16 November 2026

IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND INSTRUCTIONS: Amendment Circular No. 2026-36

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

Description of changes

WD2 Lodging an application under Post-Study work visa and Short-term Graduate work visa instructions

WD3.1 Determining a Post-Study work visa

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

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U3.1 Summary

U8.20 Dependent children of work visa holders

WF3.1 Who is eligible for a work visa

Appendix 13 – Green List

Due to the impacts of the global Microsoft outage on 13 November 2026, the deployment of the Short-term Graduate Work Visa (SGWV) and Post-Study Work Visa (PSWV) in enhanced Immigration Online has been postponed by a week. As a result, the changes to immigration instructions to introduce the new SGWV and extend PSWV eligibility, which were previously communicated in Amendment Circular 2026-24 (effective 16 November 2026), have been revoked.

This means WD3.5 instructions previously communicated on pages 43-44 in Amendment Circular 2026-31 have also been reformatted. Appendix 1 below shows the updated formatting of WD3.5, effective 16 to 22 November 2022.

Appendices 2 and 3 show the immigration instructions related to SGWV and PSWV that have been recertified for 23 November 2026.

Appendix 1: 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 (f) 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	A Post-Study work visa may be granted for:
i. Non-degree level 7 qualification or below	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
ii. 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
iii. Level 9 or 10 qualification (Master's or Doctoral Degree)	At least 30 weeks	3 years
iv. Level 10 Doctoral Degree completed by citizens of the Republic of India	At least 30 weeks	Four years
v. A Bachelor's Degree immediately followed by an Honours or a Postgraduate Diploma (see WD3.1(b)(iii))	At least 30 weeks per individual qualification	The total amount of time they spent studying all qualifications in New Zealand, to a maximum of three years
vi. 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
vii. 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; or meets (ii) above if qualification is a non-degree level 8	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

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 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 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.

WD3.5.5 Working towards occupational registration 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, 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 registration 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 registration.

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).

Appendix 2: Amendments to Temporary Entry instructions effective on and after 23 November 2026

WD2 Lodging an application under Post-Study work visa and Short-term Graduate work visa instructions

a. Applicants for a Post-Study work visa or Short-term Graduate work visa must:

   i. lodge their work visa application in the prescribed manner (see E4.50); and

   ii. provide evidence that they have completed a qualification in New Zealand that meets the requirements as set out at WD3 or WD5; and

   iii. provide evidence that they have a minimum of $5,000 in funds available to maintain themselves during their stay in New Zealand.

b. An offer of employment is not required.

WD3.1 Determining a Post-Study work visa

Applicants may be granted a post-study work visa if:

a. they hold an eligible qualification, which is a New Zealand qualification that has been studied for the minimum study duration as set out below, and where the minimum study duration has been via enrolment in the eligible qualification without credit recognition or transfer from other credentials or qualifications:

   i. a qualification at level 8 to 10 on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) that has been studied full-time for at least 30 weeks in New Zealand; or

   ii. a Bachelor's degree qualification at level 7 on the NZQCF that has been studied full-time for at least 30 weeks in New Zealand; or

   iii. a Graduate Diploma at level 7 on the NZQCF that has been studied full-time in New Zealand for the full duration required to obtain that qualification, provided the applicant also holds a Bachelor's degree completed either in New Zealand or offshore; or

   iv. a qualification at level 4 to 7 on the NZQCF that is specified on the list of Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa (Appendix 13) and that has been studied full-time in New Zealand for the full duration required to obtain that qualification; and

Note:

- Credit recognition or transfer refers to credit from a previous programme of study or qualification that has been awarded toward a different programme of study.

- For the purposes of WD3.1(a)(iii), there is no timeframe regarding when the Bachelor's degree was completed.

b. they apply no later than:

   i. three months after the end date of their student visa for that qualification(s); or

   ii. six months after the end date of their student visa if the qualification is a Doctoral degree; or

   iii. three months after the end date of their student visa for the second qualification(s), if they have completed a Bachelor's degree in New Zealand immediately followed by a Graduate Diploma, Honours or Postgraduate Diploma qualification and held consecutive student visas (or interim visas with study conditions) for these qualifications; or

   iv. 12 months after the end date of their student visa for the initial qualification, if they have completed an eligible qualification as set out at (a) above immediately followed by completing a higher-level qualification that does not meet the requirements in (a), and held consecutive student visas (or interim visas with study conditions) for these qualifications; and

c. they have:

   i. successfully completed the qualification for which the student visa was granted; or

   ii. despite the requirement in (a) above to hold the qualification, if they are a Doctoral student, they can instead provide evidence from their education provider that they have submitted their thesis for examination; and

d. they have written approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade or Education New Zealand as set out at U11.1(d) if their studies have been supported under the New Zealand scholarship programme administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Education New Zealand; and

e. they have NZ$5,000 in funds available to maintain themselves during their stay in New Zealand; and

f. they have not previously been granted a Post-Study work visa.

g. despite WD3.1(f), an applicant who previously held a Short-term Graduate work visa (see WD5) may be granted a Post-Study work visa under WD3 if, following their Short-term Graduate work visa, they were granted a student visa and completed a qualification that is:

   i. a Bachelor's degree or a programme of study at a higher NZQCF level than the qualification their Short-term Graduate work visa was based on; and

   ii. eligible for a Post-Study work visa.

Note:

Study weeks include exam preparation time and exams but exclude holiday periods, time spent repeating failed components, and time spent studying a different qualification where the credits have been transferred to the qualification that has been completed.

WD3.1.1 Evidential requirements for an acceptable non-degree qualification at levels 4 to 7

a. Where applicable, evidence that a non-degree qualification at level 4 to 7 meets the knowledge requirements specified in the second column of Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa (Appendix 13) list includes:

i. a declaration from the applicant confirming the course meets the knowledge requirements; or
ii. a letter from the education provider confirming the course meets the knowledge requirements.

b. An immigration officer may request further evidence if they are not satisfied that the qualification meets the requirements set out in the list of Qualifications Eligible for Post-Study Work Visa at Appendix 13.

c. Evidence that a Graduate Diploma holder previously completed a Bachelor's degree (see WD3.1(a)(iii)) must include copies of:
   i. the Bachelor's degree certificate awarded to the applicant specifying the qualification type and awarding institution; and
   ii. the official academic transcript from the awarding institution for the Bachelor's degree awarded to the applicant.

Note: For New Zealand Graduate Diploma holders who previously completed an offshore Bachelor's degree, an International Qualification Assessment (IQA) is not required for the Bachelor's degree.

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	

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).

WD5 Requirements for Short-term Graduate work visas

WD5.1 Determining a Short-term Graduate work visa

Applicants may be granted a work visa if:

a. they hold a qualification at level 5 to 7 on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) that:
   i. has been studied full-time for at least 24 weeks in New Zealand; and
   ii. is not an English language, foundation or bridging qualification; and
   iii. is not a qualification eligible for a Post-Study work visa under WD3.1(a); and

b. they apply no later than 3 months after the end date of their student visa for that qualification; and

c. they have successfully completed the qualification for which the student visa was granted; and

d. they have written approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade or Education New Zealand as set out at U11.1(d) if their studies have been supported under the New Zealand scholarship programme administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Education New Zealand; and

e. they have NZ$5,000 in funds available to maintain themselves during their stay in New Zealand; and

f. they have not previously been granted a Short-term Graduate work visa or Post-Study work visa.

Note:

- Study weeks include exam preparation time and exams but exclude holiday periods, time spent repeating failed components, and time spent studying a different qualification where the credits have been transferred to the qualification that has been completed.

- Micro-credentials are not qualifications, even if they are listed on the NZQCF. They are therefore excluded when assessing eligibility for a work visa under (a).

- For the avoidance of doubt, an English language qualification means a programme of study where the primary purpose is to develop English language skills.

WD5.5 Currency and conditions of Short-term Graduate work visas

a. Applicants who meet the requirements of WD5.1 may be granted a work visa for six months.

b. A Short-term Graduate work visa may allow the holder to undertake work for any employer, in any occupation and in any location.

U3.1 Summary

See also Immigration Act 2009 s4

a. Unless otherwise specified, to be granted a student visa to attend a programme of study of more than three months, applicants must:
   i. have an offer of a place or, if returning to continue a programme of study, a confirmation of enrolment in an approved programme of study with an education provider in New Zealand that meets student visa requirements (see U3.5, U3.10, and U5.1); and
   ii. be exempted from or have paid tuition fees; and
   iii. if aged under 18, meet accommodation requirements (see U3.15); and
   iv. have fulfilled the purpose and met the conditions for any previous or current temporary visas held as set out in E3.15 and E3.20; and
   v. meet the conditions set out in E3.20; and
   vi. not be the holder of a current visitor visa granted under Guardians accompanying students to New Zealand instructions (see V3.100); and
   vii. hold insurance (see U3.45), unless they are a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) student or a student holding a New Zealand scholarship administered through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

b. All applicants must meet the requirements under Generic Temporary Entry Class instructions for:
   i. lodging an application for a temporary entry class visa as set out at E4; and
   ii. bona fide applicants as set out at E5; and
   iii. health and character as set out at A4 and A5.

c. A student visa will not be granted to an applicant who holds or has held a Short-term Graduate work visa, unless the proposed study is:
   i. a programme of study at a higher level on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) than the level of the qualification/s their Short-term Graduate work visa was based on; and
   ii. a qualification eligible for a Post-Study work visa (see WD3.1).

d. Despite (c)(i) above, an applicant who holds or has held a Short-term Graduate work visa based on a non-degree NZQCF level 7 qualification may apply for and be granted a student visa to study a Bachelor's degree.

e. To determine whether an applicant is likely to breach the condition of a student visa (see E5.1.b(ii)) that the holder must make satisfactory progress in their proposed programme of study, an immigration officer may:
   i. consider whether the applicant has English language ability consistent with the level and nature of that study; and
   ii. request the applicant provide evidence of their English language ability as part of this assessment.

f. Applicants who have not completed, or will not be completing the programme of study endorsed on their student visa and who wish to change their programme of study and/or education provider must:
   i. meet requirements (a) and (b) above; and
   ii. meet requirements at (c) above (unless U3.1(d) applies), if the applicant has held a Short-term Graduate work visa before their student visa was granted; and
   iii. meet the requirements set out at U3.40.

Note: Applicants who are progressing to further study, for example a student in Year 13 who is progressing to tertiary studies, will not need to meet U3.40.

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. 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.

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)
   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 work for any employer (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 2024 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.

Appendix 3: Amendments to Residence and Temporary Entry instructions effective on and after 23 November 2026

Appendix 13 – Green List

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Qualifications Eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa

The qualifications listed below include non-degree level 7 qualifications or below that are eligible for a Post-Study work visa under immigration instructions WD3. Applicants must meet the requirements of both column one and (where applicable) column two to meet the requirements of the list.

Non-degree qualification pathways	Knowledge requirements (focus area) These are knowledge requirements or focus areas that must be included in the qualification.	Occupation in visa conditions
A Graduate Diploma at NZQCF Level 7	Highway engineering or civil engineering	If the applicant has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Bachelor's degree: Construction Project Manager
	Construction management or construction project management	If the applicant has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Bachelor's degree: Construction Project Manager or Project Builder
	Construction	If the applicant has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Bachelor's degree: Project Builder
A Graduate Diploma in Construction at NZQCF Level 7	Quantity Surveying	If the applicant has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Bachelor's degree: Quantity Surveyor
A Graduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying at NZQCF Level 7	N/A	If the applicant has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No

		occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Bachelor's degree: Quantity Surveyor
A Graduate Diploma acceptable to the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand for registration AND The applicant meets all the Council's other requirements for teacher registration and certification	N/A	If the applicant has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Bachelor's degree: Primary, Intermediate or Secondary School Teacher
Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education) or comparable qualification that is acceptable to the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand for registration AND The applicant meets all the Council's other requirements for teacher registration and certification	N/A	If the applicant has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Bachelor's degree: Early Childhood Teacher
A qualification at NZQCF Level 7, with a letter from Engineering New Zealand certifying that the qualification and any further learning meet the benchmark requirements towards Chartered Professional Engineer professional status in New Zealand	N/A	If the applicant has completed a Graduate Diploma in New Zealand and has previously completed a Bachelor's degree (either in New Zealand or offshore): No occupation in visa conditions - open work conditions If the applicant has not completed a Graduate Diploma in New Zealand and a Bachelor's degree: Engineer or Civil, Electrical, Electronic, Mechanical Engineering Technician
A Diploma at NZQCF Level 6 or higher with a minimum of 240 credits	Highway engineering, construction or construction management	Construction Project Manager or Project Builder
	Civil engineering	Construction Project Manager or Civil Engineering Technician or Project Builder
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Level 6) with a strand in Civil Engineering, 240 credits	N/A	Construction Project Manager or Civil Engineering Technician
New Zealand Diploma in Construction (Quantity Surveying) Level 6 or higher	N/A	Quantity Surveyor or Project Builder

New Zealand Diploma in Construction (Level 6 or higher) with a strand in Quantity Surveying, 240 credits	N/A	Quantity Surveyor or Project Builder
New Zealand Diploma in Construction (Level 6 or higher) with a strand in Construction Economics, Construction Management or Building, 240 credits	N/A	Project Builder
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Level 6) with a strand in Electrical Engineering, 240 credits	N/A	Telecommunications, Telecommunications Network Engineer or Electrical Engineering Technician
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Level 6) with a strand in Mechanical Engineering	N/A	Mechanical Engineering Technician
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Level 6) with a strand in Electronics Engineering, 240 credits	N/A	Electronic Engineering Technician
A diploma at NZQCF Level 5 or higher	Farm management, agriculture or dairy technology	Dairy Cattle Farmer
A certificate at NZQCF Level 4 or higher	New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Electrical Engineering (NZQCF Level 4)	Automotive Electrician
	New Zealand Certificate in Heavy Automotive Engineering (NZQCF Level 4)	Diesel Motor Mechanic
	Dairy Farming or Livestock Farming strands of the New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Level 4)	Dairy Cattle Farmer
New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Electrical Engineering (Level 4)	N/A	Automotive Electrician
New Zealand Certificate in Heavy Automotive Engineering (NZQCF Level 4)	N/A	Diesel Motor Mechanic

New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Level 4) with a strand in Dairy Farming or Livestock Farming	N/A	Dairy Cattle Farmer

Note: Open work conditions are conditions that allow the holder to undertake any work, in any occupation and in any location. 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.