

20 October 2026

IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND INSTRUCTIONS: Amendment Circular No. 2026-31
AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND OPERATIONAL MANUAL

Introduction

This circular outlines changes to immigration instructions. A copy of the amended instructions is attached.

All immigration officers dealing with immigration applications should read the amendments and operate in accordance with the amended instructions from the effective date.

Note

The amendments described in this circular will be published in the Immigration New Zealand Operational Manual in due course.

Information about these changes is available on our website www.immigration.govt.nz

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Changes have been made to immigration instructions to implement the India Iconic Work Visa and India Skilled Work Visa categories as part of New Zealand's immigration commitments under the New Zealand India Free Trade Agreement.

Changes have also been made to introduce Independent Professional and Contractual Service Supplier subcategories under the Specific Purpose or Event work visa category, and to update the definition of business visitors who are not considered to be undertaking employment.

Amendments have also been made to when applications will be accepted for lodgement under International/Humanitarian work instructions with capped places.

Changes have also been made to clarify that the Peak Seasonal Visa maximum continuous stay period excludes time spent on an interim visa granted before the applicant's first Peak Seasonal Visa.

These changes are effective 20 October 2026.

WD3.5 Currency and conditions of Post-study work visas

WF3.1 Who is eligible for a work visa

U8.20 Dependent children of work visa holders

Previous changes to WD3.5 and WF3.1, scheduled to take effect from 16 November 2026, have also been updated to reflect the 20 October changes outlined above.

Changes have also been made to Post-Study Work Visa duration for Level 10 Doctoral Degrees completed by citizens of the Republic of India.

These changes are effective 16 November 2026.

Appendix 1: Amendments to Residence instructions effective on and after 20 October 2026

SR2.15 Assessment of work experience

Unless specifically stated otherwise elsewhere in skilled residence instructions the requirements below apply to the Skilled Migrant Category and any sub-category of the Skilled Migrant Category ([SR1.1](#)).

SR2.15.1 Generic requirements for work experience

Work undertaken in New Zealand while holding an India Iconic Work Visa (WI21) or an India Skilled Work Visa (WI22) will not count towards any work experience requirement for a Skilled Residence visa.

Appendix 2: Amendments to Temporary Entry instructions effective on and after 20 October 2026

E9 Trade commitments

- a. One of the objectives of New Zealand's temporary entry instructions is to contribute to building strong international links. Part of this includes supporting New Zealand's position in a global trade environment, and ensuring that New Zealand's trade commitments with respect to immigration are being met.
- b. Immigration plays an important role in ensuring New Zealand's trade commitments are met through immigration instructions providing for the mobility (temporary entry) of bona fide business people into New Zealand.
- c. New Zealand has committed itself to a range of undertakings through different agreements. To date, **New Zealand has entered into the following agreements:**
- General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)
 - New Zealand and Singapore Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
 - New Zealand and Thailand Closer Economic Partnership
 - Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (P4)
 - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
 - New Zealand and China Free Trade Agreement
 - ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Area (AANZFTA)
 - **New Zealand – Malaysia Free Trade Agreement (MNZFTA)**
 - Agreement Between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC)
 - Korea-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (KNZFTA)
 - **Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus**
 - **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnerships (CPTPP)**
 - **New Zealand - United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (NZUKFTA)**
 - **New Zealand – European Union Free Trade Agreement (EU FTA)**
 - **New Zealand – United Arab Emirates Free Trade Agreement (UAE CEPA)**
 - **New Zealand – India Free Trade Agreement (NZIFTA)**
- d. Details of some of these trade agreements are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Free trade agreements in force](#)
- e. Specific provisions throughout immigration instructions enable New Zealand to meet the commitments that have been made in these trade agreements. These provisions are:
- [A4.65.1](#) Seconded business people
 - [N4](#) Group Transit Visa for Chinese nationals
 - [V3.5](#) Business visitors
 - [V3.105](#) APEC Business Travel Cardholders
 - **[WD3.5](#) Currency and conditions of Post-study work visas**
 - [WS2.1.1 \(a\), \(b\), \(c\), \(h\), \(k\), \(n\) and \(o\)](#). Specific purposes or event
 - [W111](#) Thai chefs
 - [W112](#) China Special Work Instructions
 - [W113](#) China Skilled Workers Instructions
 - [W114](#) Philippines Special Work Instructions
 - [W115](#) Vietnam Special Work Instructions
 - [W117](#) Indonesia Special Work Instructions
 - [W118](#) Primary sector trainees
 - [W119](#) Korea Special Work Instructions
 - **[W121](#) India Iconic Work Instructions**
 - **[W122](#) India Skilled Work Instructions**

V3.5 Business visitors

- a. Business visitors who are not considered to be undertaking employment (see [W2.2.1](#)) may be granted a visitor visa, provided that they intend a stay in New Zealand for no longer than 3 months in any one year.
- b. Business visitors who are not considered to be undertaking employment include the following:
 - i. representatives on official trade missions recognised by the New Zealand Government;
 - ii. sales representatives of overseas companies in New Zealand for a period or periods no longer than a total of 3 months in any calendar year;
 - iii. overseas buyers of New Zealand goods or services for a period or periods no longer than a total of 3 months in any calendar year;
 - iv. people undertaking business consultations or negotiations in New Zealand on establishing, expanding, or winding up any business enterprise in New Zealand, or carrying on any business in New Zealand, involving the authorised representatives of any overseas company, body or person for a period or periods no longer than a total of 3 months in any calendar year;
 - v. training seminars including personnel of an enterprise receiving informal training in techniques and work practices relevant to the operation of the enterprise (provided that the training received is confined to observation, familiarisation, and theoretical instruction only and does not lead to the award of a formal qualification under the New Zealand Qualifications Framework) for a period or periods no longer than a total of 3 months in any calendar year;
 - vi. commercial transactions including management and supervisory personnel and financial services personnel (including insurers, bankers and investment brokers) engaging in a commercial transaction for an enterprise located in New Zealand, for a period or periods no longer than a total of 3 months in any calendar year;
 - vii. tourism personnel including tour and travel agents, tour guides or tour operators attending or participating in conventions for a period or periods no longer than a total of 3 months in any calendar year.
- c. Business visitors who need to be in New Zealand for longer than 3 months in any one year, and all other business visitors, must apply for a work visa (see [WS2](#)).

Note: Business visitor instructions reflect New Zealand's international trade commitments (see [E9](#)).

V3.10 Partners and dependent children of student or work visa holders

Subject to the provisions of [E4.5](#):

- a. Partners (see [E4.1.20](#)) of student or work visa holders may be granted visitor visas if that type of visa is appropriate to their needs for the currency of the partner's visa.
- b. Dependent children (see [E4.1.10](#)) of student or work visa holders may be granted visitor visas if that type of visa is appropriate to their needs for the currency of the parent's visa.
- c. Despite (a) and (b) above, partners and dependent children are not eligible for the grant of a visa under these instructions if the supporting partner or parent was granted a visa under the following instructions:
 - i. Foreign Crew of Fishing Vessels (see [WJ](#)); or
 - ii. Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) (see [WH1](#)); or
 - iii. Supplementary Seasonal Employment (SSE) (see [WH3](#)); or
 - iv. Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Instructions (see [WR5](#)); or
 - v. a Working Holiday Scheme (see [WI2](#)); or
 - vi. people granted a work visa as a domestic staff member of diplomatic, consular or official staff (see [WI4](#)); or
 - vii. seasonal workers under Specific Purpose Instructions; or
 - viii. seasonal workers under seasonal AEWV pathways (see [WA1.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)); or
 - ix. India Iconic Work Instructions (see [WI21](#)); or
 - x. India Skilled Work Instructions (see [WI22](#)); or
 - xi. Independent Professional, or Contractual Service Supplier under Specific Purpose instructions (see [WS](#)).
- d. Despite (a) and (b) above, the eligibility of partners and dependent children of Accredited Employer work visa holders and Specific Purpose work visa holders under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) for visitor visas is set out at [V3.10.1](#) below.
- e. Partners and dependent children of people granted work to residence visas must meet health and character requirements for residence class visa applications as set out at [A4](#) and [A5](#).
- f. Despite (a) and (b) above, a partner or dependent child of the holder of a Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa (MEPV) may be granted a visitor visa under these instructions only if, at the time they apply, the partner or dependent child is in New Zealand on a visa that was granted on the basis of the visa held by the MEPV holder immediately prior to the MEPV holder's current visa. If granted, the visa's duration must be for the same period as the MEPV holder's visa, and will not include multiple entry travel conditions.

V3.10.1 Partners and dependent children of Accredited Employer work visa holders and certain Specific Purpose work visa holders

- a. Partners (see [E4.1.20](#)) and dependent children (see [E4.1.10](#)) of an Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) may be granted a visitor visa if their supporting partner or parent is:
 - i. in a role classified as ANZSCO skill level 1, 2 or 3 (including roles treated at a higher skill level under [WA3.16\(d\)](#)) at the Job Check; or
 - ii. in a role classified as NOL skill level 1, 2 or 3 and listed at [Appendix 20](#); or
 - iii. paid at or above 1.5x the Skilled Migrant Category median wage (see [SR3.20\(a\)\(iii\)](#)); or
 - iv. in a role on the Green List and the Accredited Employer work visa holder meets the applicable Green List requirements (see [Appendix 13](#)); or
 - v. in acceptable employment under the Transport Sector or Care Sector Work to Residence policies as defined in [SR6.10](#) or [SR7.10](#), with the exception of the requirement to have completed 24 months of work in New Zealand in that occupation.
- b. Despite the requirement to determine applications for temporary entry in accordance with the instructions in effect at the time an application is made ([E7.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)), the exception set out at (a)(v) above applies to any application that was submitted before 6 October 2024 and as of that date had not been decided.
- c. Partners and dependent children of an Accredited Employer work visa holder working in a role at ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5 cannot be granted a visitor visa as a partner or dependent child, unless:
 - i. on 26 June 2024, they held a visa as a dependent of the Accredited Employer work visa holder; or

- ii. on 26 June 2024, they had an application in progress for a visa as a dependent of the Accredited Employer work visa holder and that application was subsequently granted; or
 - iii. the role of their Accredited Employer work visa holder partner or parent is described in (a)(iii) to (v) above.
- d. An Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) whose dependent child is applying for a visitor visa under these instructions must meet the minimum income threshold specified at [V3.10.10](#) below.
- e. Despite (d) above, the minimum income threshold does not apply if the supporting work visa holder(s) currently meet the previous income threshold in place on 9 March 2025 (as per [V3.10.10](#)), and on 9 March 2025:
 - i. the dependent child held a visa as a dependent child of the supporting work visa holder, or had applied on or before that date for a visa as a dependent of the supporting work visa holder and that application has not been completed; and
 - ii. the dependent child's parent(s) held an Accredited Employer work visa or Essential Skills work visa, or had applied on or before that date for an Accredited Employer work visa that was subsequently granted; and
 - iii. the maximum continuous stay period that applied to their parent on 9 March 2025 has not yet been reached.

V3.10.5 Dependent children of Essential Skills work visa holders

- a. A dependent child of a holder of a work visa granted under the Essential Skills work instructions ([WK](#)) after 30 November 2009 will only be granted a visitor visa if the minimum income threshold is met.
- b. Despite (a) above, dependent children born in New Zealand after 30 November 2009 will not be tested against the threshold until their parent(s) next applies for an Essential Skills work visa.
- c. Despite (a) and (b) above, the minimum income threshold does not apply if the dependent child's parent(s):
 - i. have held any temporary work visa before 30 November 2009; and
 - ii. have remained on a valid visa from 30 November 2009 until the date of the dependent child's application under [V3.10](#).

V3.10.10 Minimum income threshold

- a. The minimum income threshold is NZ\$58,240 gross per annum.
- b. The minimum income threshold must be met and maintained wholly by the salary or wages of a parent or parents holding an Accredited Employer work visa, Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or an Essential Skills work visa.
- c. Evidence must be provided of the supporting work visa holder's current salary or wages.
- d. Despite (a) above, if the dependent child is included in a Samoan Quota or Pacific Access Category application, the minimum income threshold is the amount specified in Samoan Quota or Pacific Access Category instructions.
- e. If a visa application is declined under these instructions and the dependent child becomes unlawful the parent(s) may become liable for deportation.
- f. If the parent(s) do not maintain the minimum income threshold for the duration of their or their dependent child's visa, both the child and the parent(s) may become liable for deportation.

Notes:

- Where both parents hold Accredited Employer work visas, or Specific Purpose work visas under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or Essential Skills work visas, their incomes may be combined to meet the minimum income threshold.
- The minimum income threshold excludes employment-related allowances (for example tool or uniform allowances) and must be calculated on the basis of no more than 40 hours' work per week.

V3.10.15 Dependent children of work visa holders under Religious Worker instructions

See also *Immigration Act 2009* ss 56, 157

- a. Dependent children of a holder of a work visa under Religious Worker instructions ([WM](#)) will only be granted a visitor visa if:
 - i. the minimum income threshold of NZ\$58,240 gross per annum is met by the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; or
 - ii. the religious organisation sponsoring the principal applicant agrees to sponsor the dependent children.
- b. Under (a)(i) above:

- i. the minimum income threshold must be met and maintained by the salary, wages or a stipend received by the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; and
 - ii. evidence must be provided of the current salary, wages or stipend of the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; and
 - iii. if a visa application is declined under these instructions and the dependent child becomes unlawful the parents may become liable for deportation; and
 - iv. if the parents do not maintain the applicable minimum income threshold for the duration of their visa or their dependent child's visa, both the child and the parents may become liable for deportation.
- c. Despite (a)(i) above, the minimum income threshold does not apply if the parent(s) currently meet the previous income threshold in place on 9 March 2025 (as per [V3.10.10 \(a\)](#)), and on 9 March 2025:
- i. the dependent child held a visa as a dependent child of the Religious work visa holder, or had applied on or before that date for a visa as a dependent of the Religious work visa holder and that application had not been completed; and
 - ii. the dependent child's parent(s) held a Religious Work visa, or had applied on or before that date for a Religious Work visa that was subsequently granted.

Note: The income of both parents may be combined to meet the minimum income threshold.

V3.10.20 Dependent children awaiting the outcome of a family residence visa application

- a. Dependent children who have made a visitor visa application as a child of a work visa holder (V3.10) may be granted work rights, enabling them to work for up to 25 hours in any given week and full-time during the summer holiday period (1 December-31 January inclusive annually) where they:
- i. Meet age requirements as a result of being between 17 and 24 years old (inclusive) when they make their application; and
 - ii. have provided evidence to satisfy an immigration officer that they have successfully completed year 13 of secondary school (or the overseas equivalent) if they are aged 17 years old when they make their application; and
 - iii. are included as a dependent child in an application for residence under one of the below categories:
 - Partnership Category ([E2](#))
 - Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa (SM); or
 - Skilled Migrant Category Visa ([SR3](#)); or
 - Green List: Straight to Residence ([SR4](#)); or
 - Green List: Work to Residence ([SR5](#)); or
 - Care Workforce: Work to Residence ([SR6](#)); or
 - Transport Sector: Work to Residence ([SR7](#)).
- b. Despite [E7.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#), immigration officers may apply these instructions to any eligible dependent children awaiting the outcome of a family residence visa application that has not been decided and was submitted before 3 November 2025.

Notes:

-The summer holiday period is defined as running from 1 December to 31 January (inclusive) annually for visitor visa holders with work conditions which specify that they may undertake full-time work during the summer holiday period. This definition does not apply under student visa instructions, where the summer holiday period is determined by the associated education provider.

-Evidence that a 17-year-old applicant has completed year 13 of secondary school (or the overseas equivalent) may include, but is not limited to: a letter from their secondary school, a final school report or a graduation certificate.

-As per [R2.1.30\(f\)](#) where immigration officers are required to assess the financial dependence of children included in a resident application, any part-time work undertaken in accordance with these conditions will not affect that assessment.

WA4.11 Maximum Continuous Stay

- a. Holders of a regular Accredited Employer work visa (AEWV) can hold an AEWV for a maximum period of time, referred to as 'a maximum continuous stay period'. If a holder reaches the end of their maximum continuous stay period, they must be outside New Zealand for a minimum of 12 consecutive months before they are eligible to be granted a further first AEWV (see note below).
- b. An application for a further AEWV must be declined if the applicant is in New Zealand and has reached the end of their maximum continuous stay period.
- c. An application for an AEWV from a previous AEWV holder who has reached the end of their maximum continuous stay period and who has not spent 12 consecutive months outside New Zealand, cannot be approved. For the avoidance of doubt, a previous AEWV holder outside New Zealand can apply for an AEWV before the expiry of the 12 months, but cannot be granted that AEWV if it will allow travel to New Zealand before the expiry of the 12 months.
- d. Where an applicant is outside New Zealand when the first AEWV is granted, the maximum continuous stay period must be counted from the first date of entry to New Zealand after the grant of the visa.
- e. A person who has held an AEWV and who, since that AEWV was granted, has spent 12 consecutive months outside New Zealand can be granted an AEWV for the duration allowed by [WA4.15.1](#) (whether or not they held an AEWV during part of or all of the 12 months, and whether or not they had reached the end of their maximum continuous stay period during or before those 12 months).
- f. Time spent holding an India Iconic Work Visa (WI21) or an India Skilled Work Visa (WI22) counts towards a person's maximum continuous stay and should be treated in the same way as time spent holding an AEWV for the purposes of calculating maximum continuous stay.

Notes:

A person's first AEWV refers only to the first such visa in any particular period of maximum continuous stay.

Following the expiry of a person's first AEWV, they may remain in New Zealand and hold another type of visa (e.g. a visitor visa or a Working Holiday visa) but this will not count towards the 12 months they are required to be outside of New Zealand.

The time spent holding an AEWV (or AEWVs) counts towards a person's maximum continuous stay period, whether that time is spent while the person is in New Zealand or not.

The maximum continuous stay period excludes any time spent on any other temporary or work visa (e.g. a student or visitor visa, or Specific Purpose work visa with the exception of [WS2.1.1 \(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) except for time spent holding an India Iconic Work Visa (WI21) or an India Skilled Work Visa (WI22). The maximum continuous stay period also excludes any time spent on a Global Workforce Seasonal Visa or Peak Seasonal Visa.

Certain interim visas as set out at WA4.11.5 below may count towards the maximum continuous stay period.

WA4.11.1 Determining Maximum Continuous Stay period

The maximum continuous stay period for an AEWV holder is either:

- a. five years if the holder's application for their first AEWV was made between 21 June 2023 and 6 April 2024 (inclusive), and the role approved was paid at or above \$29.66 at the time of approval; or
- b. if the holder is not described in (a) above, as stated in the table below.

Current offer of employment assessed as	Maximum Continuous Stay
i. ANZSCO skill level 1-3 (including those classified as ANZSCO skill level 1-3 under WA3.16 (d)); or	60 months (5 years)
ii. NOL skill level 1-3 (a NOL skill level 1-3 occupation expressly listed in Appendix 20); or	
iii. on the Green List (Appendix 13); or	

iv. included in the Transport Sector: Work to Residence (SR7) and meets the remuneration threshold required for residence as specified in SR7.10; or	
v. included in the Transport Sector: Work to Residence (SR7) as of 6 April 2024, where the holder holds an AEWV, and the application for that AEWV was submitted on or before 6 April 2024 (this provision covers various bus and truck driver roles removed on 6 April 2024); or	
vi. included in the Care Workforce sector (Appendix 14) and meets the remuneration threshold required for residence as specified in SR6.10; or	
vii. paid at or above 1.5 times the median wage in the Skilled Migrant Category (SR3.10(b)); or	
viii. ANZSCO Skill Level 4 or 5 (where the employment is not otherwise assessed as meeting (b)(i) to (vi) above, or where the holder is not otherwise described in (a) above)	36 months (3 years)

Note: For the purposes of WA4.11.1(b)(ii), the current offer of employment is considered to be on the Green List if the occupation appears on the Green List (Appendix 13 of the INZ Operational Manual). The migrant does not need to meet the "Green List Requirements" or "Registration Qualifications" listed in the third and fourth columns of the Green List tables.

WA4.11.2 Maximum Continuous Stay for the Peak Seasonal Visa

- a. Holders of a Peak Seasonal Visa (PSV) can hold a PSV for a maximum period of 7 months. If a holder reaches the end of their maximum continuous stay period, they must be outside New Zealand for a minimum of 4 consecutive months before they are eligible to be granted a further first PSV (see note below).
- b. An application for a further PSV must be declined if the applicant is in New Zealand and has reached the end of their maximum continuous stay period.
- c. An application for a PSV from a previous PSV holder who has reached the end of their maximum continuous stay period and who has not spent 4 consecutive months outside New Zealand, cannot be approved. For the avoidance of doubt, a previous PSV holder outside New Zealand can apply for a PSV before the expiry of the 4 months, but cannot be granted that PSV if it will allow travel to New Zealand before the expiry of the 4 months.
- d. Where an applicant is outside New Zealand when the first PSV is granted, the maximum continuous stay period must be counted from the first date of entry to New Zealand after the grant of the visa.
- e. A person who has held a PSV and who, since that PSV was granted, has spent 4 consecutive months outside New Zealand can be granted a PSV for the duration allowed by [WA4.15.3](#) (whether or not they held a PSV during part of or all of the 4 months, and whether or not they had reached the end of their maximum continuous stay period during or before those 4 months).
- f. Time spent holding an India Iconic Work Visa (WI21) or an India Skilled Work Visa (WI22) counts towards a person's maximum continuous stay and should be treated in the same way as time spent holding a PSV for the purposes of calculating maximum continuous stay.

Notes:

A person's first PSV refers only to the first such visa in any particular period of maximum continuous stay.

Following the expiry of a person's first PSV, they may remain in New Zealand and hold another type of visa (e.g. a visitor visa or a Working Holiday visa) including a regular AEWV but this will not count towards the 4 months they are required to be outside of New Zealand.

The time spent holding a PSV (or PSVs) counts towards a person's maximum continuous stay period, whether that time is spent while the person is in New Zealand or not.

The maximum continuous stay period excludes any time spent on any other temporary or work visa (e.g. a student or visitor visa, or Specific Purpose work visa) **except for time spent holding an India Iconic Work Visa (WI21) or an India Skilled Work Visa (WI22)**. The maximum continuous stay period of a PSV excludes any time spent on a non-seasonal AEWV or a GWSV.

Certain interim visas as set out at WA4.11.5 below may count towards the maximum continuous stay period.

There is no maximum period a person may hold a Global Workforce Seasonal Visa for before they are eligible to be granted another Global Workforce Seasonal Visa.

WA4.11.5 Time in New Zealand on an interim visa with work rights

- a. The time spent on an interim visa with work conditions specified in I1.20.1(h) (which reflect AEWV conditions) will count towards:
 - i. A person's maximum continuous stay as set out in WA4.11 where the person held a regular AEWV immediately before the interim visa; or
 - ii. A person's maximum continuous stay as set out in WA4.11.2 where the person held a PSV immediately before the interim visa.
- b. For the avoidance of doubt, the maximum continuous stay period excludes time spent on an interim visa:
 - i. with work conditions other than those applied under I1.20.1(h); and
 - ii. that was granted before the applicant's first AEWV (see note under WA4.11 above) **or PSV**, even if the conditions of that interim visa were those specified in I1.20.1(h).

WF3.1 Who is eligible for a work visa

- a. Partners (see [E4.1.20](#)) of people granted work visas allowing a stay in New Zealand of more than six months may apply for, and be granted, a multiple entry work visa under these instructions, unless their partner has been granted a work visa under any one of the following instructions:
 - i. Essential Skills where the employment is paid below \$25.29 per hour, or lower-skilled if the visa application was made before 27 July 2020; or
 - ii. Foreign crew of fishing vessels (see [WJ](#)); or
 - iii. a Working Holiday Scheme (see [WI2](#)); or
 - iv. Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Instructions (see [WH1](#)); or
 - v. Supplementary Seasonal Employer (SSE) Instructions (see [WH3](#)); or
 - vi. Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Instructions (see [WR5](#)); or
 - vii. domestic staff of diplomatic, consular, or official staff (see [WI4](#)); or
 - viii. seasonal workers under Specific Purpose Instructions; or
 - ix. seasonal workers under seasonal AEWV pathways (see [WA1.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)); or
 - x. India Iconic Work Instructions (see [WI21](#)); or
 - xi. India Skilled Work Instructions (see [WI22](#)); or
 - xii. Independent Professional, or Contractual Service Supplier under Specific Purpose instructions (see [WS](#)).
- b. Despite (a) above, the eligibility of partners of Accredited Employer Work Visa holders and Specific Purpose work visa holders under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) for work visas are set out at WF3.1.5 below.
- c. Despite (a) above, a partner of the holder of a Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa (MEPV) may be granted a work visa under these instructions only if, as at the time they apply, the partner is in New Zealand on a visa that was granted on the basis of the visa held by the MEPV holder immediately prior to the MEPV holder's current visa. If granted, the visa's duration must be for the same period as the MEPV holder's visa, will allow the holder to undertake any work in any occupation and location (without the requirement of full-time employment), and will not include multiple entry travel conditions.
- d. Work visas will be granted for the same period as the work visa held by the applicant's partner subject to the generic requirements at [E4.5](#) being met.
- e. Partners of people granted work to residence visas must meet health and character requirements for residence class visa applications as set out at [A4](#) and [A5](#).
- f. Any work visas granted under these instructions may be endorsed with conditions that allow the holder to undertake any work in any occupation and location.
- g. Self-employment is permitted however holders of visas granted under these instructions are restricted from employing others, whether directly, or indirectly via a business they operate as an owner.

WF3.1.5 Partners of certain work visa holders

- a. A work visa may be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Accredited Employer work visa (AEWV) holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) in a role that is classified as ANZSCO skill level 1, 2 or 3 (including AEWV roles treated at a higher skill level under [WA3.16\(d\)](#) at the Job Check) or classified as NOL skill level 1, 2 or 3 and listed at Appendix 20 and paid at least \$28.00 per hour.
- b. A work visa may also be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) who is:
 - i. paid at least \$52.50 per hour for any role; or
 - ii. paid at least \$35.00 per hour in a role on the Green List and the work visa holder meets the applicable requirements (see Appendix 13); or
 - iii. in acceptable employment under the Transport Sector or Care Sector Work to Residence policies as defined in SR6.10 or SR7.10 and paid at least \$28.00 per hour (or the wage requirement specified in the

sector agreement, whichever is higher), with the exception of the requirement to have completed 24 months of work in New Zealand in that occupation.

Note: The median wage of \$35.00 per hour used for the above instructions reflects the June 2025 publication of median wage data by Statistics New Zealand. The other rates used in these instructions are 80 percent of the median wage published in June 2025 (\$28.00 per hour) and 150 percent of the median wage published in June 2025 (\$52.50 per hour).

- c. Despite the requirement to determine applications for temporary entry in accordance with the instructions in effect at the time an application is made (E7.10(a)(ii)), the exception set out at (b)(iii) above applies to any application that was submitted before 6 October and as of that date had not been decided.
- d. Despite (a) and (b) above, a work visa may be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Accredited Employer work visa holder in an ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5 role, or an applicant who is the partner of an Essential Skills work visa holder, where the supporting partner is paid at least \$26.85 per hour, if on 26 June 2024 the applicant:
 - i. held a relationship-based visa supported by the Accredited Employer work visa holder; or
 - ii. had an application in progress for a relationship-based visa supported by the Accredited Employer work visa holder and that application was subsequently granted.
- e. A work visa may be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Essential Skills work visa holder paid at least \$28.00 per hour.

WF3.1.5.1 Determining the supporting partner's remuneration

- a. Where the supporting partner holds an Accredited Employer work visa, Specific Purpose work visa under the NOL subcategory (see WS2.1.1(o) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or Essential Skills work visa, the evidence and information provided with their work visa application may be sufficient for an immigration officer to be satisfied their remuneration meets the requirements for the applicant to be granted a work visa.
- b. Where the supporting partner's remuneration has increased since the grant of their visa, evidence must be provided with the application to satisfy an immigration officer. Suitable evidence includes an employment agreement or letter from the employer confirming the new remuneration rate along with one or more of the following:
 - i. full bank statements showing salary payment; or
 - ii. summary of income details from Inland Revenue; or
 - iii. payslips.
- c. In addition to (b) above, an immigration officer may request any additional evidence as necessary to determine the supporting partner's remuneration.

Note: The supporting work visa holder's remuneration may be assessed as meeting a median wage threshold in place at the time their work visa was granted or when their partner makes their work visa application, whichever is more beneficial for the applicant.

WI1 General rules

- a. Applicants under International/Humanitarian work instructions must:
 - i. meet the specific requirements for the International/Humanitarian work instructions relevant to their application; and
 - ii. meet the requirements under Generic Temporary Entry Instructions unless the International/Humanitarian work instructions relevant to their application exempts them from this requirement.
- b. Where these instructions specify a limited number of places for a scheme or occupation, an application will only be accepted for lodgement if there are places available for the relevant scheme or occupation at the time the application is made.
- c. If an immigration officer determines that an application was accepted for lodgement at a time when no place was available for the relevant scheme or occupation, the application lapses and will not be processed further.
- d. Where an application lapses under these instructions, any application fee paid in respect of the application must be refunded to the person who paid it, or to a person authorised by that person to receive it.

WI21 India Iconic Work Instructions

- a. These instructions allow a limited number of citizens of the Republic of India who are qualified in certain occupations, and who hold a full-time New Zealand job offer from an accredited employer in that occupation, to be granted a work visa and entry permission.
- b. To be considered under these instructions the applicant must be one of the following:
- a yoga instructor who has a recognised Yoga qualification of at least a bachelor's degree in yoga from an institution recognised by the Indian Federal Government; or
 - an Indian chef who has a tertiary level qualification in Indian cuisine obtained after at least two years of successful study at an institution recognised by the Indian Federal Government, and at least two years of relevant work experience completed post qualification; or
 - a music teacher who has a bachelor's degree or equivalent three-year tertiary qualification in music, and has at least two years' relevant work experience as a music teacher; or
 - an Ayush practitioner in the fields of Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa or Homeopathy, who has a bachelor's degree in Indian Traditional Medicine or Ayush Systems of Medicine recognised by the Indian Ministry of Ayush, which required at least three years of successful study from an institution recognised by the Indian Federal Government, and who has at least four years of professional experience working as a recognised practitioner of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, or Homeopathy.
- c. As evidence of a bachelor's degree or equivalent three-year tertiary qualification in music as required by WI21(b)(iii), applicants must provide their qualification certificate and if the qualification is from outside New Zealand, an International Qualifications Assessment (IQA) from the NZQA.
- d. At any one time, the number of Indian nationals holding a visa granted for any occupation under these instructions must not exceed the following:
- 100 yoga instructors;
 - 250 Indian chefs;
 - 50 music teachers; and
 - 200 Ayush practitioners.
- e. To be granted a work visa under these instructions, applicants must:
- provide a completed work visa application form, fee and immigration levy; and
 - have a full-time New Zealand job offer from an accredited employer (see [WA2](#)) at the time the application is made and decided, in one of the occupations listed above, which meets the requirements set out in W2.10.10; and
 - meet the specific qualifications and/or experience requirement for their occupation, as detailed in WI21(b) above; and
 - meet the English language requirements, as detailed in WI21.1 below; and
 - meet health and character requirements set out in A4 and A5; and
 - meet the requirements for bona fide applicants set out in E5.
- f. For the avoidance of doubt, under these instructions, an applicant is not considered to have a job offer from an accredited employer if the employer's accreditation is suspended, expired or revoked at the time the application is made, and an immigration officer may decline the application on the basis that the applicant does not have a job offer from an accredited employer.
- g. Where the employer offering the job has its accreditation suspended after an application is made under these instructions, and the applicant otherwise meets requirements, an immigration officer must postpone making a decision on the application until the suspension is lifted, or until such time as the applicant provides evidence of a full-time New Zealand job offer from another accredited employer.
- h. A labour market test is not required.
- i. An applicant for an initial work visa under these instructions must be outside New Zealand at the time their application is lodged.

Note: An initial work visa refers to the first visa that counts towards the maximum three years (WI21(j)(ii)) that can be granted under these instructions.

- j. Successful applicants who apply offshore will be granted a work visa and entry permission with the following conditions:
- first entry to New Zealand must be made within six months; and
 - the work visa will be valid for multiple entries to New Zealand for the period for which the employment is offered, up to a maximum of three years.
- k. If the initial visa is valid for less than three years, further visas may be granted for the balance of the three-year period, provided the applicant still meets all the requirements of these instructions.

l. India Iconic Work Visas will be subject to conditions that the holder:

- i. may only work in a specified occupation; and
- ii. may only work for a specified employer; and
- iii. must be employed full time (as defined at [W2.2.10](#)).

m. An applicant is not eligible for a further visa under these instructions if they have not spent at least three years outside of New Zealand following completion of a three-year period on a visa granted under these instructions or under the India Skilled Work instructions (WI22).

Note 1: These instructions reflect New Zealand's international trade commitments (see [E9](#)).

Note 2: For avoidance of doubt, where anyone applies to vary the conditions of a visa granted under these instructions, their offer of employment must meet the requirements at WI21(e)(ii) through (vi) and not result in oversubscription to the number of places available for that occupation as outlined at WI21(d).

WI21.1 English Language requirements

a. To be granted a visa to work in an occupation specified under these instructions an applicant must have acceptable English language test results, set out at WI21.1(b) below, which are no more than two years old at the time the application is lodged, obtained by sitting the test in person at a test centre (tests taken remotely outside of a test centre, including 'at home' tests, are not acceptable).

b. The table below sets out the acceptable English language test results for applicants applying for a work visa under these instructions:

Occupation	Test	Minimum score required
Yoga instructor Indian chef	International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - General or Academic Module	5.0 or more in Listening and Speaking
	Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)	12 or more in Listening and 14 or more in Speaking
	Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	36 or more in Listening and Speaking
	B2 First (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE)) or B2 First for Schools (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE) for Schools)	154 or more in Listening and Speaking
Music teacher Ayush practitioner	International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - General or Academic Module	Overall score of 6.5 or more
	Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)	Overall score of 79 or more
	Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	Overall score of 58 or more
	B2 First (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE)) or	Overall score of 176 or more

	B2 First for Schools (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE) for Schools)	
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WI22 India Skilled Work Instructions

- a. To be considered for a work visa under these instructions, the applicant must be a citizen of the Republic of India who has a full-time New Zealand job offer from an accredited employer in one of the occupations listed in the table below, and the relevant qualifications and experience required for that occupation.

Occupation	Requirements
Software engineer Software and Applications Programmers ICT Project Manager	Qualifications must be comparable to the standard of the New Zealand qualification listed. Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering, Engineering, or an equivalent degree and has at least five years of work experience in that field.
Civil Engineer Mechanical Engineer Structural Engineer Environmental Engineer	One of the following: - a Washington Accord accredited (initial) engineering degree. - a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours (NZQCF Level 8). - a qualification at NZQCF Level 7 or higher, with a letter from Engineering New Zealand certifying that the degree and any further learning meet the benchmark requirements towards Chartered Professional Engineer professional status in New Zealand. - NZ registration as a Chartered Professional Engineer by Engineering New Zealand.
Construction Project Manager	One of the following: - Bachelor of Engineering with Honours (NZQCF Level 8). - Bachelor of Engineering Technology (NZQCF Level 7). - Bachelor of Construction (NZQCF Level 7). - A bachelor's degree at NZQCF Level 7, or a higher qualification with the minimum equivalent of 360 credits, which includes the requirements of a New Zealand major in the focus areas of construction management, civil engineering, or highway engineering. - A Graduate Diploma at NZQCF Level 7, or a higher qualification which includes the knowledge requirements of a New Zealand Graduate Diploma in the focus areas of construction management, highway engineering, civil engineering or construction project management. - A diploma at NZQCF Level 6, or a higher qualification, with the minimum equivalent of 240 credits, which includes the knowledge requirements of a New Zealand Diploma in the focus areas of civil engineering, highway engineering, construction or construction management. - A Washington Accord or Sydney Accord accredited undergraduate (initial) engineering degree in Civil Engineering. - A qualification at NZQCF Level 7 or higher, with a letter from Engineering New Zealand certifying that the degree and any further learning meet the benchmark requirements towards Chartered Professional Engineer professional status in New Zealand. - NZ registration in the field of civil engineering as a Chartered Professional Engineer or an Engineering Technologist by Engineering New Zealand
Building Project Manager	One of the following:

	• A bachelor's degree at NZQCF Level 7, or a higher qualification with the minimum equivalent of 360 credits, which includes the requirements of a New Zealand major in quantity surveying or construction economics. • A Graduate Diploma at NZQCF Level 7, or a higher qualification, which includes the knowledge requirements of a New Zealand Graduate Diploma in the focus areas of construction, construction management or construction project management. • A diploma at NZQCF Level 6, or a higher qualification, with the minimum equivalent of 240 credits, which includes the knowledge requirements of a New Zealand Diploma (Level 6) in the focus areas of quantity surveying, construction economics, construction management or building.
Primary School Teacher Secondary School Teacher	NZ registration with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand and with either a provisional or full practising certificate issued by the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.
Registered Nurse	Registration with the Nursing Council of New Zealand and a Bachelor of Nursing or equivalent qualification and at least three years of work experience in the occupation.
Physiotherapists	Registration with the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand; and a Bachelor of Physiotherapy or Bachelor of Health Sciences (Physiotherapy) or equivalent qualification and at least three years of work experience in the occupation.

Note 1: Qualifications listed (unless an exception is stated) are New Zealand awarded qualifications on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF). Overseas qualifications must be comparable to the standard of the New Zealand qualification listed. Unless an overseas qualification is listed on the Immigration New Zealand List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment (Appendix 17), an International Qualification Assessment (IQA) from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority stating the comparable NZQCF qualification is required.

Note 2: Where a Washington Accord accredited undergraduate engineering degree is a requirement, the engineering degree has to be awarded from or after the date the country became a signatory, and must be on the list of accredited programmes of the signatory country. To determine if an engineering degree awarded is Washington Accord accredited, please refer to the links from the International Engineering Alliance on their website: www.ieagreements.org/accords/washington/signatories/.

Where a Sydney Accord accredited undergraduate engineering degree is a requirement, the engineering technology degree has to be awarded from or after the date the country became a signatory and must be on the list of accredited programmes of the signatory country. To determine if an engineering technology degree awarded is Sydney Accord accredited, please refer to the links from the International Engineering Alliance on their website: www.ieagreements.org/accords/washington/signatories/.

Note 3: A letter, certificate or registration from the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand Incorporated (IPENZ), as Engineering New Zealand was formerly known, may be used to meet the requirement for a letter, certificate or registration from Engineering New Zealand. A letter from IPENZ may also be used to meet an applicable requirement instead of a letter from IT Professionals New Zealand. IPENZ's name changed to Engineering New Zealand in October 2017.

b. At any one time, the number of Indian nationals holding a visa granted for any occupation under these instructions must not exceed the following:

Occupation	Maximum per sector
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Software engineer Software and Applications Programmers ICT Project Manager	1000
Civil Engineer Mechanical Engineer Structural Engineer Environmental Engineer	1000
Construction Project Manager Building Project Manager	700
Primary School Teacher Secondary School Teacher	500
Registered Nurse	900
Physiotherapists	300

- c. To be granted a work visa under these instructions, applicants must:
- provide a completed work visa application form, fee and immigration levy; and
 - have a full-time New Zealand job offer from an accredited employer (see [WA2](#)) at the time the application is made and decided, in one of the occupations listed above, which meets the requirements set out in W2.10.10; and
 - meet the specific qualifications and/or experience requirement for their occupation, as detailed in WI22(a) above; and
 - meet the English language requirements, as detailed in WI22.1 below; and
 - meet health and character requirements set out in A4 and A5; and
 - meet the requirements for bona fide applicants set out in E5.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, under these instructions, an applicant is not considered to have a job offer from an accredited employer if the employer's accreditation is suspended, expired or revoked at the time the application is made, and an immigration officer may decline the application on the basis that the applicant does not have a job offer from an accredited employer.
- e. Where the employer offering the job has its accreditation suspended after an application is made under these instructions, and the applicant otherwise meets requirements, an immigration officer must postpone making a decision on the application until the suspension is lifted, or until such time as the applicant provides evidence of a full-time New Zealand job offer from another accredited employer.
- f. A labour market test is not required.
- g. An applicant for an initial work visa under these instructions must be outside New Zealand at the time their application is lodged.

Note: An initial work visa refers to the first visa that counts towards the maximum three years (WI22(h)(ii)) that can be granted under these instructions.

- h. Successful applicants who apply offshore will be granted a work visa and entry permission with the following conditions:
- first entry to New Zealand must be made within six months; and
 - the work visa will be valid for multiple entries to New Zealand for the period for which the employment is offered, up to a maximum of three years.
- i. If the initial visa is valid for less than three years, further visas may be granted for the balance of the three-year period, provided the applicant still meets all the requirements of these instructions.
- j. India Skilled Work Visas will be subject to conditions that the holder:
- may only work in a specified occupation; and
 - may only work for a specified employer; and
 - must be employed full time (as defined at [W2.2.10](#)).

- k. An applicant is not eligible for a further visa under these instructions if they have not spent at least three years outside of New Zealand following completion of a three-year period on a visa granted under these instructions or under the India Iconic Work instructions (WI21).

Note 1: These instructions reflect New Zealand's international trade commitments (see [E9](#)).

Note 2: For avoidance of doubt, where anyone applies to vary the conditions of a visa granted under these instructions their offer of employment must meet the requirements at WI22(c)(ii) through (vi) and not result in oversubscription to the number of places available for the relevant sector as outlined at WI22(b).

WI22.1 English Language requirements

- a. To be granted a visa to work in any occupation under these instructions an applicant must have acceptable English language test results as set out below, which are no more than two years old at the time the application is lodged, obtained by sitting the test in person at a test centre (tests taken remotely outside of a test centre, including 'at home' tests, are not acceptable).

Test	Minimum score required
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - General or Academic Module	Overall score of 6.5 or more
Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)	Overall score of 79 or more
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	Overall score of 58 or more
B2 First (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE)) or B2 First for Schools (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE) for Schools)	Overall score of 176 or more
Occupational English Test (OET)	Grade C+ or higher in all four skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)

WS2.1 Who is eligible for a Specific Purpose or Event work visa

- a. Applicants may be granted a work visa and entry permission under specific purpose or event instructions, if an immigration officer is satisfied:
- the applicant will be in New Zealand to complete a specific purpose or event described in Column A of the table at WS2.1.1; and
 - the applicant has demonstrated they meet the work visa requirements set out in Column B of the table at WS2.1.1 by providing the evidence specified; and
 - the work is time-bound (not open-ended or permanent); and
 - the applicant is suitably qualified to undertake the work; and
 - the applicant meets health and character requirements as specified at A4 and A5.
- b. The currency of a specific purpose or event visa must be consistent with the time required for the holder to complete the specific purpose or event, up to the maximum duration indicated in Column C and total stay (if any) indicated in Column D.

Note: Where Column D refers to 'total stay' this includes the duration of the initial Specific Purpose or Event work visa

- c. Applications for a further Specific Purpose or Event work visa by a person holding a Specific Purpose or Event work visa must be declined, unless:
- a further Specific Purpose or Event visa is allowed for by Column D of WS2.1.1; and
 - the immigration officer is satisfied that the grant of a further visa is necessary in order to complete the original specific purpose or event.
- d. Applications for work visas made under this category from applicants who currently hold a visitor visa granted under V3.100 (Guardians accompanying students to New Zealand) must not be approved (see V3.100.35).

WS2.1.1 Acceptable specific purposes and events, evidence and maximum visa durations

	Column A: People who are considered to be undertaking a specific purpose or event	Column B: Evidence required	Column C: Initial visa duration that may be granted	Column D: Further visa duration that may be granted
a.	Senior or specialist business people on short-term secondments who have a job offer either in a substantial New Zealand company or a New Zealand subsidiary of an overseas company.	Evidence of a job offer that meets the requirements of W2.10.10 and W2.10.15 from the New Zealand company or subsidiary; and A completed Employer Supplementary Form (INZ 1113); and Evidence the applicant is senior manager or specialist personnel (see WS2.5); and	Up to 12 months	Further Specific Purpose or Event visas allowing a total stay of up to 24 months (inclusive of the duration of the initial visa granted under column C).

		Terms of the secondment, including duration; and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15		
b.	A business person seconded to New Zealand as an intra-corporate transferee to take up a position in a multinational company as: -an executive; or -a senior manager; or -specialist personnel	Evidence the applicant is a senior manager, executive or specialist personnel (see WS2.5); and Terms of the secondment, including duration; and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15	Up to 36 months	Further Specific Purpose or Event visas allowing a total stay of up to 72 months (inclusive of the duration of the initial visa granted under column C).
c.	Business people wishing to undertake business activities in New Zealand who can satisfy an immigration officer that they have genuine reasons to be in New Zealand for a period or periods exceeding 3 months in any one year.	Evidence of the amount of time the applicant needs to be in New Zealand; and Evidence of the applicant's business activities in New Zealand. Business activities are described in V3.5 Business Visitors.	Up to 12 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa
d.	Principal applicants under the Migrant investment	No additional evidence required	12 months	Further Specific Purpose or Event visas allowing a total stay of up to 24 months (inclusive of the duration of the

	instructions or the Parent Retirement Category who have been approved in principle and are investigating investment opportunities and making direct investments in New Zealand (see BJ7.40 and E 3.25)			initial visa granted under column C) for Investor 1 applicants; or Further Specific Purpose or Event visas allowing a total stay of up to 18 months (inclusive of the duration of the initial visa granted under column C) for Investor 2 applicants
e.	Principal applicants under the Active Investor Plus visa category who have been approved in principle and are arranging transfer and/or investment of funds in New Zealand (see BN8.35)	No additional evidence required	12 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa.
f.	Referees or judges of sports events, shows, displays or exhibitions	Invitation, or schedule of events setting out the duration the applicant is required to be in New Zealand; and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15	For the period of their engagement, not normally more than 6 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa
g.	Dance and music examiners of recognised international	Invitation, or schedule of events setting out the duration the applicant is	For the period of their engagement, not normally more than 6 months.	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa

	teaching institutions	required to be in New Zealand; and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15		
h.	Installers or servicers of specialised machinery or equipment supplied by an overseas company where installing or servicing the equipment in New Zealand is a condition of lease or purchase.	Evidence that installing or servicing the equipment in New Zealand is a condition of the lease or purchase of the machinery or equipment; and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15	Up to 3 months in any 12 month period	No subsequent Specific Purpose or Event visa within a 12 month period
i.	Sports players and professional sports coaches taking up a paid position in a New Zealand sports club	Evidence of a job offer that meets the requirements of W2.10.10 and W2.10.15 from the New Zealand club, if the applicant is professional player or coach (see WS2.5); and A completed Employer Supplementary Form (INZ 1113); and Evidence of the terms of the engagement with the club, if the applicant is not a professional player; and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15	For the period of their job offer or engagement, up to: 36 months for: - professional players employed at national or regional level (WS2.5); or - professional sports coaches employed at national or regional level (WS2.5)) 12 months for: - players who do not meet the definitions of a professional sports player employed at national or regional level at WS2.5); or - professional sports coaches not employed at national or regional level	Further Specific Purpose or Event visas allowing a total stay of up to 36 months (inclusive of the duration of the initial visa granted) if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa as a player or coach where Column C sets a maximum initial visa duration of 36 months; or No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa as a player or coach where Column C sets a maximum initial visa duration of 12 months.

j.	Entertainment industry sector workers (entertainers, performing artists, film and video production crew, and associated support personnel), who intend to engage in any form of private or public performance in New Zealand or work on any film or video production in New Zealand.	Evidence required by WS3 .	For the period of their engagement	Further Specific Purpose or Event visas can be granted for the period required if the engagement is extended.
k.	Philippines nurses seeking entry to obtain New Zealand occupational registration who have a job offer from a District Health Board and have been accepted for the Nursing Council's Competence Assessment Programme	Evidence of a job offer that meets the requirements of W2.10.10 and W2.10.15 from a District Health Board; and A completed Employer Supplementary Form (INZ 1113); and Evidence of acceptance for the Nursing Council's Competence Assessment Programme; and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15	3 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa
l.	Principal applicants for residence under the Entrepreneur	No additional evidence required	9 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa

	Residence Visa Category instructions who currently hold a valid visa granted under the Entrepreneur Work Visa Category or Long Term Business Visa Category instructions (see BH8).			
m.	Principal applicants for residence under the Business Investor Visa resident visa instructions (see BI) who currently hold a valid Business Investor work visa	No additional evidence required	9 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa if applicant currently holds a Specific Purpose or Event visa
n.	Contractual Services Supplier	Evidence of the requirement to be in New Zealand to undertake work in an ANZSCO skill level 1 role to fulfil a contract to supply services (WS2.5(d)(iii)); and Evidence of holding a relevant acceptable qualification equivalent to at least a New Zealand level 7 bachelor's degree on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF); and Evidence of at least six years of experience relevant to the field of the contract to supply services; and Evidence of having been employed by the	For the period of their engagement, up to 12 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa may be granted for the purpose of providing the same service to the same New Zealand entity.

		enterprise supplying the service for at least one year immediately preceding the date of submission for a visa made under these instructions; A completed Employer Supplementary Form (INZ 1113); and Meet all other requirements at WS2.5 (d).		
o.	Independent Professionals	Evidence of a valid contract in New Zealand, to deliver a service, in an ANZSCO skill level 1 to 3 occupation, to a New Zealand entity (WS2.5(f)); and Evidence of holding a relevant acceptable qualification equivalent to at least New Zealand level 4 on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF); and Evidence of at least six years' experience relevant to the work they are employed for; and Evidence of meeting English language requirements if required (WS2.5.5); and A completed Employer Supplementary Form (INZ 1113); and Evidence of meeting the relevant Labour Market Test (WS2.5.10(c)).	Up to 12 months	No further Specific Purpose or Event visa may be granted for the purpose of providing the same service to the same employer.
p.	People who need to come to New Zealand for any other specific purpose or event where they meet the objective of these instructions	Evidence of the specific purpose or event that the person will be undertaking in New Zealand; and Evidence that satisfies an immigration officer that the nature of the work or	For the period of their engagement	Further Specific Purpose or Event visas can be granted for the period required if the engagement is extended.

	(WS1) and the circumstances justify the grant of a work visa.	the circumstances surrounding the work are such that it is not possible and/or appropriate for a New Zealand citizen or resident to take up the work (see note 1 below); and Evidence of funds as required by W2.15; and If the person will be employed in New Zealand: Evidence of a job offer that meets the requirements of W2.10.10 and W2.10.15; and A completed Employer Supplementary Form (INZ 1113)		
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Note:

1. The factors an immigration officer may take into account in determining whether it would be possible and/or appropriate for New Zealand citizens or residents to take up the work at WS2.1.1 (**o and p**) include, but are not limited to, whether the work:

- requires a person to be primarily based in New Zealand on a long-term or permanent basis,
- will be for a New Zealand employer and be covered by a New Zealand employment agreement,
- requires attributes that automatically exclude New Zealand citizens or residents (for example, the requirement for foreign security clearance, or a special programme only offered to nationals of certain countries).

2. It is not relevant whether the employer has been unable to recruit New Zealanders to take up the work. If it is appropriate for a New Zealand citizen or resident to take up the work but the employer has not been able to find a suitable New Zealander, an application may be made under the Accredited Employer work visa instructions (WA4).

3. Provisions WS2.1.1 (a),(b),(c),(**h**),(**k**),(**n**) and (**o**) reflect New Zealand's trade commitments with respect to immigration (see E9).

4. Applications received under provision WS2.1.1(p) which an immigration officer considers to meet the definition of another provision within WS2.1.1 will be assessed against the requirements of that provision.

WS2.5 Definitions

- a. For the purpose of WS instructions 'senior manager' or 'executive' means a person who:
 - i. is a senior employee of an organisation; and
 - ii. has been employed by that organisation for at least 12 months before their proposed transfer to New Zealand; and
 - iii. is responsible for the entire organisation's operations in New Zealand, or a substantial part of it, while receiving general supervision or direction principally from higher level executives, the board of directors or stockholders of the business.
- b. For the purpose of these instructions 'specialist personnel' means a person:
 - i. who is being transferred to undertake a specific or specialist task at a senior level within the company; and
 - ii. possesses knowledge of the organisation's service, research equipment, techniques or management.
- c. For the purpose of these instructions:
 - i. 'professional sports coach' means a person who has a paid position in a New Zealand sports club to engage in a primary role of coaching;
 - ii. 'professional sports player' means a person who has a paid position in a New Zealand sports club to engage in a primary role of competing and training in that sport;
 - iii. 'national or regional level' means representing a sports club in a top tier national, trans-Tasman, or international competition.
- d. For the purpose of these instructions 'Contractual Services Supplier' means a person, who is employed by an enterprise outside of New Zealand that:
 - i. is not an agency for placement and supply services of personnel;
 - ii. is not established in New Zealand;
 - iii. has concluded a bona fide contract to supply services to a final consumer in New Zealand, requiring the presence on a temporary basis of its employees in New Zealand to undertake work in an ANZSCO skill level 1 occupation in order to fulfil the contract to supply services (the number of visas granted to employees must be proportionate to the services to be delivered as stipulated in the contract); and
 - iv. does not receive remuneration for the provision of services in the territory of New Zealand other than the remuneration paid by the enterprise employing the Contractual Services Supplier or from another source outside New Zealand.
- e. For the purpose of these instructions 'Independent Professional' means a self-employed person with acceptable qualifications and experience, without the requirement for a commercial presence, working under a valid contract in New Zealand in an ANZSCO skill level 1 to 3 occupation.

WS2.5.1 Acceptable qualifications

- a. As evidence of qualification equivalence, applicants for a visa made under WS instructions to undertake work as a Contractual Service Supplier, or Independent Professional, must provide:
 - i. a copy of the qualification certificate awarded to the applicant specifying the qualification type and awarding institution; and
 - ii. an International Qualification Assessment (IQA) from the NZQA, unless the qualification is included at, or above, the required level, on the List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment (Appendix 17).
- b. Evidence that the applicant holds full or provisional registration, if full or provisional registration is required to practice in the occupation in which they have employment.

WS2.5.5 English Language requirements

- a. Applicants for a visa made under WS instructions to undertake work as an Independent Professional, where their role has been assessed as ANZSCO skill level 3 are required to meet a minimum standard of English.
- b. Applicants are considered to have met the minimum standard of English if they provide acceptable English language test results no more than two years old at the time the application is lodged, as set out at WS2.5.5(d), obtained by sitting the test in person at a test centre (tests taken remotely outside of a test centre, including 'at home' tests, are not acceptable).
- c. Other evidence that an applicant meets the minimum standard of English is:
 - i. citizenship of Canada, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom or the United States of America, provided the applicant has spent at least five years in work or education in one or more of those countries or Australia or New Zealand; or
 - ii. a qualification comparable to a New Zealand level 7 bachelor's degree and gained in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom or the United States of America as a result of study undertaken for at least two academic years in one or more of those countries; or
 - iii. a qualification comparable to a New Zealand qualification at level 8 or above and gained in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom or the United States of America as a result of study undertaken for at least one academic year in one or more of those countries.

d. In any case, an immigration officer may require an applicant to provide an English language test result in terms of paragraph WS2.5.5(b). In such cases, the English language test result will be used to determine whether the applicant meets the minimum standard of English.

e. The following English language test results are acceptable:

Test	Minimum score required
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - General or Academic Module	Overall score of 4 or more
Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)	Overall score of 31 or more
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	Overall score of 29 or more
B2 First (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE)) or B2 First for Schools (First Certificate in English) (formerly Cambridge English: First (FCE) for Schools)	Overall score of 142 or more
Occupational English Test (OET)	Grade D or higher in all four skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)*

*A score of Grade D or higher in all four skills is required for the OET as there is no overall grade for this test.

WS2.5.10 Labour Market Test

a. Applications made under provisions WS2.1.1 (n) and (o) are subject to a labour market test.

b. The labour market test for a Contractual Services Supplier (WS2.1.1(n)) is met if an immigration officer is satisfied that the worker's presence in New Zealand is integral to delivery of a contracted service supplied by a foreign company.

c. The labour market test for an Independent Professional (WS2.1.1(o)) is met if an immigration officer is satisfied that evidence has been provided of the employer's genuine attempts to attract and recruit suitable New Zealand workers.

U8.20 Dependent children of work visa holders

- a. Dependent children (see [E4.1](#)) of work visa holders who wish to study in New Zealand may be granted student visas unless the work visa holder has been granted a work visa under any one of the following categories:
- i. Foreign crew of fishing vessels (see [WJ](#)); or
 - ii. Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work instructions (see [WH1](#)); or
 - iii. Supplementary Seasonal Employment (SSE) instructions (see [WH3](#)); or
 - iv. Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Instructions (see [WR5](#)); or
 - v. Working Holiday Scheme instructions (see [WI2](#)); or
 - vi. domestic staff of diplomatic, consular or official staff (see [WI4](#)); or
 - vii. seasonal workers under Specific Purpose Instructions; or
 - viii. seasonal workers under seasonal AEWV pathways (see [WA1.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)); or
 - ix. India Iconic Work Instructions (see [WI21](#)); or
 - x. India Skilled Work Instructions (see [WI22](#)); or
 - xi. Independent Professional, or Contractual Service Supplier under Specific Purpose instructions (see [WS](#)).
- b. Despite (a) above, the eligibility of dependent children of Accredited Employer work visa holders and Specific Purpose work visa holders under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) for student visas is set out at U8.20.2 below.
- c. Dependent children of work visa holders as defined in (a) above are regarded as domestic students (see [U3.35](#)) for the purpose of all tuition fees at primary and secondary schools for the period of the parent's work visa.
- d. Dependent children (see [E4.1](#)) of work visa holders may be granted student visas without the need to produce evidence of enrolment.
- e. Guarantees of accommodation and/or maintenance for dependent children may be waived provided this is covered by the income of the work visa holder parent or by evidence of funds or guarantees submitted with the work visa application of the parent (see [W2.15](#)).
- f. Dependent children of people granted work to residence visas must meet health and character requirements for residence class visa applications as set out at [A4](#) and [A5](#).
- g. Despite (a) above, a dependent child of the holder of a Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa (MEPV) may be granted a student visa under these instructions only if, as at the time they apply, the dependent child is in New Zealand on a visa that was granted on the basis of the visa held by the MEPV holder immediately prior to the MEPV holder's current visa. If granted, the visa's duration must be for the same period as the MEPV holder's visa, and will not include multiple entry travel conditions.

U8.20.2 Dependent children of Accredited Employer work visa holders and certain Specific Purpose work visa holders

- a. Dependent children (see [E4.1.10](#)) of an Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) may be granted a student visa if their supporting parent is:
- i. in a role classified as ANZSCO skill level 1, 2 or 3 (including roles treated at a higher skill level under [WA3.16\(d\)](#) at the Job Check); or
 - ii. in a role classified as NOL skill level 1, 2 or 3 and listed at [Appendix 20](#); or
 - iii. paid at or above 1.5x the Skilled Migrant Category median wage (see [SR3.20\(a\)\(ii\)](#)); or
 - iv. in a role on the Green List and meets the applicable requirements (see [Appendix 13](#)); or
 - v. in acceptable employment under the Transport Sector or Care Sector Work to Residence policies as defined in [SR6.10](#) or [SR7.10](#) with the exception of the requirement to have completed 24 months of work in New Zealand in that occupation.
- b. Despite the requirement to determine applications for temporary entry in accordance with the instructions in effect at the time an application is made ([E7.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)), the exception set out at (a)(v) above applies to any application that was submitted before 6 October 2024 and as of that date had not been decided.
- c. Dependent children of an Accredited Employer work visa holder working in a role at ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5 cannot be granted a student visa as a dependent child, unless:
- i. on 26 June 2024, they held a visa as a dependent child of the Accredited Employer work visa holder; or
 - ii. on 26 June 2024, they had an application in progress for a visa as a dependent child of the Accredited Employer work visa holder and that application was subsequently granted; or
 - iii. their Accredited Employer work visa holder parent is described in (a)(iii) to (v) above.
- d. An Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) whose dependent child is applying for a student visa under these instructions must meet the minimum income threshold specified in U8.20.6 below.

- e. Despite (d) above, the minimum income threshold does not apply if the supporting work visa holder(s) currently meet the previous income threshold in place on 9 March 2025 (as per U8.20(a)), and on 9 March 2025:
 - i. the dependent child held a visa as a dependent child of the AEWV holder, or had applied for a visa as a dependent of the AEWV holder on or before 9 March 2025 and that application has not been completed; and
 - ii. the dependent child's parent(s) held an AEWV or Essential Skills work visa, or had applied for an Accredited Employer work visa on or before 9 March 2025 that was subsequently granted; and
 - iii. the maximum continuous stay period that applied to their parent on 9 March 2025 has not yet been reached.

U8.20.5 Dependent children of Essential Skill work visa holders

See also *Immigration Act 2009* ss 56, 157

- a. Dependent children (see [E4.1.10](#)) of holders of work visas granted under the Essential Skills work instructions (WK) after 30 November 2009 will only be granted a student visa if their parent(s) meet a minimum income threshold (see U8.20.6 below).
- b. Despite U8.20.6(a), dependent children of Essential Skills work visa holders whose parents have an application being considered under the Samoan Quota or Pacific Access Category must meet the minimum income requirements of those instructions (see [S1.10.35](#) or [S1.40.35](#)) to be eligible for a student visa under these instructions.
- c. Dependent children are not required to be assessed against the Essential Skills minimum income threshold if their parent(s):
 - i. have held any temporary work visa before 30 November 2009; and
 - ii. have remained on a valid visa from 30 November 2009 until the date of the dependent child's application under U8.20.

U8.20.6 Minimum income threshold

- a. The minimum income threshold is NZ\$58,240 gross per annum.
- b. The minimum income threshold must be met and maintained wholly by the salary or wages of the parent or parents holding an Accredited Employer work visa, Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or an Essential Skills work visa.
- c. Evidence must be provided of the supporting work visa holder's current salary or wages to satisfy an immigration officer that the applicant's parent(s) meet the minimum income threshold.
- d. If a visa application is declined under these instructions and the dependent child becomes unlawful the parent(s) may become liable for deportation.
- e. If the parent(s) do not maintain the minimum income threshold for the duration of their or their dependent child's visa both the parent(s) and child may become liable for deportation.

Note: Where both parents hold Accredited Employer work visas, or Specific Purpose work visas under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or Essential Skills work visas, their income may be combined to meet the minimum income threshold.

U8.20.10 Dependent children of work visa holders under Religious Worker instructions

See also *Immigration Act 2009* ss 56, 157

- a. Dependent children of a holder of a work visa under Religious Worker instructions (WM) will only be granted a student visa if the:
 - i. minimum income threshold is met by the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; or
 - ii. religious organisation sponsoring the principal applicant agrees to sponsor the dependent children.
- b. Under (a)(i) above:
 - i. the minimum income threshold is NZ\$58,240 gross per annum; and
 - ii. the minimum income threshold must be met and maintained by the salary, wages or a stipend received by the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; and
 - iii. evidence must be provided of the current salary, wages or stipend of the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; and
 - iv. if a visa application is declined under these instructions and the dependent child becomes unlawful the parents may become liable for deportation; and
 - v. if the parents do not maintain the minimum income threshold for the duration of their visa or their dependent child's visa, both the child and the parents may become liable for deportation.

- c. Despite (a)(i) above, the minimum income threshold does not apply if the parent(s) currently meet the previous income threshold in place on 9 March 2025 (as per U8.20.6 (a)), and on 9 March 2025:
- i. the dependent child held a visa as a dependent child of the Religious work visa holder, or had applied on or before that date for a visa as a dependent of the Religious work visa holder and that application has not been completed; and
 - ii. the dependent child's parent(s) held a Religious Work visa, or had applied on or before that date for a Religious Work visa that was subsequently granted.

Note: The income of both parents may be combined to meet the minimum income threshold.

Appendix 3: Amendments to Residence and Temporary Entry instructions effective on and after 20 October 2026

Appendix 17 - List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment (from 23 June 2025)

Note:

Appendix 17 applies to people who made a Skilled Migrant Residence application under SR instructions or a work visa application under WI **or WS** instructions where the specified country is listed in Appendix 17.

The List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment contained in Appendix 3 applies to people who made a Skilled Migrant Category residence application under SM instructions or a work visa application under WI **or WS** instructions where the specified country is not listed in Appendix 17.

The qualifications in this list do not require assessment by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). Qualifications will qualify for points on the basis of their assessed position on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) (see SR3.25.15 of the Skilled Migrant Category) and are subject to any additional requirements being met as specified in the List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment.

The List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment only provides the level and qualification type that an overseas qualification compares to on the NZQCF. A qualification being named on the List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment does not mean that it is comparable to a similarly named New Zealand qualification. It only advises the NZQCF level and qualification type that the overseas qualification can be compared to.

A qualification is exempt from assessment and qualifies for the indicated points if:

- a. the qualification and the awarding institution is listed; and
- b. the qualification was awarded from or within the year listed in the 'effective from' column of the list; and
- c. the qualification was not completed outside of the list country, including any overseas campuses of the listed awarding institution; and
- d. the qualification meets other requirements and is not excluded by the notes listed in the notes section.

If the standard full-time duration cannot be determined, the qualification must be evaluated by NZQA.

Note: As per SR3.25.15(d), applicants claiming points for level 8 or 9 qualifications from outside of New Zealand must hold, and provide evidence of, a bachelor's degree (from any country).

The List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment is for immigration purposes only. The inclusion of a qualification on this list does not have bearing on the status of the qualification for professional registration, further study, salary or employment purposes.

Overseas teachers using a qualification to apply for a visa to work in a school or early childhood setting must apply to NZQA for a Teaching International Qualifications Assessment.

Appendix 4: Amendments to instructions with no certification requirements, effective on and after 20 October 2026

A6.13 International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL)

A6.13.1 Objective

See also *Immigration Act s 399A*

The IVL is collected by INZ on behalf of the Crown. The purpose of the IVL is to fund, or contribute to the funding of conservation, infrastructure used for tourism (including the cost of operating the infrastructure) and other initiatives related to tourism.

A6.13.5 Who must pay the IVL

See also *Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010, Reg 26AAD*

Each person applying, or who is included in an application, for a temporary entry class visa (outside of an immigration control area) or who requests a traveller electronic travel authority (ETA) is required to pay the IVL unless exempt.

A6.13.10 IVL payable to INZ when making an application for a visa or ETA request

- a. The Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010 prescribe when an IVL is payable to INZ and the amount payable.
- b. An IVL is payable:
 - i. at the time an application for a visa is made to INZ or its agents; or
 - ii. at the time a request for an ETA is made.

A6.13.15 Exempt from IVL

See also *Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010, Reg 26AAE*

The following people are exempt from paying the IVL:

- a. A person applying under the Special Category for Victims of People Trafficking; or
- b. A diplomatic, consular or official staff or their domestic staff; or
- c. A claimant, refugee, protected person, or a person applying for a visa under the Special Category for Victims of Family Violence immigration instructions; or
- d. A person applying as the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen, visa holder or applicant for a visa; or
- e. A child travelling to New Zealand for the purpose of adoption; or
- f. A person travelling on a United Nations Laissez passer; or
- g. A military person or crew member of a military craft travelling in the ordinary course of their duty or employment; or
- h. A person travelling to New Zealand for medical consultation or treatment; or
- i. A person escorting someone outlined in (h) above; or
- j. A person associated with a Contracting Party to the Antarctic Treaty; or
- k. A person who is positioning crew; or
- l. A person applying for one of the following visas:
 - i. Business visitor visa
 - ii. Student visa supported by a scholarship from MFAT
 - iii. China Special Work
 - iv. China Skilled Worker
 - v. Philippines Special Work
 - vi. Vietnam Special Work
 - vii. Indonesia Special Work
 - viii. Interpreter from Japan
 - ix. Thai Chef
 - x. Supplementary Seasonal Employer
 - xi. Recognised Seasonal Employer
 - xii. Post-Study work visa
 - xiii. Pathway student visa

xiv. Foreign crew of fishing vessels work visa

xv. Accredited Employer work visa

xvi. India Iconic Work

xvii. India Skilled Work

m. A citizen of one of the following countries:

i. American Samoa

ii. Cook Islands

iii. Fiji

iv. Kiribati

v. Republic of Marshall Islands

vi. Federated States of Micronesia

vii. Nauru

viii. Niue

ix. Palau

x. Papua New Guinea

xi. Pitcairn Islands

xii. Samoa

xiii. Solomon Islands

xiv. Tonga

xv. Tuvalu

xvi. Vanuatu; or

n. Australian citizens and permanent residents;

o. A person applying under the Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa instructions; or

p. A person applying for a visa as the partner or dependent child of a person granted a visa under the Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa instructions.

Note: For the purposes of schedule 5(9) of the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010, the category is also known as the Special Category for Victims of Family Violence.

Appendix 5: Amendments to Temporary Entry instructions effective on and after 16 November 2026

WD3.5 Currency and conditions of Post-study work visas

- a. Applicants who meet the requirements of WD3.1(a) to (g) are eligible for a post-study work visa with a duration as set out in the table below:

Qualification completed	Full-time study duration in New Zealand while enrolled in the eligible qualification	A Post-Study work visa may be granted for:
i. Non-degree level 7 qualification or below specified on the list of Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa (Appendix 13)	Full duration required to obtain that qualification	The duration that the student spent studying the qualification in New Zealand as determined by the education provider, to a maximum of two years
ii. Level 7 Graduate Diploma (provided the applicant also holds a Bachelor's degree completed either in New Zealand or offshore)	Full duration required to obtain that qualification	The duration that the student spent studying the qualification in New Zealand as determined by the education provider, to a maximum of one year
iii. Level 7 Bachelor's degree or a qualification at level 8	At least 30 weeks	The duration that the student spent studying the qualification in New Zealand as determined by the education provider, to a maximum of three years
iv. Level 9 or 10 qualification (Master's or Doctoral Degree)	At least 30 weeks	Three years
v. Level 10 Doctoral Degree completed by citizens of the Republic of India	At least 30 weeks	Four years
vi. A Bachelor's Degree completed in New Zealand immediately followed by a Graduate Diploma, Honours, or Postgraduate Diploma (see WD3.1(b)(iii))	Bachelor's Degree, Honours and Postgraduate Diploma: At least 30 weeks per individual qualification Graduate Diploma: Full duration required to obtain that qualification	The total amount of time they spent studying all qualifications in New Zealand, to a maximum of three years
vii. Consecutive qualifications that meet WD3.1(b)(iv)	The initial qualification meets the requirements in WD3.1(a)	The duration that the student spent studying the initial qualification in New Zealand as determined by the education provider, to a maximum of three years
viii. Non-degree level 8 qualification or below that requires occupational certification or affiliate membership and meets the requirements of WD3.5.5	Meets (i) above if the qualification is a non-degree level 7 or below specified on the list of Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa; or Meets (ii) above if the	1 year (or part thereof) in addition to the time spent studying the qualification in New Zealand, as long as the total duration of the post study work visa is no more than a total of three years

	qualification is a Level 7 Graduate Diploma (provided the applicant also holds a Bachelor's degree); or Meets (iii) above if qualification is a non-degree level 8	
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- b. The study duration is determined by the education provider (and confirmed through the offer of place or a confirmation letter) and does not include extra time for repeating failed components.
- c. An immigration officer may request further evidence if they are not satisfied that the actual study duration aligns with the expected length of study for the qualification.
- d. A Post-Study work visa granted on the basis of a Bachelor's degree, a Graduate Diploma (provided the applicant also holds a Bachelor's degree) or a qualification at levels 8 to 10 gained in New Zealand may allow the holder to undertake any work, in any occupation and in any location.
- e. Self-employment is permitted, however holders of Post-Study work visas are restricted from employing others, whether directly, or indirectly via a business they operate as an owner.
- f. A Post-Study work visa granted on the basis of a non-degree qualification at level 7 and below that is specified on the list of Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa ([Appendix 13](#)) may only allow the holder to work in the occupation related to the qualification as specified in the third column of the Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa (Appendix 13) list, if applicable.

WD3.5.5 Working towards occupational certification or affiliate membership

Applicants who have a non-degree level 7 or below qualification that is specified on the Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa (Appendix 13) list, a Graduate Diploma at level 7 or a non-degree level 8 qualification, may be granted one additional year on their Post-Study work visa (as specified in the table at WD3.5(a), and up to a maximum total of three years) if:

- a. they are in the process of gaining full certification or affiliate membership with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand or the New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors; and
- b. they require additional work experience to a maximum of one year to obtain the full certification or affiliate membership.

Note: Completion of New Zealand Diploma in Construction (Quantity Surveying) Level 6 plus a minimum of one year of quantity surveying work experience in New Zealand meets the requirements for Affiliate Membership of the New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors (Pathway 1).

WF3.1 Who is eligible for a work visa

- a. Partners (see [E4.1.20](#)) of people granted work visas allowing a stay in New Zealand of more than six months may apply for, and be granted, a multiple entry work visa under these instructions, unless their partner has been granted a work visa under any one of the following instructions:
 - i. Essential Skills where the employment is paid below \$25.29 per hour, or lower-skilled if the visa application was made before 27 July 2020; or
 - ii. Foreign crew of fishing vessels (see [WJ](#)); or
 - iii. a Working Holiday Scheme (see [WI2](#)); or
 - iv. Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Instructions (see [WH1](#)); or
 - v. Supplementary Seasonal Employer (SSE) Instructions (see [WH3](#)); or
 - vi. Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Instructions (see [WR5](#)); or
 - vii. domestic staff of diplomatic, consular, or official staff (see [WI4](#)); or
 - viii. seasonal workers under Specific Purpose Instructions; or
 - ix. seasonal workers under seasonal AEWV pathways (see [WA1.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)); or
 - x. Short-term Graduate work visa instructions (see [WD5](#)); or
 - xi. India Iconic Work Instructions (see [WI21](#)); or
 - xii. India Skilled Work Instructions (see [WI22](#)); or
 - xiii. Independent Professional, or Contractual Service Supplier under Specific Purpose instructions (see [WS](#)).
- b. Despite (a) above, the eligibility of partners of Accredited Employer Work Visa holders and Specific Purpose work visa holders under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) for work visas are set out at [WF3.1.5](#) below.
- c. Despite (a) above, a partner of the holder of a Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa (MEPV) may be granted a work visa under these instructions only if, as at the time they apply, the partner is in New Zealand on a visa that was granted on the basis of the visa held by the MEPV holder immediately prior to the MEPV holder's current visa. If granted, the visa's duration must be for the same period as the MEPV holder's visa, will allow the holder to undertake any work in any occupation and location (without the requirement of full-time employment), and will not include multiple entry travel conditions.
- d. Work visas will be granted for the same period as the work visa held by the applicant's partner subject to the generic requirements at [E4.5](#) being met.
- e. Partners of people granted work to residence visas must meet health and character requirements for residence class visa applications as set out at [A4](#) and [A5](#).
- f. Any work visas granted under these instructions may be endorsed with conditions that allow the holder to undertake any work in any occupation and location.
- g. Self-employment is permitted however holders of visas granted under these instructions are restricted from employing others, whether directly, or indirectly via a business they operate as an owner.

WF3.1.5 Partners of certain work visa holders

- a. A work visa may be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Accredited Employer work visa (AEWV) holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) in a role that is classified as ANZSCO skill level 1, 2 or 3 (including AEWV roles treated at a higher skill level under [WA3.16\(d\)](#) at the Job Check) or classified as NOL skill level 1, 2 or 3 and listed at Appendix 20 and paid at least \$28.00 per hour.
- b. A work visa may also be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) who is:
 - i. paid at least \$52.50 per hour for any role; or
 - ii. paid at least \$35.00 per hour in a role on the Green List and the work visa holder meets the applicable requirements (see Appendix 13); or
 - iii. in acceptable employment under the Transport Sector or Care Sector Work to Residence policies as defined in [SR6.10](#) or [SR7.10](#) and paid at least \$28.00 per hour (or the wage requirement specified in the

sector agreement, whichever is higher), with the exception of the requirement to have completed 24 months of work in New Zealand in that occupation.

Note: The median wage of \$35.00 per hour used for the above instructions reflects the June 2025 publication of median wage data by Statistics New Zealand. The other rates used in these instructions are 80 percent of the median wage published in June 2025 (\$28.00 per hour) and 150 percent of the median wage published in June 2025 (\$52.50 per hour).

- c. Despite the requirement to determine applications for temporary entry in accordance with the instructions in effect at the time an application is made (E7.10(a)(ii)), the exception set out at (b)(iii) above applies to any application that was submitted before 6 October and as of that date had not been decided.
- d. Despite (a) and (b) above, a work visa may be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Accredited Employer work visa holder in an ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5 role, or an applicant who is the partner of an Essential Skills work visa holder, where the supporting partner is paid at least \$26.85 per hour, if on 26 June 2024 the applicant:
 - i. held a relationship-based visa supported by the Accredited Employer work visa holder; or
 - ii. had an application in progress for a relationship-based visa supported by the Accredited Employer work visa holder and that application was subsequently granted.
- e. A work visa may be granted to an applicant who is the partner of an Essential Skills work visa holder paid at least \$28.00 per hour.

WF3.1.5.1 Determining the supporting partner's remuneration

- a. Where the supporting partner holds an Accredited Employer work visa, Specific Purpose work visa under the NOL subcategory (see WS2.1.1(o) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or Essential Skills work visa, the evidence and information provided with their work visa application may be sufficient for an immigration officer to be satisfied their remuneration meets the requirements for the applicant to be granted a work visa.
- b. Where the supporting partner's remuneration has increased since the grant of their visa, evidence must be provided with the application to satisfy an immigration officer. Suitable evidence includes an employment agreement or letter from the employer confirming the new remuneration rate along with one or more of the following:
 - i. full bank statements showing salary payment; or
 - ii. summary of income details from Inland Revenue; or
 - iii. payslips.
- c. In addition to (b) above, an immigration officer may request any additional evidence as necessary to determine the supporting partner's remuneration.

Note: The supporting work visa holder's remuneration may be assessed as meeting a median wage threshold in place at the time their work visa was granted or when their partner makes their work visa application, whichever is more beneficial for the applicant.

U8.20 Dependent children of work visa holders

- a. Dependent children (see [E4.1](#)) of work visa holders who wish to study in New Zealand may be granted student visas unless the work visa holder has been granted a work visa under any one of the following categories:
- i. Foreign crew of fishing vessels (see [WJ](#)); or
 - ii. Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work instructions (see [WH1](#)); or
 - iii. Supplementary Seasonal Employment (SSE) instructions (see [WH3](#)); or
 - iv. Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Instructions (see [WR5](#)); or
 - v. Working Holiday Scheme instructions (see [WI2](#)); or
 - vi. domestic staff of diplomatic, consular or official staff (see [WI4](#)); or
 - vii. seasonal workers under Specific Purpose Instructions; or
 - viii. seasonal workers under seasonal AEVW pathways (see [WA1.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)); or
 - ix. Short-term Graduate work visa instructions (see [WD5](#)); or
 - x. India Iconic Work Instructions (see [WI21](#)); or
 - xi. India Skilled Work Instructions (see [WI22](#)); or
 - xii. Independent Professional, or Contractual Service Supplier under Specific Purpose instructions (see [WS](#)).
- b. Despite (a) above, the eligibility of dependent children of Accredited Employer work visa holders and Specific Purpose work visa holders under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) for student visas is set out at U8.20.2 below.
- c. Dependent children of work visa holders as defined in (a) above are regarded as domestic students (see [U3.35](#)) for the purpose of all tuition fees at primary and secondary schools for the period of the parent's work visa.
- d. Dependent children (see [E4.1](#)) of work visa holders may be granted student visas without the need to produce evidence of enrolment.
- e. Guarantees of accommodation and/or maintenance for dependent children may be waived provided this is covered by the income of the work visa holder parent or by evidence of funds or guarantees submitted with the work visa application of the parent (see [W2.15](#)).
- f. Dependent children of people granted work to residence visas must meet health and character requirements for residence class visa applications as set out at [A4](#) and [A5](#).
- g. Despite (a) above, a dependent child of the holder of a Migrant Exploitation Protection work visa (MEPV) may be granted a student visa under these instructions only if, as at the time they apply, the dependent child is in New Zealand on a visa that was granted on the basis of the visa held by the MEPV holder immediately prior to the MEPV holder's current visa. If granted, the visa's duration must be for the same period as the MEPV holder's visa, and will not include multiple entry travel conditions.

U8.20.2 Dependent children of Accredited Employer work visa holders and certain Specific Purpose work visa holders

- a. Dependent children (see [E4.1.10](#)) of an Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) may be granted a student visa if their supporting parent is:
- i. in a role classified as ANZSCO skill level 1, 2 or 3 (including roles treated at a higher skill level under [WA3.16\(d\)](#) at the Job Check); or
 - ii. in a role classified as NOL skill level 1, 2 or 3 and listed at [Appendix 20](#); or
 - iii. paid at or above 1.5x the Skilled Migrant Category median wage (see [SR3.20\(a\)\(ii\)](#)); or
 - iv. in a role on the Green List and meets the applicable requirements (see [Appendix 13](#)); or
 - v. in acceptable employment under the Transport Sector or Care Sector Work to Residence policies as defined in [SR6.10](#) or [SR7.10](#) with the exception of the requirement to have completed 24 months of work in New Zealand in that occupation.
- b. Despite the requirement to determine applications for temporary entry in accordance with the instructions in effect at the time an application is made ([E7.10\(a\)\(ii\)](#)), the exception set out at (a)(v) above applies to any application that was submitted before 6 October 2024 and as of that date had not been decided.
- c. Dependent children of an Accredited Employer work visa holder working in a role at ANZSCO skill level 4 or 5 cannot be granted a student visa as a dependent child, unless:
- i. on 26 June 2024, they held a visa as a dependent child of the Accredited Employer work visa holder; or
 - ii. on 26 June 2024, they had an application in progress for a visa as a dependent child of the Accredited Employer work visa holder and that application was subsequently granted; or
 - iii. their Accredited Employer work visa holder parent is described in (a)(iii) to (v) above.

- d. An Accredited Employer work visa holder or a Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) whose dependent child is applying for a student visa under these instructions must meet the minimum income threshold specified in U8.20.6 below.
- e. Despite (d) above, the minimum income threshold does not apply if the supporting work visa holder(s) currently meet the previous income threshold in place on 9 March 2025 (as per U8.20(a)), and on 9 March 2025:
 - i. the dependent child held a visa as a dependent child of the AEWV holder, or had applied for a visa as a dependent of the AEWV holder on or before 9 March 2025 and that application has not been completed; and
 - ii. the dependent child's parent(s) held an AEWV or Essential Skills work visa, or had applied for an Accredited Employer work visa on or before 9 March 2025 that was subsequently granted; and
 - iii. the maximum continuous stay period that applied to their parent on 9 March 2025 has not yet been reached.

U8.20.5 Dependent children of Essential Skill work visa holders

See also *Immigration Act 2009* ss 56, 157

- a. Dependent children (see [E4.1.10](#)) of holders of work visas granted under the Essential Skills work instructions (WK) after 30 November 2009 will only be granted a student visa if their parent(s) meet a minimum income threshold (see U8.20.6 below).
- b. Despite U8.20.6(a), dependent children of Essential Skills work visa holders whose parents have an application being considered under the Samoan Quota or Pacific Access Category must meet the minimum income requirements of those instructions (see [S1.10.35](#) or [S1.40.35](#)) to be eligible for a student visa under these instructions.
- c. Dependent children are not required to be assessed against the Essential Skills minimum income threshold if their parent(s):
 - i. have held any temporary work visa before 30 November 2009; and
 - ii. have remained on a valid visa from 30 November 2009 until the date of the dependent child's application under U8.20.

U8.20.6 Minimum income threshold

- a. The minimum income threshold is NZ\$58,240 gross per annum.
- b. The minimum income threshold must be met and maintained wholly by the salary or wages of the parent or parents holding an Accredited Employer work visa, Specific Purpose work visa holder under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or an Essential Skills work visa.
- c. Evidence must be provided of the supporting work visa holder's current salary or wages to satisfy an immigration officer that the applicant's parent(s) meet the minimum income threshold.
- d. If a visa application is declined under these instructions and the dependent child becomes unlawful the parent(s) may become liable for deportation.
- e. If the parent(s) do not maintain the minimum income threshold for the duration of their or their dependent child's visa both the parent(s) and child may become liable for deportation.

Note: Where both parents hold Accredited Employer work visas, or Specific Purpose work visas under the NOL subcategory (see [WS2.1.1\(o\)](#) – instructions effective 8 September 2025) or Essential Skills work visas, their income may be combined to meet the minimum income threshold.

U8.20.10 Dependent children of work visa holders under Religious Worker instructions

See also *Immigration Act 2009* ss 56, 157

- a. Dependent children of a holder of a work visa under Religious Worker instructions (WM) will only be granted a student visa if the:
 - i. minimum income threshold is met by the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; or
 - ii. religious organisation sponsoring the principal applicant agrees to sponsor the dependent children.
- b. Under (a)(i) above:
 - i. the minimum income threshold is NZ\$58,240 gross per annum; and

- ii. the minimum income threshold must be met and maintained by the salary, wages or a stipend received by the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; and
 - iii. evidence must be provided of the current salary, wages or stipend of the Religious Worker visa holder and their partner; and
 - iv. if a visa application is declined under these instructions and the dependent child becomes unlawful the parents may become liable for deportation; and
 - v. if the parents do not maintain the minimum income threshold for the duration of their visa or their dependent child's visa, both the child and the parents may become liable for deportation.
- c. Despite (a)(i) above, the minimum income threshold does not apply if the parent(s) currently meet the previous income threshold in place on 9 March 2025 (as per U8.20.6 (a)), and on 9 March 2025:
- i. the dependent child held a visa as a dependent child of the Religious work visa holder, or had applied on or before that date for a visa as a dependent of the Religious work visa holder and that application has not been completed; and
 - ii. the dependent child's parent(s) held a Religious Work visa, or had applied on or before that date for a Religious Work visa that was subsequently granted.

Note: The income of both parents may be combined to meet the minimum income threshold.