treatment in New Zealand



For further information on immigration
visit www.immigration.govt.nz

Department of Labour
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- a family emergency such as illness or an accident that affects a relative or member of your family in New Zealand
- any specific purpose, other than employment, where the circumstances justify issuing a limited purpose visa.

Who does not need a limited purpose visa or permit to enter New Zealand?

You do not need a visa or permit if one of the following applies to you.

- You are a New Zealand citizen.
- You hold a New Zealand residence permit.
- You are an Australian citizen.
- You hold a current Australian permanent residence visa or a current Australian resident return visa.
- You are exempt from the requirement to hold a permit to be in New Zealand.
- You already hold a temporary visa or permit.

If you intend to visit New Zealand for six months or less and you are a British citizen or British passport holder who has evidence of the right to live permanently in the United Kingdom, you do not need a visa to travel to New Zealand.

If you intend to visit New Zealand for three months or less and you are from a country on our list of visa-free countries you can travel to New Zealand without a visa. See our website www.immigration.govt.nz for the list of visa-free countries.

Can you apply for a limited purpose visa?

Anyone can apply for a limited purpose visa. However, before you apply you should understand the restrictions on your immigration rights.

Restrictions on limited purpose permit holders

There are several restrictions on people who hold limited purpose permits.

- You must leave New Zealand no later than the date that your permit expires.
- You may not apply for a different kind of permit while you are in New Zealand. You can apply for a further limited purpose permit, but it must be for the same express purpose.
- You may not request a special direction or a permit under section 35A of the Immigration Act 1987 while you are in New Zealand.

- You do not have any of the appeal rights that holders of other kinds of permits have, such as the right to appeal to:
 - The Removal Review Authority
 - The Residence Review Board
 - The Deportation Review Tribunal
 - The High Court.

If you are in New Zealand unlawfully after your limited purpose permit expires you will be liable for immediate removal from New Zealand.

Can you be refused a visa or permit?

Your application may be refused if:

- you are not of an acceptable standard of health and character
- a visa or immigration officer believes that you are likely to remain in New Zealand unlawfully or likely to breach the conditions of your permit
- Section 7 of the Immigration Act 1987 (see below) applies to you and you do not have an exemption.

Section 7 of the Immigration Act

Section 7 of the Immigration Act applies to you if:

- you have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for five years or more (this applies even if any of your offences have later been taken off the record)
- you were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more in the past 10 years
- you are the subject of a current New Zealand removal order
- you have been deported from any country
- you are suspected of being likely to constitute a danger to New Zealand's security or public order
- you are believed to be associated with an organisation or group with criminal objectives, and for that or any other reason considered to be a threat to the public interest or public order
- you are believed to be likely to engage in or facilitate the commission of an act of terrorism
- you are believed to be likely to commit an offence against the Crimes Act 1961 or the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

How do you apply for a limited purpose visa?

If you want to apply for a limited purpose visa, and your express purpose is to study in New Zealand, you must complete the form *Student Visa/Permit Application (INZ 1012)*. The form and the *Student Visa/Permit Guide (INZ 1013)* will list all of the requirements you must meet and evidence you must supply with your application.

If you want to apply for a limited purpose visa for any purpose other than to study or work, you must complete the form *Application for Visiting New Zealand (NZIS 1017)*. The form and the *Guide to Visiting New Zealand (NZIS 1018)* will list all of the requirements you must meet and evidence you must supply with your application.

How long can you stay?

The length of your stay in New Zealand will depend on how long you need to achieve your express purpose. When you have achieved your express purpose you will have to leave New Zealand.

Further limited purpose permits

You can apply for a further limited purpose permit if:

- you already have a limited purpose permit and
- you need more time to achieve the express purpose for which the original permit was granted.

You must allow enough time for Immigration New Zealand to make a decision on your application before your current limited purpose permit expires. There is no guarantee that your application will be approved.

If your limited purpose permit does expire, your application for a further limited purpose permit does not make your stay in New Zealand lawful. Making another application does not give you the right to remain in New Zealand while your application is being considered. You must have a valid permit at all times while you are in New Zealand.

For more information

If you have questions about any of the information in this guide:

- see our website www.immigration.govt.nz
- contact one of Immigration New Zealand's offices.

Immigration New Zealand has offices in Apia, Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Jakarta, London, Moscow, New Delhi, Nuku'alofa, Shanghai, Singapore, Suva, Sydney, Taipei, and The Hague.

Our New Zealand offices are located in Auckland, Henderson, Manukau, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

You can also contact your nearest New Zealand Embassy or New Zealand High Commission.