

# Expression of Interest Guide

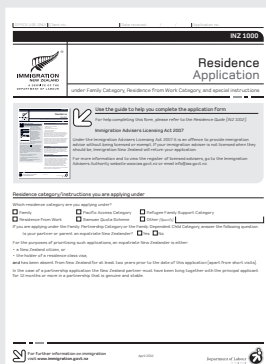
A guide to help you understand and fill out an Expression of Interest form



## Information about this guide

You should read this guide before you complete the application form. The guide gives you information about:

- how to decide which visa you need to apply for
- what evidence you need to provide with your application form.



## Purpose of this guide

This guide relates specifically to step two of the process outlined on page 3. It

provides information to help you understand the terms and requirements of the *Expression of Interest Form (INZ 1100)*.

## Skilled Migrant Category

This booklet is only a guide to help you understand the terms as you complete your Expression of Interest form. The authoritative details of the Skilled Migrant Category are contained in the INZ immigration instructions under Skilled Migrant Category. You can read this online at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

## OVERVIEW OF THE SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY

### How does the Skilled Migrant Category work?

New Zealand offers many opportunities for skilled migrants, particularly in industries and regions experiencing growth and skill shortages. The Skilled Migrant Category has been designed to give priority to meeting those needs and opportunities.

If you are interested in migrating to New Zealand as a skilled migrant, and if you have the skills we need, then we are ready to work with you to meet our mutual goals.

### The prerequisites

To be considered under this category you need to be of good health, good character, have a reasonable standard of English\* and be under 56 years of age. You will also need to meet the threshold of 100 points for employability and capacity-building factors to have an Expression of Interest (EOI) accepted.

### The points system

The points system is designed to reflect which applicants have the most to offer New Zealand so that Immigration New Zealand (INZ) can extend invitations to apply for residence to them. The points you can qualify for are set out on page 6. Points are available for skilled employment in New Zealand, work experience, qualifications, age and close family in New Zealand. Bonus points are available for employment in identified areas of future growth and/or absolute skill shortage. Bonus points are also available for employment outside Auckland, studying full-time in New Zealand for at least two years towards a recognised New Zealand qualification, gaining recognised New Zealand qualification(s), and for a partner's recognised qualification or offer of skilled employment in New Zealand.

\* Principal applicants (and their partners, if that person is claiming points for a job, job offer or qualification) must have an English-speaking background, or have reached an overall IELTS band score of 6.5. Other secondary applicants 16 years and over must have an English-speaking background, have reached an overall IELTS band score of 5 or pre-purchase a specified amount of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tuition.



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## CONTENTS

Information about this guide	1
<b>OVERVIEW OF THE SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY</b>	<b>1</b>
How does the Skilled Migrant Category work?	1
The process	3
Important things you need to know	4
The Expression of Interest form	5
The Skilled Migrant Category points system	6
Next steps	7
<b>SUMMARY OF TERMS</b>	<b>9</b>

## The Skilled Migrant Category

You will see from the prerequisites and points system that the Skilled Migrant Category is designed to minimise the risk of a mismatch between the skills migrants bring and the skills New Zealand needs. The highest points will be available to qualified, skilled migrants who are already working in skilled employment in New Zealand. Research has confirmed that such migrants settle more quickly and are able to match their New Zealand counterparts in salary levels and standards of living.

Although a skilled job offer is not a prerequisite, you can see how important it is to consider ensuring that your skills are needed in New Zealand before you sell your home, leave your job and move to New Zealand. Be wary of anyone who offers to guarantee you residence or to sell you a job offer – it may be a fraudulent practice and could result in your Expression of Interest or application being declined. If anyone attempts to bribe an INZ officer the application will be declined and charges may be laid. If you have any doubts, check with INZ – and check the INZ fees before paying any money to an agent, adviser or representative.

## The process

This is an overview of how the process operates.

### Step one: You can complete an initial self-assessment

A Skilled Migrant Quick Check is available at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) and in the *Self-Assessment Guide for Residence (INZ 1003)*. This will help you decide whether or not it is worth submitting an Expression of Interest.

### Step two: You submit an Expression of Interest

You complete and send us an Expression of Interest form. You can get the form from either the INZ website [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) or an INZ office. In this you will tell us about your health, character, age, English language ability, as well as the factors that will earn you points. When it is completed, submit it to INZ with the applicable fees, where it will be checked to ensure that all relevant information has been supplied, and that it meets the requirements for entry to the Pool.

If you are completing a paper form you need to send this to:

Expressions of Interest Team  
Immigration New Zealand  
DX SR57164  
PO Box 3705  
Wellington  
NEW ZEALAND

You can complete and submit an Expression of Interest form online, which is easier to complete and less expensive than submitting a paper form.

### Step three: We select Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest are submitted into a Pool. Periodically, Expressions of Interest are selected from the Pool as follows:

- Expressions of Interest that have total points of 140 or more will be selected automatically from the Pool;
- Expressions of Interest that have a points total of 100 or more but less than 140, and include points for an offer of skilled employment or current skilled employment in New Zealand, are selected (according to their points ranking) in sufficient numbers to meet New Zealand's Immigration Programme requirements.

If, following the selection process set out above, further places are available, additional Expressions of Interest may be selected from the Pool on the basis of criteria set from time to time by the Minister of Immigration. These additional selection criteria can be viewed on our website at [www.immigration.govt.nz/skilledmigrant](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/skilledmigrant).

Once your Expression of Interest has been selected from the Pool, following some checking, you may be invited to lodge an application for residence. Checking will generally involve assessing the credibility of the points that you have claimed.

An Expression of Interest is current for a period of six months from the date of submission to the Pool. If selection(s) of Expressions of Interest occur within the six-month period and yours is not selected, we will automatically withdraw your Expression of Interest at the end of the six-month period. If your Expression of Interest is selected from the Pool but later returned to the Pool by an immigration officer (for example if you are not awarded some of the points you claimed, but still have at least 100 points), your Expression of Interest will also be automatically withdrawn from the Pool, six months from the date it was first submitted.

If your Expression of Interest is withdrawn, you can submit another one if you wish.

If, during the time that your Expression of Interest is in the Pool, there is a change in your circumstances, or in the information that you have provided to INZ, you must inform INZ. If any information is found to be false or misleading we may choose not to invite you to apply for residence.

### **Step four: We invite you to apply for residence**

If you have been successful, we send you an official Invitation to Apply for residence and an application form that already contains your personal details provided in your Expression of Interest. At this stage you will need to send us the signed form, the applicable fees and all the necessary documentation to support the claims you made in your Expression of Interest, such as passports, qualifications and relevant certificates.

### **Step five: Decision-making**

We assess your application for residence against Residence Instructions and look at your ability to settle successfully and make a real contribution to New Zealand's social and economic development. We also fully verify everything you have told us in your Expression of Interest. Depending on how you are able to demonstrate your ability to settle in New Zealand successfully, you may be granted a resident visa, or you may be granted a work visa which enables you to move from work to residence.

### **Step six: Welcome to New Zealand – we want to stay in touch with you**

We will send you a *Welcome to New Zealand* settlement information booklet which contains details of local Settlement Support New Zealand (SSNZ) organisations which have dedicated local settlement support coordinators. These settlement support coordinators will be your point of contact for settlement information.

#### **Want to know more?**

Visit [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) – the most up-to-date information can be found there. There's information about all immigration instructions, including the other categories in the New Zealand Immigration Programme eg family sponsored migration, business migration or work-to-residence instructions. You can access other websites that provide general information about living and working in New Zealand through the INZ website.

## **Important things you need to know**

### **Providing correct and complete information**

When filling out your Expression of Interest, it is essential that you provide correct and complete information and that you do not withhold any relevant information.

Any information you give us may be checked and verified by immigration officers if your Expression of Interest is selected from the Pool. If any information is found to be false or misleading, we may choose to not invite you to apply.

You will also need to advise INZ if there are any changes to the details you have supplied in your Expression of Interest.

### **Completing all sections of the form**

You must complete all questions on the Expression of Interest form. If the question does not apply to you, you must write either 'N/A' or 'not applicable' in the space provided. This will enable us to know that you have answered all questions relevant to you.

### **Advance Passenger Screening**

New Zealand has implemented a system designed to enhance the security of New Zealand's borders. You may be refused permission to board your flight to come to, or return to, New Zealand if:

- you do not have an appropriate visa to enter New Zealand; or
- your visa has expired; or
- your visa has not been transferred to your current/new passport or the passport being used to enter New Zealand.

To minimise any disruption to your travel plans ensure your travel documents are up-to-date and that you have the appropriate and current visa. If you have any questions check [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

### **Importing your car, boat, and household items**

You may be able to bring your car, boat, and/or household items to New Zealand. For detailed information on restrictions, and to find out if you must pay Customs charges, see the New Zealand Customs Service website [www.customs.govt.nz](http://www.customs.govt.nz). For enquiries telephone 0800 428 786 (within New Zealand) or +64 9 300 5399 (outside New Zealand), or email [feedback@customs.govt.nz](mailto:feedback@customs.govt.nz).

## The Expression of Interest form

If you are interested in migrating to New Zealand as a skilled migrant and if you have the skills we need, you need to complete an Expression of Interest.

### How do I know whether it is worthwhile submitting an Expression of Interest form?

A Skilled Migrant Quick Check is available at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) and in the *Self-Assessment Guide for Residence (INZ 1003)*. This will help you decide whether or not it is worth submitting an Expression of Interest.

As you work your way through the Expression of Interest you will find points working spaces alongside key questions. Write your points in these boxes and when you have completed the form, total your points. You must have at least 100 points before you send us the form. If you want to be more certain of your points, we recommend you complete an online Expression of Interest.

### Who can be included on my Expression of Interest form?

The following people can be included on your Expression of Interest form. These are the people (non-principal applicants) you will want to come to New Zealand with you:

- partners
- dependent children.

As the principal applicant, you will need to supply evidence of your relationship to all the people you include on your Expression of Interest form. A summary description of what we mean when we use these terms can be found at the back of this guide.

### Who can help me fill out the form?

If you are submitting an Expression of Interest form, you may ask another person to help you. Anyone can act as your agent, adviser or representative. An agent, adviser or representative may be:

- a lawyer
- a consultant
- any other person (including a friend) whom you hire or ask to help you express interest.

INZ treats all applicants equally. We do not give preferential service to applicants' agents, advisers or representatives.

INZ deals with agents, advisers or representatives in the following ways.

- You may give your own address, or the address of your agent, adviser or representative, as a point of contact for INZ. If you choose to give your agent's, adviser's or representative's address, all correspondence from INZ will be sent to your agent, adviser or representative.
- If you stop using the services of your agent, adviser or representative, you must cancel your authorisation to INZ in writing, or INZ will continue to deal with them. If you hire an agent, adviser or representative, you will have to provide a new authorisation to INZ.

You need to be aware that you are responsible for any documents or information that you submit to INZ, or that your agent, adviser or representative submits on your behalf.

If any person helps you to complete the form – for example by interpreting or translating it, or by completing it for you – they should also sign the form. If you are changing your immigration adviser, please use the form *Immigration Adviser Details (INZ 1160)*.

### Declaration section

Make sure you read and understand all the declarations before you sign the declaration section of your Expression of Interest form. Please contact your nearest INZ branch if you have any questions about the declaration. Our contact details are at the back of this guide.

### Declaration for person assisting applicant to complete an Expression of Interest form

If any person has helped you to fill out your Expression of Interest form by explaining, translating or completing it for you, they must sign the declaration. Make sure they read and understand the declaration before they sign it.

### Payment details section

To help us process your Expression of Interest as quickly as possible, make sure you complete the payment details section of the Expression of Interest form.

Our New Zealand branches do not accept cash. Most of our branches outside New Zealand do not accept cash.

### Privacy Act section

Make sure you read and understand this section before you sign your Expression of Interest form.

## The Skilled Migrant Category points system

This table outlines the points system we use for Expressions of Interest. We have provided a column for you to work out your own points.

Factors	Points	Your points
<b>Skilled employment</b>		
Current skilled employment in New Zealand for 12 months or more	60	
Offer of skilled employment in New Zealand or current employment in New Zealand for less than 12 months	50	
<b>Bonus points for employment or offer of employment</b>		
In an identified future growth area	10	
In an area of absolute skills shortage	10	
In a region outside Auckland	10	
Partner employment or offer of employment	20	
<b>Relevant work experience</b>		
Two years	10	
Four years	15	
Six years	20	
Eight years	25	
Ten years	30	
<b>Additional bonus points if work experience in New Zealand</b>		
One year	5	
Two years	10	
Three years or more	15	
<b>Additional bonus points for work experience in an identified future growth area</b>		
Two to five years	10	
Six years or more	15	
<b>Additional bonus points for work experience in an area of absolute skills shortage</b>		
Two to five years	10	
Six years or more	15	
<b>Points for qualifications</b>		
Recognised level 4-6 qualification (e.g. trade qualification, diploma)	40	
Recognised level 7 or 8 qualification (e.g. bachelor degree, bachelor degree with Honours)	50	
Recognised level 9 or 10 post-graduate qualification (Masters degree, Doctorate)	60	
<b>Bonus points for qualifications</b>		
Two years of full-time study in New Zealand completing a recognised bachelor degree (level seven on the NZQF) New Zealand qualification	10	
One year of full-time study in New Zealand completing a recognised post-graduate New Zealand qualification	10	
Two years of full-time study in New Zealand completing a recognised post-graduate New Zealand qualification	15	
Qualification in an identified future growth area	10	
Qualification in an area of absolute skill shortage	10	
Partner qualifications – recognised level 4-6 qualification	10	
– recognised level 7 + qualification	20	
<b>Bonus points for family</b>		
Close family in New Zealand	10	
<b>Points for age</b>		
20 to 29	30	
30 to 39	25	
40 to 44	20	
45 to 49	10	
50 to 55	5	

## Next steps

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### What happens next?

You must meet the health, character, English language and age prerequisites, including attaining at least 100 points for employability and capacity-building factors. (You might need to refer to the summary of terms in the next section of this guide to understand the terms we use below.)

If you meet all these requirements, and you have paid the applicable fee, your Expression of Interest will be accepted into the Expression of Interest Pool.

Expressions of Interest are submitted into a Pool. Periodically, Expressions of Interest are selected from the Pool as follows:

- Expressions of Interest that have total points of 140 or more will be selected automatically from the Pool
- Expressions of Interest that have a points total of 100 or more but less than 140, and include points for an offer of skilled employment or current skilled employment in New Zealand, are selected (according to their points ranking) in sufficient numbers to meet New Zealand's Immigration Programme requirements.

If, following the selection process set out above, further places are available, additional Expressions of Interest may be selected from the Pool on the basis of criteria set from time to time by the Minister of Immigration. These additional selection criteria can be viewed on our website at [www.immigration.govt.nz/skilledmigrant](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/skilledmigrant).

Once your Expression of Interest has been selected from the Pool, following some checking, you may be invited to lodge an application for residence.

If your Expression of Interest is not selected from the Pool, it will remain in the Pool for six months. If after the six-month period your Expression of Interest has not been selected from the Pool, we will withdraw your Expression of Interest from the Pool and you will receive notification that this has happened. You can submit another Expression of Interest if you wish.

If we have not selected any Expressions of Interest during the six-month period that your Expression of Interest is in the Pool, it will remain in the Pool until a selection has been made.

### What happens if I am selected?

If your Expression of Interest is selected it will undergo a preliminary checking and verification process, to determine whether the claims made

in your Expression of Interest appear credible and legitimate. As part of this process, we may contact the people and organisations you list in your Expression of Interest. You may be contacted and requested to provide additional information or documentation during this period if necessary.

If it is determined that your claims are not credible or legitimate, you will receive notification that your Expression of Interest will not proceed any further.

If it is determined that your claims appear credible and legitimate, you will receive an Invitation to Apply for residence. The Invitation to Apply will specify a time frame of four months within which you may lodge an application under the Skilled Migrant Category. The Invitation to Apply will also specify the documentation that you will need to provide at the time that your application is lodged and the applicable fees. You will also be sent further information to assist you to lodge your application for residence correctly.

### How do I lodge an application for residence if I am invited to apply?

You will need to sign and submit a short application form, attach passport photos, the documentation requested in the Invitation to Apply and the applicable fees. This application should be sent to the address specified in your Invitation to Apply.

Documentation required to enable INZ to validate the claims you have made in your Expression of Interest is likely to include the following items.

- Passport(s) (for all applicants, if available).
- Birth certificate(s) (for all applicants).
- Marriage certificate(s) (if applicable).
- Custody documentation (for any children, where applicable).
- Police certificates (for all applicants aged 17 and over, which are no more than six months old when lodged).
- Medical and X-ray certificates (for all applicants, which are no more than three months old when lodged).
- Evidence of English language ability (for all applicants aged 16 and over).
- Evidence of a recognised qualification (for you and/or your partner, if applicable).
- Evidence of skilled work experience (for you, if applicable).
- Evidence of a skilled job offer (for you and/or your partner, if applicable).
- Evidence of current skilled employment.

- Other documentation as specified by INZ in your Invitation to Apply.

In some cases, we will conduct an interview with you covering your employment prospects, your familiarity with New Zealand and the support you are likely to have here.

### **When should I start gathering the documents I will need if I'm invited to apply for residence?**

The documentation required to lodge an application can take some weeks or even months to gather. Documents that can take the longest to obtain are items such as police certificates, qualification assessments from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) certificates.

It is therefore vital that you begin the process of obtaining these documents as soon as possible.

You must use official INZ forms to obtain medical certificates. To find out about our health requirements, see the leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)* available on our website at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz), or from your local branch.

For information on how to obtain a police certificate from a particular country visit [www.immigration.govt.nz/policecertificate](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/policecertificate). Accessing the website is the quickest means of obtaining this information, however if you do not have access to the internet you can either:

- call us on 0508 55 88 55 if you are in New Zealand or (09) 914 4100 if you are in Auckland
- contact your nearest Immigration New Zealand branch.

If, between the time you are sent an Invitation to Apply and the time you submit your residence application, there has been a change in your circumstances, or in the information you have provided to INZ, you must inform INZ.

## SUMMARY OF TERMS

This section of the guide will help you understand the terms we have used in the form and in the explanations in the guide.

### Acceptable standard of health

We consider you to have an acceptable standard of health if you are unlikely to be a danger to public health, unlikely to be a burden on health services and are fit for the purpose of entry to New Zealand.

Please refer to the leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)* for more information.

### Areas of absolute skills shortage

These areas are occupations in which New Zealand has an ongoing and sustained shortage of skilled workers. These are listed on the Long Term Skill Shortage List (see Appendix 4 of the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual). You can earn points if you can prove that your current employment or offer of employment meets the specifications of the list and that you are suitably qualified or experienced for the occupation. You can also qualify for bonus points if your work experience and/or qualification are in an area of absolute skills shortage.

### Bonus points

Bonus points are available for employment, work experience and qualifications in identified areas of future growth or absolute skill shortage. Bonus points are also available for employment outside Auckland, studying full-time in New Zealand for at least two years towards a recognised New Zealand qualification, gaining recognised New Zealand qualification(s) and for a partner's recognised qualification or skilled employment in New Zealand. See 'Identified future growth area', 'Area of absolute skills shortage', 'Employment outside Auckland'.

### Character requirements

For your Expression of Interest to be considered for the Pool we need to be assured that you are of good character. We have set a number of requirements that help us determine this. See 'Good character'.

### Citizenship

You are usually automatically a citizen of the country in which you were born, but you may also hold citizenship in another country. Your citizenship(s) will be listed in your passport(s).

### Close family in New Zealand

You can earn points if you have a close family member in New Zealand who is a citizen or a residence class visa holder of New Zealand and whose primary place of established residence is New Zealand. This provision recognises that the presence of close family in New Zealand enhances prospects for employability and settlement.

### Comparable labour market

A labour market is the commercial environment in which people exchange their work for income and where employers and workers 'trade' on the demand for, and supply of, skills. If you do not have skilled employment in New Zealand or an offer of skilled employment in New Zealand, or if your work experience is not in an area of absolute skills shortage, you can only qualify for points for your work experience if it is in a labour market that is comparable to New Zealand.

The following countries are comparable labour markets:

Australia	Finland	Israel	Norway	Spain
Austria	France	Italy	Phillippines	Sweden
Belgium–Luxemburg	Germany	Japan	Portugal	Switzerland
Canada	Greece	Malaysia	Republic of South Korea	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Iceland	Netherlands	Singapore	United States
Denmark	Ireland	New Zealand	South Africa	

## Custody of children

If you are separated or divorced and bringing a child under 16 years with you to New Zealand we will need to see proof of their right to leave their home country and your right to remove them. Section R2.1.45 of the INZ Immigration Instructions (available online at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)) contains comprehensive residence instructions on child custody.

## Dependent children

Dependent children of a principal applicant are children aged up to 24 years who are unmarried and who have not had their own children (unless your child is under 17 years). They need not live with you but must at least rely mainly on an adult for financial support.

## Domiciled

A company is domiciled in the country where it is permanently located and legally registered. Multinational companies are domiciled in the country where the head office or parent company is registered. For example, if company A has branches in New Zealand, Australia and Fiji, but the head office is in the United Kingdom, it is considered to be domiciled in the United Kingdom. See 'Comparable labour market'.

## Employability and capacity-building factors

We have determined a number of factors against which you will be assessed. These factors include current, or an offer of, skilled employment in New Zealand, work experience, age and qualifications. We have allocated points to each of these factors and the total score you gain when rated against them determines whether your Expression of Interest can go into the Pool.

## Employment outside Auckland

A place of work that is outside the Auckland region attracts bonus points as we want to ensure all of New Zealand can benefit from the skills of people moving here. To earn points, you will need to prove that your employment is outside the six local government areas that make up the Auckland region.

## ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) training

This is English language training. If a partner or a child does not meet the minimum standards of English, they will need to purchase ESOL training in New Zealand. You need to pay the tuition charge before an application for residence can be granted.

## Expression of Interest (EOI)

The form you are now completing is an expression of your interest in coming to New Zealand to live and work. Completing this form lets you see whether you may be eligible for an Invitation to Apply for residence in New Zealand. It is also your opportunity to present all the information we will need to make an informed decision on whether we invite you to apply for residence.

## Expression of Interest Pool

The Expression of Interest Pool is the collection of Expressions of Interest of people who have claimed at least 100 points for our employability and capacity-building factors. Expressions of Interest are entered into a Pool and are ranked from highest to lowest on the basis of their points. It is from this Pool that we select people and invite them to apply for residence. See 'Points', 'Bonus points'.

## Expunged criminal records

Expungement of a criminal record is a legal process that can clear criminal convictions from a person's record.

## Full-time employment

Employment is full time if it averages at least 30 hours a week. You can only gain points for skilled employment that is full-time.

## Genuine and stable relationship

We need to be satisfied that you and your partner entered your relationship intending to remain in it long-term and to be exclusive to each other. We also need to be satisfied that your relationship is likely to last. See 'Partner'.

## Good character

We consider that a person of good character does not pose a potential security risk and is unlikely to have served time in prison, been deported from any country, or involved in any criminal or dangerous activities.

## Health requirements

For your Expression of Interest to be considered for the Pool we need to be assured that you are healthy. We make this requirement to safeguard the well-being of New Zealanders and the operation of the country's health services. Please read the leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)* for further details.

## Identified future growth area

This is an industry area that offers New Zealand considerable opportunity to increase its prosperity. Currently we recognise three broad areas — biotechnology, information communications technology, and creative industries. You can gain points if you can prove your employment in New Zealand is in one of these areas.

## IELTS certificate

A recent test from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) can be used as proof that you meet our English language requirements. As principal applicant, you need to have an overall band score of 6.5 or over in the IELTS General or Academic Module. See 'Minimum standard of English'.

## International Qualification Assessment (IQA) (formerly Qualifications Assessment Report (QAR))

This report produced by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) assesses the level of your qualification and includes a full verification of the qualification. We will use this report to help decide if you qualify for points. See 'New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)'.

## Issuing authority

This is the government agency of the country or region that granted your document (eg passport or birth certificate).

## Legal adoption

We need to see proof of adoption. If you have adopted your child through legal means we need to see the original adoption papers — or a certified copy — from the country in which you adopted the child.

## Long Term Skill Shortage List

This is a list of the occupations in which New Zealand has a sustained and ongoing shortage of skilled workers.

## Minimum standard of English

We require people to have a reasonable standard of English to ensure they have the best opportunity to settle readily into work and life in New Zealand.

There are a number of ways you can show you meet our minimum standard of English requirements, including an IELTS certificate, recognised qualifications taught entirely in English and working in skilled employment in New Zealand. We may also consider other factors such as other countries in which you have lived, other languages you speak and your family's English skills. See 'English language requirements'.

## New Zealand qualification

A New Zealand qualification is a recognised qualification that is on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework at level 4 (National Certificate or New Zealand Certificate (level 4)), up to and including level 10.

See 'New Zealand Qualifications Framework'.

## New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)

The NZQA is the government agency responsible for quality assurance of qualifications.

## New Zealand Qualifications Framework

This register provides the different levels of qualifications in New Zealand and is available at [www.nzqf.govt.nz](http://www.nzqf.govt.nz).

## Non-principal applicant

If you are including other people in your Expression of Interest we consider them to be the non-principal applicants. This includes partners and dependent children.

## Occupational registration

People working in some occupations in New Zealand are required by law to be registered with the professional body of their occupation. Most often registration is required in medical and health occupations but it also applies to a range of business and trade occupations. You will only gain points for qualifications required for these occupations or employment in these occupations if you can prove you have either full or provisional registration or if you are a medical or dental professional and hold written confirmation from the New Zealand Dental or Medical Council that you are eligible for registration subject only to attending an interview with a Council representative on arrival in New Zealand. (You should enter the reference number of the letter stating you are eligible for registration in the Expression of Interest question asking for your occupational registration number.)

*Note: For medical practitioners, registration within a 'special scope of practice' is not full or provisional registration for the purpose of a residence application.*

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### Occupations requiring registration

In New Zealand registration is required by law in order to undertake employment as one of the following:

Architect	Electrician (see note below)	Optometrist
Barrister or solicitor	Electrical service technician	Osteopath
Chiropractor	Enrolled nurse	Pharmacist
Clinical dental technician	Immigration adviser	Physiotherapist
Clinical dental therapist	Line mechanic	Plumber, gasfitter and drainlayer
Dental hygienist	Medical laboratory scientist/technologist	Podiatrist
Dental technician	Medical laboratory technician	Psychologist
Dental therapist	Medical practitioner	Real estate agent
Dentist	Medical radiation technologist	Cadastral (land title) surveyor
Dietitian	Nurses and midwives	Teacher
Dispensing optician	Occupational therapist	Veterinarian

*Note: Electrician — where a current 'Employer Licence' is held, an electrician working for that employer does not require individual occupational registration.*

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## New Zealand Occupational Registration Bodies

1. Architects Education and Registration Board	9. Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand
2. Dental Technicians Board	10. Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand
3. Dental Council of New Zealand	11. Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board
4. Electrical Workers Registration Board	12. Real Estate Agents Licensing Board
5. Engineers Registration Board	13. Registration Boards Secretariat
6. Medical Council of New Zealand	14. The Survey Board of New Zealand Office of the Surveyor-General Land Information New Zealand
7. Nursing Council of New Zealand	15. New Zealand Teachers Council
8. New Zealand Law Society	16. Veterinary Council of New Zealand.

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## Occupations treated as exceptions

Some occupations are treated as an exception under the Skilled Migrant Category. An offer of employment or current employment in New Zealand that is in an occupation listed below is eligible for points for skilled employment. See 'Skilled employment'.

- 442111 Prison officer

## Offer of employment

This is a job offer from a New Zealand employer made specifically to you.

## Ongoing employment

We will consider your employment to be ongoing if you are a permanent employee who is employed either indefinitely or for at least 12 months and with the option for your employment to be extended. Employment is also ongoing if it is on a contract basis and you have consistent history of contract work and such contract work is likely to be sustained. See 'Skilled employment'.

## Partner

A partner of a principal applicant is someone who is legally married, or joined in a civil union, to the applicant or who is living in a partnership that is like a marriage.

The partnership can be between people of the opposite or same sex. The partnership must be genuine and stable.

We recognise partnerships where both partners:

- are aged 18 years or over (or have parental/guardian or other consent if aged 16 or 17 years)
- met each other before any residence application was submitted
- aren't close relatives.

A partner will only be granted residence if both people in the partnership have been living together for at least 12 months.

## Partnership

A partnership exists where you are in a genuine and stable relationship with another person. See 'Partner', 'Genuine and stable relationship'.

## Permanent place of residence

This is your main residential address.

## Place of work

A place of work is where you ordinarily go to work. It may or may not be part of a building. See 'Employment outside Auckland'.

## Points

You may qualify for points for employability and capacity-building factors. The points system is designed for ranking Expressions of Interest so that we can extend Invitations to Apply for residence to those who have the most to offer New Zealand. The greater the number of points you qualify for, the greater your chance of gaining an Invitation to Apply for residence. You need to qualify for at least 100 points to have a chance of entering the Expressions of Interest Pool.

## Police certificates

Certificates you obtain from the police to prove you are of good character. You must obtain these from your country of citizenship and any country in which you have lived for over 12 months in the past 10 years (whether on one visit or intermittently). Anyone 17 years or older included in the Expression of Interest will require a police certificate if you are invited to apply for residence.

## Postgraduate New Zealand qualification

A postgraduate New Zealand qualification is a recognised qualification that is on the New Zealand Qualification Framework at levels 8 to 10.

## Pre-Assessment Result (PAR)

This report is available online from the NZQA and assesses your qualification based only on information supplied by you and without seeing the original documents. If you are invited to apply for residence your qualification will then have to be fully assessed by the NZQA. See 'International Qualification Assessment (IQA)'.

## Principal applicant

You are the principal applicant if you are the primary person making the application for residence. It is you and your skills that we will assess.

## Recognised qualification

You can gain points for qualifications such as trade certificates, diplomas, bachelor degrees and postgraduate qualifications.

## Points

The points you can earn will depend on what level your qualification occupies on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (providing it is not an excluded qualification). SM14.10 shows how points are awarded for recognised qualifications at various levels of the NZQF. See 'New Zealand Qualifications Framework', 'New Zealand Qualifications Authority', 'Pre-Assessment Result', 'International Qualification Assessment', 'Occupational Registration'.

## Recognised work experience

You can gain points for work experience if it is relevant to your recognised qualification or relates to your current or offered skilled employment in New Zealand. You can gain additional bonus points if you have work experience lawfully gained in New Zealand or that was in an identified future growth area or area of absolute skills shortage. If you do not have current or offered skilled employment in New Zealand, or if your work experience is not in an area of absolute skills shortage, your work experience must have been in a comparable labour market in order for you to claim points. If you are claiming points for skilled employment in New Zealand you must also qualify for points for either a recognised qualification or recognised work experience. See 'Identified future growth area', 'Area of absolute skills shortage', 'Comparable labour market'.

## Selection

We make regular selections from the Pool. Periodically, Expressions of Interest are selected from the Pool as follows:

- Expressions of Interest that have total points of 140 or more will be selected automatically from the Pool;

- Expressions of Interest that have a points total of 100 or more but less than 140, and include points for an offer of skilled employment or current skilled employment in New Zealand, are selected (according to their points ranking) in sufficient numbers to meet New Zealand's Immigration Programme requirements.

If, following the selection process set out above, further places are available, additional Expressions of Interest may be selected from the Pool on the basis of criteria set from time to time by the Minister of Immigration. These additional selection criteria can be viewed on our website at [www.immigration.govt.nz/skilledmigrant](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/skilledmigrant).

## Settlement and contribution requirements

You need to show you have the potential to settle in New Zealand and make a contribution socially and economically. In some cases we will assess this by conducting an interview with you covering your employment prospects, your familiarity with New Zealand and the support you are likely to have here.

### Skilled employment

Skilled employment is work that requires specialist, technical or management expertise obtained through completing a recognised qualification and/or through work experience.

Points are provided for skilled employment for a third party, not for self-employment in your own business. If you wish to obtain residence by establishing and operating your own business in New Zealand, you should consider the Business categories.

### Skilled migrant

We consider a skilled migrant to be a person who wants to come and live and work in New Zealand, and who has the skills that New Zealand needs to help it prosper nationally and internationally.

### SMC Job Search Work visa

Principal applicants under the Skilled Migrant Category who do not meet the requirements to be granted residence, but who are assessed as having potential to settle successfully in New Zealand, can be granted a job search visa to work in New Zealand for up to nine months. The purpose of the Job Search Work visa is to enable applicants to establish themselves in ongoing skilled employment in New Zealand. Work visas granted under will allow work for any employer in New Zealand. At the end of the nine-month period, if you have become established in full-time employment, residence can be granted.

### The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)

The Tertiary Education Commission. The Commission is responsible for co-ordinating ESOL tuition of non-principal applicants choosing to use the tuition option to meet the English requirement. See ESOL.

### Two years' study

Two years of full-time study in New Zealand towards a recognised New Zealand qualification must be completed in no less than four semesters during a period of at least 16 months to gain points.

### Work experience in New Zealand

You can gain additional bonus points if you can show evidence of lawful recognised work experience in New Zealand.



## LIST OF TERMS

Acceptable standard of health	9
Areas of absolute skills shortage	9
Bonus points	9
Character requirements	9
Citizenship	9
Close family in New Zealand	9
Comparable labour market	9
Custody of children	10
Dependent children	10
Domiciled	10
Employability and capacity-building factors	10
Employment outside Auckland	10
ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) training	10
Expression of Interest (EOI)	10
Expression of Interest Pool	10
Expunged criminal records	10
Full-time employment	10
Genuine and stable relationship	11
Good character	11
Health requirements	11
Identified future growth area	11
IELTS certificate	11
International Qualification Assessment (IQA) (formerly Qualifications Assessment Report (QAR))	11
Issuing authority	11
Legal adoption	11
Long Term Skill Shortage List	11
Minimum standard of English	11
New Zealand qualification	12
New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)	12
New Zealand Qualifications Framework	12
Non-principal applicant	12
Occupational registration	12
Occupations treated as exceptions	13
Offer of employment	13
Ongoing employment	13
Partner	13
Partnership	13
Permanent place of residence	13

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Place of work	13
Points	14
Police certificates	14
Postgraduate New Zealand qualification	14
Pre-Assessment Result (PAR)	14
Principal applicant	14
Recognised qualification	14
Recognised work experience	14
Selection	14
Settlement and contribution requirements	15
Skilled employment	15
Skilled migrant	15
SMC Job Search Work visa	15
The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)	15
Two years' study	15
Work experience in New Zealand	15



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