NEW ZEALAND IMMIGRATION

Guide to Special China Temporary Class Visas

Arising from the China–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

This guide will give you information about a number of New Zealand temporary entry class visa categories which have come out of the China–New Zealand FTA.

The China–New Zealand FTA is a treaty between New Zealand and China that liberalises and facilitates trade, improves the business environment and promotes cooperation in a broad range of economic areas.

For more information on the FTA, see **www.immigration.govt.nz/nz-china-fta**

Temporary entry for skilled workers

The FTA includes commitments for workers from China to enter New Zealand for temporary employment under the China Special Work Instructions and the China Skilled Workers Instructions. For both instructions, applicants must:

- be qualified and experienced in a particular occupation
- have registration, if required for that occupation
- have a genuine full-time New Zealand job offer.

Visit our website **www.immigration.govt.nz/fees** to find out how much to pay, where to send your application, and how long a decision may take.

China Special Work Instructions

Under these instructions limited numbers of workers from China may be granted a work visa for temporary employment, if they work as:

- traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners, including TCM nurses (maximum of 75 at any one time)
- Chinese chefs (maximum of 200 at any one time)
- Mandarin teachers' aides (maximum of 300 at any one time)
- wushu martial arts coaches (maximum of 25 at any one time)
- Chinese tourism specialists (maximum of 200 at any one time).

If you want to apply you must complete the form *Work Application for China Skilled Work Instructions (INZ 1158)*. You must meet our normal health and character requirements.

In addition, you must have a genuine full-time New Zealand job offer in one of the occupations below, and you must provide evidence that you meet the relevant qualification requirements, and any other requirements.

Occupation	Qualification requirement	Other requirements
Chinese chef	Chinese Occupational Skills Testing Authority Certificate Level 3 in traditional cuisine; or Chinese Certificate of Occupational Skill Level 3 in traditional cuisine	–
TCM practitioner (including a TCM nurse)	Higher education degree requiring at least three years' successful study in TCM from an institution recognised by the Chinese government	–
Mandarin teachers' aide	Higher education degree requiring at least three years' successful study	The New Zealand job must require you to carry out a range of language-teaching duties, which support the acquisition of the Mandarin language by New Zealand school students.
Wushu martial arts coach	Grade 3-5 Certificate and a post-compulsory education qualification in either physical education or teaching requiring at least two years' successful study from an institution recognised by the Chinese government **OR**	–
	Wushu Grade 6-9 Certificate	Five years' teaching experience

Occupation	Qualification requirement	Other requirements
Chinese tourism specialist	One of the below: Valid Tour Guide Licence in China, and a demonstrated knowledge of New Zealand **OR** New Zealand qualification at Level 5 or above in Tourism (or a related field) that required at least two years of study **OR** Chinese qualification at Bachelor's degree level or higher in Tourism (or a related field) that required at least two years of study **OR** At least one year work experience in New Zealand as a Chinese tourism specialist with an endorsed tourism business (a business that holds Approved Destination Status by Tourism New Zealand)	The New Zealand job must require you to use Chinese language skills and have a clearly described customer engagement focus, in which interacting with customers is a primary function **AND** Acceptable English language test results (no more than two years old when your application is lodged, and obtained by sitting the test in person at a test centre) – see table below

Acceptable English language test results

Test	Minimum score required
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)	4 or more in Listening and 14 or more in Speaking
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	36 or more in Listening and Speaking
Cambridge English B2 First (FCE) or B2 First for Schools (FCE for Schools)	154 or more in Listening and Speaking
Occupational English Test (OET)	Grade C or higher in Listening and Speaking

See the following websites for more information, and to find out where you can take a test:

- IELTS: **www.ielts.org**
- OET: **www.occupationalenglishtest.org**
- Cambridge English B2 First (FCE) and B2 First for Schools (FCE for Schools): **www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/first** and **www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/first-for-schools**
- PTE: Academic: **www.pearsonpte.com**
- TOEFL iBT: **www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about**

You may be granted a work visa under these instructions for the length of your employment agreement up to three years. You will need to have been back in China for at least three years before you can apply under these instructions again.

China Skilled Workers Instructions

Under these instructions a maximum of 1000 skilled Chinese workers at any one time may be granted temporary employment for up to three years, in specified occupations where New Zealand has a skills shortage. Entry will be limited to no more than 100 workers in each occupation at any one time.

If you want to apply you must complete the form *Work Visa Application for China Skilled Work Instructions (INZ 1158)*. You must meet our normal health and character requirements. In addition, you must have a genuine New Zealand job offer in one of the occupations below, and you must provide evidence that you meet the relevant qualification requirements, and any other requirements.

Occupation	Requirements Qualifications must be comparable to the standard of the New Zealand qualification listed.
Auditor	Degree level (Level 7) qualification majoring in accountancy and membership with New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (NZICA)
Automotive electrician	National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Engineering) (NZQF Level 4) or National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Electrical Engineering) (NZQF Level 4) or National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Electrical and Mechanical Engineering) (NZQF Level 4) (relevant strand is Electrical and Electronics)
Boatbuilder	National Certificate in Boatbuilding (Level 4)
Computer Applications Engineer	Degree level (Level 7) qualification majoring in computer science, information science or information technology and three years of relevant work experience
Design Engineer – Electronics / Product Engineer	Degree level (Level 7) qualification majoring in electronics, computer science or telecommunications and three years of relevant work experience with at least 12 months' relevant work experience in the past 18 months
Diesel Mechanic	National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Heavy Engineering) (Level 4)
Early Childhood Teacher	A qualification in Early Childhood Education (ages 0-5) at a minimum of Level 7 which is approved by the Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, and New Zealand registration
Electronics Technician	National Diploma in Engineering (Level 6) (Electronics), or relevant degree-level qualification (Level 7) (for example, BTech in Electronics, BSc or BE) and three years' work experience and at least 12 months' relevant work experience in the past 18 months
Electrician	NZ registration as an electrician with a Full or Limited Certificate from the Electrical Workers Registration Board
Film Animator	Degree level qualification (Level 7) in one of the following: Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Computer Science, Software Engineering or Film, specialising in multimedia, computer graphics, digital design, computer programming or software development
Fitter and Turner	National Certificate in Maintenance and Diagnostics in Mechanical Engineering (Level 5) or National Certificate in Engineering, Machining and Toolmaking (Level 5)
Fitter / Welder	National Certificate in Maintenance and Diagnostics in Mechanical Engineering (Level 5) or National Certificate in Engineering – Fabrication with strands in Welding or Heavy Fabrication (Level 5)

Occupation	Requirements Qualifications must be comparable to the standard of the New Zealand qualification listed.
Medical Diagnostic Radiographer / Medical Radiation Therapist	Bachelor in Health Science specialising in Medical Radiation Therapy or specialising in Medical Imaging and New Zealand registration
Motor Mechanic	National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Engineering) (Level 4)
Plumber	New Zealand Plumbing Registration
Registered Nurse	Bachelor of Nursing or Diploma in Comprehensive Nursing, diploma or hospital based certificate and NZ registration
Senior Test Analyst	Degree level (Level 7) tertiary qualification (e.g. BTech in Electronics, BSc or BE) and three years' work experience with at least 12 months relevant work experience in the past 18 months
Structural Engineer	Degree level (Level 7) qualification and registered on the International Professional Engineers Register or Asia Pacific Economic Co-Operation (APEC) Engineers Register or a Washington Accord accredited engineering degree
University and Higher Education Lecturer and/or Tutor	Masters Degree or PhD
Veterinarian	NZ Registration with the Veterinary Council of New Zealand

You may be granted a work visa under these instructions for the length of your employment agreement up to three years. You will need to have been back in China for at least three years before you can apply under these instructions again.

Registration

If you are required to have New Zealand registration, and you must come to New Zealand in order to gain registration in your occupation, you may apply for a visitor visa to do so.

You will need written confirmation from the appropriate registration body that you are eligible to undertake the registration process in New Zealand and that you have completed any enrolment requirements.

If assessment of qualifications is part of your successful registration, you will not normally require any further qualifications assessment.

If you successfully obtain registration in New Zealand, you may lodge your application for a China Skilled Worker work visa from within New Zealand.
See **www.immigration.govt.nz/fees** to find out where to send your application.

China Working Holiday Scheme (WHS)

New Zealand has also established a working holiday scheme with China. The scheme provides for a maximum of 1000 Chinese nationals per year to enter New Zealand for one year.

To be eligible under the China WHS you must:

- hold a valid passport from the People's Republic of China
- be ordinarily resident, and actually residing, in the People's Republic of China at the time of applying
- be at least 18 and not more than 30 years old
- not be accompanied by children
- have a return ticket, or enough money to purchase a return ticket
- hold enough money for your maintenance while you are in New Zealand (currently NZ$4200)
- be of good character and have an acceptable standard of health
- submit an application and pay the appropriate fee and immigration levy
- have a senior high school qualification (*gao zhong xue li*) granted in respect of a minimum of three years' full-time study. Your qualification must be verified by the China Higher Education Student Information and Career Centre and such verification provided with the qualification.

You must also have a level of proficiency in English we assess as at least functional. To show this, you must provide an acceptable English language test result (no more than 2 years old at the time the application is lodged) as set out below. The test results must be obtained by sitting the test in person a test centre. Tests taken remotely outside of a test centre, including 'at home' tests, are not acceptable.

Acceptable English language test results

Test	Minimum score required
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – General or Academic Module	Overall score 5.5 or more
Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)	Overall score of 46 or more
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	Overall score of 42 or more
Cambridge English B2 First (FCE) or B2 First for Schools (FCE for Schools)	Overall score of 162 or more
Occupational English Test (OET)	Grade C or higher in all four skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)*

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

You must also agree to hold medical and comprehensive hospitalisation insurance that will remain current throughout your stay in New Zealand. You will not be permitted to work for one employer for more than six months.

Lodge your application for the China WHS online at **www.immigration.govt.nz**. Your application will be assessed to confirm:

- that you have enough money
- that you have been granted the *gao zhong xue li* qualification and your qualification is verified by the China Higher Education Student Information and Career Centre
- evidence of your English language ability
- your health (you will probably have to provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* as evidence).

Chinese business people transferred to New Zealand

Chinese executives or managers who have been employed by their employer for at least 12 months prior to their proposed transfer to New Zealand may apply to enter New Zealand for an initial stay of up to three years.

Such people may apply to remain for a further three years if the need for the executive or manager still exists. The *Work Visa Guide (INZ 1016)* has more information in the section on Specific Purpose or Event Instructions.

VisaView

It is an offence to employ a person who is not entitled to work in New Zealand. One way for employers to avoid committing this offence is to check a person's entitlement to work with Immigration New Zealand's online VisaView system. The sharing of information through VisaView is authorised by legislation.

If you believe that an employer has been given the wrong entitlement information via VisaView you may contact the Immigration Contact Centre (0508 558 855) to request correction of that information.

Interim visas

If you are currently in New Zealand, hold a valid temporary visa and have an application for a further work visa being considered by INZ, you may be eligible for an interim visa. We will make a decision on whether to grant you an interim visa close to the day your current visa expires and will inform you by email or letter. You cannot apply for an interim visa, and there are no fees or forms for interim visas.

There is no guarantee that you will be granted an interim visa and if you are the conditions (including whether or not you can work) will depend on the type of visa you hold and the type of application you have made. Interim visas do not have travel conditions and are valid for a maximum of six months or until a decision is made on your application – whichever is earlier.

Tax obligations while residing in New Zealand

If you are planning to work in New Zealand, you will need an IRD number. All your tax, entitlement and personal details are linked to this number, which is unique to you. This is administered by Inland Revenue, New Zealand's tax service.

Go to **www.ird.govt.nz/irdnum-individuals** to find out what supporting information you will need to include in your IRD number application and how to apply for an IRD number online.