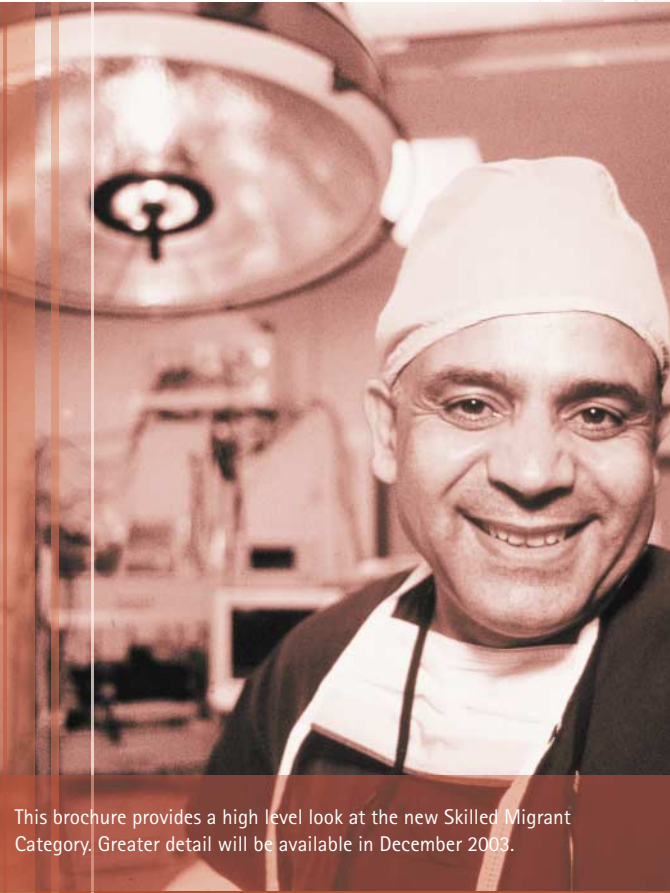


THE SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY

DELIVERING POSITIVE RESULTS FOR
SKILLED MIGRANTS AND NEW ZEALAND



This brochure provides a high level look at the new Skilled Migrant Category. Greater detail will be available in December 2003.

NEW ZEALAND
IMMIGRATION SERVICE
Te Ratonga Manene



New Zealand offers many opportunities 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 Skilled Migrant Category will be ready to receive expressions of interest from mid December 2003.

How does the Skilled Migrant Category Work?

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 no older than 55 years of age. You will also need to meet the threshold of 100 points to register an Expression of Interest.

The points system

The points system is designed to allow Expressions of Interest to be ranked so that the New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) can extend invitations to apply for residence to those who have the most to offer New Zealand. The points are set out on the back of this pamphlet. Points are available for skilled employment in New Zealand, work experience, qualifications and age. Bonus points are available for employment, work experience and

qualifications in identified areas of growth or absolute skill shortage or within identified clusters. Bonus points are also available for employment outside Auckland and for New Zealand qualifications gained in New Zealand over at least two years. Your partner's employment and qualification can also gain bonus points.

What are the objectives of 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 NZIS officer then the application will be declined and charges may be laid. If you have any doubts check with the NZIS - and check the NZIS fees before paying any money to an agent.

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



The Process

This is an overview of how the process will operate from mid December 2003 when more detail and resources will be available online from the NZIS and in NZIS branch offices.

Step 1: You complete an initial self assessment

A Skilled Migrant Quick Check will be available on www.immigration.govt.nz and in the NZIS *Self Assessment Guide for Residence*. This will help you decide whether or not it is worth submitting an Expression of Interest.

Step 2: You submit an Expression of Interest

You will be able to complete and send us an Expression of Interest form. You will be able to get the form from either the NZIS website (www.immigration.govt.nz) or from an NZIS 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 the NZIS, where it will be checked to ensure that all relevant information has been supplied.

In early 2004 you will be able to complete and submit an Expression of Interest form on-line. The on-line form will be easy to complete. Once available, it will also be less expensive than submitting a paper form.

Step 3: We rank Expressions of Interest and invite those with the top points to apply for residence

Expressions of Interest submitted over a number of weeks will be pooled and ranked from highest to lowest points. It is not a case of first in, first served.

We will prioritise Expressions of Interest in terms of points claimed and, following some checking, those with the top points will be invited to lodge an application for residence.

If your Expression of Interest is not selected from the pool the first time it will remain in the pool for three months. If it is still unsuccessful, we will tell you that your Expression of Interest has been withdrawn from the pool. You can lodge another Expression of Interest if you wish to.

Step 4: We ask you to apply for residence

If you have been successful we will send you an official invitation to apply for residence. At this stage you will need to send us all the necessary documents to support the claims you made in your Expression of Interest - such as passports, qualifications and relevant certificates. The application for residence will be a much shorter form, because you will have supplied all the necessary information with your Expression of Interest.

Step 5: Decision-making

We will assess your application for residence against Government residence policy and look at your ability to settle successfully and make a real contribution to New Zealand's social and economic development. We will also undertake further verification of some of the information you have provided in your Expression of Interest. Depending on how you are able to demonstrate your ability to settle in New Zealand successfully, your application can be approved with a residence visa or permit or a visa or permit which enables you to move from work to residence. It is then over to you to confirm your decision to come to New Zealand.

Step 6: Welcome to New Zealand- we want to stay in touch with you

If you are not already in New Zealand, we will arrange a Welcome Pack on your arrival, as well as providing you with an NZIS contact person who can help you access information you need to help you settle in.

On a more formal basis, we will follow up with a questionnaire after three months, so that we can use your feedback to help us help future skilled migrants.

The Skilled Migrant Category points system

Factors Points

Skilled employment:

• Current employment in NZ for 12 months or more (ongoing)	60
• Offer of employment in New Zealand or current employment in NZ for less than 12 months (but minimum of 3 months)	50
Bonus points for employment or offer of employment in:	
• An identified future growth area, identified cluster, area of absolute skills shortage	5
• Region outside Auckland	10
• Spouse / partner employment or offer of employment	10

Relevant work experience:

• 2 years	10
• 4 years	15
• 6 years	20
• 8 years	25
• 10 years	30
Additional bonus points if work experience in New Zealand:	
• 2 years	5
• 4 years	10
• 6 years or more	15
Additional bonus points for work experience in an identified future growth area, identified cluster or area of absolute skills shortage:	
• 2 to 5 years	5
• 6 years or more	10

Qualifications:

• Recognised basic qualification (e.g. trade qualification, diploma, bachelors' degree)	50
• Recognised post-graduate qualification (e.g. Masters degree or higher)	55
Bonus points for:	
• Recognised NZ qualification (and at least two years study in NZ)	10
• Qualification in an identified future growth area, identified cluster or area of absolute skill shortage	5
• Spouse / partner qualifications	10

Age (20 to 55 yrs)

• 20-29	30
• 30-39	25
• 40-44	20
• 45-49	10
• 50-55	5

Want to know more? 

Visit www.immigration.govt.nz – the most up-to-date information can be found there. There's information about all immigration policies, including the other categories in the New Zealand Immigration Programme e.g. family sponsored immigration, business immigration or work-to-residence policies. You can access other websites that provide general information about living and working in New Zealand through the NZIS portal.