



# Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Guide

A guide to applying for a partnership-based temporary visa

## Information about this guide

This guide will help you to complete the form *Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Application (INZ 1198)*. It will also help your partner complete the *Form for Partners Supporting Partnership-Based Temporary Entry Applications (INZ 1146)*.

It will give you information about applying for a visa on the basis of:

- a partnership with a New Zealand citizen or resident
- a partnership with a person who holds (or is applying for) a New Zealand work or student visa, or
- a culturally arranged marriage to a New Zealand citizen or resident.

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

- what evidence you need to provide with your application form, and
- how to complete your application form.

## Do you need a visa to come to New Zealand?

You do not need a visa to come to New Zealand if:

- you are a New Zealand citizen, or
- you hold a New Zealand residence class visa.

If you are an Australian citizen or you are the holder of a current Australian permanent residence visa or a current resident return visa, you do not need a visa to travel to New Zealand. You must apply for a resident visa on arrival. You will do this by completing an arrival card on the aircraft/ship on your way to New Zealand.

## Where do you send your application and documents?

Send your completed application form and documents to your nearest Immigration New Zealand office or visa application centre.

See [www.immigration.govt.nz/fees](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/fees) to see where to send your application and for the fee and immigration levy in your local currency.

## PARTNERSHIP

### What is partnership?

Immigration New Zealand defines partnership as two people who are living together in a genuine and stable relationship within:

- a legal marriage; or
- a civil union (whether opposite or same sex); or
- a de facto relationship (whether opposite or same sex).

The relationship must have been entered into with the intention of being maintained on a long-term and exclusive basis and be likely to endure.

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## What is a culturally arranged marriage?

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A culturally arranged marriage is a marriage which follows an identified cultural tradition where the arrangements for the marriage, including the initial selection of the persons to be married, are made by persons who are not parties to the marriage. A person can be granted a visitor visa for the purpose of a culturally arranged marriage if they plan to marry within three months of their arrival in New Zealand.

## What type of visa can you apply for on the basis of partnership?

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If you are a partner of a New Zealand citizen, resident or work visa holder, you may be eligible for a work visa or visitor visa based on partnership, depending on what you want to do in New Zealand. Partners of some student visa holders can apply for work visas, others can only apply for visitor visas. For more details, see 'Partners of holders of student visas'.

Visas which are granted based on partnership are 'open'. This means that partnership work visas allow work in any employment. Additionally, partnership visas allow multiple entries to New Zealand.

### Partners of New Zealand citizens and residence class visa holders

If you are the partner of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, and you don't wish to apply for a residence class visa you may be eligible for a work or visitor visa for a maximum stay of two years. If you wish to study in New Zealand, you will need to apply using the *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* form and meet immigration requirements under student visa instructions.

To support your temporary visa application, your partner must be considered eligible to support you under the Residence Partnership Category. See 'What requirements does your partner have to meet?'

### Partners of holders of work visas

If you are the partner of a person holding a work visa, you may be eligible for a work visa or visitor visa for the same period as your partner.

People holding some types of work visas are not eligible to support a visa application for their partner. If your partner holds one of the following types of visa, you are not eligible for a visa based on partnership:

- Foreign Crew of Fishing Vessels Instructions
- Working holiday schemes
- Pacific Quotas Residual Places Work Visa Instructions
- Recognised Seasonal Employer Work Instructions
- Supplementary Seasonal Employer (SSE) Instructions
- Silver Fern Job Search Instructions, or
- Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Instructions
- Essential Skills, if your partner is undertaking lower-skilled work.

Find out more information regarding whether your partner is eligible to support your visa at [www.immigration.govt.nz/work-support-partner](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/work-support-partner)

### Partners of holders of student visas

You may be eligible for a work visa for the same period as the student visa held by your partner, if your partner holds a student visa to study:

- a level seven qualification on the New Zealand Qualification Framework in an area of absolute skill shortage as specified in the Long Term Skill Shortage List, or
- towards postgraduate qualifications, or
- as a New Zealand Aid Programme scholarship student.

If your partner holds any other type of student visa, you may only apply for a visitor visa based on partnership.

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## What requirements does your partner have to meet?

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### Requirements for all partners

Your partner must complete the *Form for Partners Supporting Partnership-Based Temporary Entry Applications (INZ 1146)*.

Your partner must meet our character requirements for partners. If your partner has been convicted at anytime before the application is made of any offence involving domestic violence (see section 3 of the Domestic Violence Act 1995, available on the internet at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)) or of a sexual nature, they will not meet the character requirement, unless granted a character waiver.

### Additional requirements for partners who are New Zealand citizens or residents

If your partner is a New Zealand citizen or resident and you wish to apply for a work visa, your partner must be eligible to support a future Partnership Category residence application.

To be eligible to support an application for a residence class visa under the Partnership Category, the New Zealand partner must:

- meet the character requirement for partners supporting applications made under the Partnership Category, and
- have not previously supported more than one other successful principal applicant under the Partnership Category, and
- have not supported any other successful principal applicant under Partnership Category in the five years immediately preceding the current application, and
- not have included any other successful secondary applicant partner in a residence class visa application in the five years immediately preceding the current application, and
- not have been the perpetrator of an incident of domestic violence which has resulted in the grant of a resident visa to a person under the category for victims of domestic violence.

If the New Zealand partner was previously a successful principal applicant under Partnership Category then they will be considered to be eligible only if:

- at least five years have elapsed since they were granted residence under the Partnership Category at the time the current application is made, and
- they have not supported any other successful principal applicant under the Partnership Category.

If the New Zealand partner was granted residence as a secondary applicant partner in a residence class visa application then they will be considered to be eligible only if:

- at least five years have elapsed since they were granted residence as a secondary applicant partner, and
- they have not supported any other successful principal applicant under the Partnership Category.

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## What evidence of relationship is acceptable?

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Every relationship is different so every visa application based on partnership will contain different evidence. However, regardless of what you provide, you and your partner must show sufficient convincing evidence to satisfy an immigration officer that you are living together in a genuine and stable relationship.

Factors that have a bearing on the assessment of whether you and your partner are living together in a partnership that is genuine and stable include, but are not limited to:

- the duration of your relationship
- how long you have been living together as a couple
- the degree of financial dependence or interdependence, and any arrangements for financial support between you and your partner
- the common ownership, use, and acquisition of property by you and your partner
- your degree of commitment to a shared life
- children of the partnership, including the common care and support of such children
- the performance of common household duties by the partners, and
- the reputation and public aspects of the relationship.

You should include any evidence that helps show the factors in the list above in your visa application. The *Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Application (INZ 1198)* form contains some suggestions of the documentation you can provide.

Evidence or documentation from official sources is more useful and reliable than that from unofficial sources. For example, a joint tenancy agreement showing the date that you and your partner rented a property together is better than a letter from a friend stating the amount of time you have been living together.

## Applying for residence as a partner of a New Zealand citizen or resident

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If your partner is a New Zealand citizen or resident, you could be eligible for residence under the Partnership Category. To apply:

- you must have been living with your partner in a genuine and stable relationship for at least 12 months
- you must meet health and character requirements for residence
- your partner must be eligible to support your application (see 'Additional requirements for partners who are New Zealand citizens or residents')

For more information about the requirements for residence, see the *Self-Assessment Guide for Residence in New Zealand (INZ 1003)*.

## CULTURALLY ARRANGED MARRIAGE

### What type of visa can you apply for on the basis of a culturally arranged marriage?

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You can apply for a visitor visa to come to New Zealand for the purpose of a culturally arranged marriage to a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder.

If a visitor visa is granted, it will allow a stay of three months upon arrival in New Zealand.

### What are the requirements to be granted a visa for a culturally arranged marriage?

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To qualify, you must:

- intend to marry within three months of your arrival
- intend to maintain the marriage on a long-term and exclusive basis, and
- show evidence that the marriage follows an identified cultural tradition.

There must be no legal impediment to the marriage. Your intended spouse must plan to be in New Zealand at the same time as you.

### Requirements for intended spouses

Your intended spouse must be a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder. They must complete the *Form for Partners Supporting Partnership-Based Temporary Entry Applications (INZ 1146)*.

Your intended spouse must meet our character requirements for partners. If they have been convicted at anytime before the application is made of any offence involving domestic violence (see section 3 of the Domestic Violence Act 1995, available on the internet at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)) or of a sexual nature, they will not meet the character requirement, unless granted a character waiver.

Your intended spouse must also be eligible to support a future residence application under Partnership Category.

To be eligible to support an application for a residence class visa under the Partnership Category, your intended partner must:

- meet the character requirement for partners supporting applications made under the Partnership Category, and
- have not previously supported more than one other successful principal applicant under Partnership Category, and
- have not supported any other successful principal applicant under Partnership Category in the five years immediately preceding the date the current application is made, and
- have not been the perpetrator of an incident of domestic violence which has resulted in the grant of a resident visa to a person under the category for victims of domestic violence.

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If your intended spouse was previously a successful principal applicant under Partnership Category then they will be considered to be eligible only if:

- at least five years have elapsed since the date they were granted residence under the Partnership Category at the time the current application is made, and
- they have not supported any other successful principal applicant under the Partnership Category.

## What evidence is required?

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The evidence you must provide is explained in more detail in the *Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Application (INZ 1198)* form.

A written account explaining how your marriage was arranged and what your plans are for your marriage is very helpful in assessing the application.

## What kind of visa can you apply for after you are married?

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After you are married, you can apply for a work or visitor visa based on partnership. See the partnership section of this form for the full details. After you have been living with your partner for 12 months, you may apply for residence under the Partnership Category.

# GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

## About the application form

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To apply for a partnership-based temporary visa you must complete and sign the *Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Application (INZ 1198)* form. If you are 16 or 17 years of age, your parent or legal guardian must sign the form for you. Send it to us with:

- the application fee and immigration levy, and
- all the documents we need to assess your application. You may provide copies of the documents unless otherwise specified to provide original or certified copies.

If you do not include everything we need, we will not process your application and will return it to you.

## Translations of documents

If you provide a translation, it must:

- be in English
- be accompanied by copies of the original documents
- not be made by you, any of your family members or an immigration adviser assisting with your application
- be certified as a correct translation made by a person familiar with both languages and competent in translation work
- be on the official letterhead of the translation business (if applicable)
- have the stamp or signature of the translator or translation business, and
- be paid for by you.

Translations may be prepared by:

- the Translation Service of the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs
- reputable people within the community who are known to translate documents accurately; or
- embassies or high commissions (if the translation is endorsed with the appropriate embassy or high commission seal), or
- any other private or official translation business.

## New Zealand Business Number

You must indicate the New Zealand Business Number (NZBN) of all New Zealand businesses included in the form. For help, you can go to [www.nzbn.govt.nz](http://www.nzbn.govt.nz).

### Completing Section A Personal details

#### Passport photographs

You must attach two colour photographs of each person included in the application. The photographs must be original, and taken within the last six months. The size of the photographs should be about 45 mm by 35 mm. The photographs should be in good quality colour (not black and white).

#### **A3** Other names you are known by or have ever been known by

This includes your birth name, your name from marriage or from adoption, or your English name.

#### **A7** Passport details

The passport details must be those of the passport or travel document you will use to travel to and from New Zealand. You must send the passport or travel document with your application. It must be valid to at least three months past the date you plan to leave New Zealand.

## A9 Partnership status

You have the following options for your partnership status:

- Married/civil union (a civil union is a legally recognised union of a couple of the same or opposite sex, with rights similar to those of marriage)
- Never married/never in civil union
- Partner/De facto
- Separated (this includes being separated from a civil union)
- Engaged
- Widowed
- Divorced (this includes having a dissolved civil union).

You must choose the option that describes the partnership which is the basis of your partnership-based application.

## Completing Section B Contact details

**B6** An agent or adviser can be any person who assists you with your application. It could be a lawyer, immigration adviser, translator, friend or family member.

## Completing Section C Your health

**C5** Do you intend to give birth in New Zealand?

If you are pregnant and intending to give birth in New Zealand we need to be sure that you have a bona fide reason for being in New Zealand. We also need to ensure that you are either eligible for publicly-funded maternity health services or able to meet the costs of maternity health services (evidence of at least NZ\$9,000 is required) through personal funds or sponsorship.

You may check your eligibility for maternity health services through the Ministry of Health at [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz) which provides comprehensive information on eligibility for publicly-funded health and disability services. Alternatively you may be able to establish whether you are eligible by checking our leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)*.

You should attach evidence that you meet the criteria to be eligible for publicly-funded maternity services if the evidence is not already available to us (for example – evidence of your partner’s eligibility for publicly-funded health services).

If you are not eligible for publicly-funded maternity health services you will need to provide evidence that you have sufficient funds to pay for the cost of maternity health services.

Acceptable evidence of your funds includes:

- bank statements in your name
- bank drafts
- recognised credit cards with sufficient credit available, and
- travellers’ cheques.

You must not send cash or original evidence of funds. Alternatively you may provide evidence of sponsorship which meets our sponsorship requirements. Your sponsor must complete the *Sponsorship Form for Temporary Entry (INZ 1025)*.

## Medical certificates

You may need to provide us with medical certificates to show that you meet our acceptable standard of health. What you must provide depends on:

- whether you have recently sent medical certificates with another application
- how long you intend to spend in New Zealand, and
- what countries you have previously lived in or visited.

If you are already in New Zealand, and you are applying for a further visa, you need to include the time you have already spent in New Zealand, as well as the extra time you intend to be here, to decide whether or not you need to complete a medical certificate.

**Example** *You have been in New Zealand on a visitor or student or work visa or other temporary visa for five months, and you want to stay for another two months. This will mean a stay in New Zealand of more than six months in total.*

**C6** You are **not** required to provide a medical certificate or chest X-ray certificate if:



- you will be in New Zealand for **less than six months**; or

**C7**

- you will be in New Zealand for **between six and 12 months**, but are **not** from and have **not** visited for more than three months a place outside the list of countries, areas and territories with a low incidence of tuberculosis (TB) (see the table below); or
- the exception rules apply to you (see notes below).

You must provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* less than three months old, unless the exception rules apply to you (see notes below), if including any time you have already spent in New Zealand:

- you will be in New Zealand for between six and 12 months, and you are either from, or have spent more than three months visiting, a place that is outside the list below of countries, areas and territories with a low incidence of TB (see the table below); or
- you will be in New Zealand for more than 12 months, in which case you must also provide a medical certificate (see notes below).

**Countries, areas and territories with a low incidence of tuberculosis (TB)**

American Samoa	France	Netherlands
Andorra	Germany	New Zealand
Antigua and Barbuda	Greece	Norway
Australia	Grenada	Oman
Austria	Iceland	Puerto Rico
Barbados	Ireland	Saints Kitts and Nevis
Belgium	Israel (including the Occupied	Saint Lucia
Bermuda	Palestinian Territory, and including	San Marino
British Virgin Islands	East Jerusalem)	Slovakia
Canada	Italy	Slovenia
Cayman Islands	Jamaica	Sweden
Chile	Jordan	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Libya	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Liechtenstein	Turks and Caicos Islands
Cyprus	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Malta	United States of America
Denmark	Monaco	United States Virgin Islands
Dominica	Montserrat	Vatican City
Finland	Netherlands Antilles	

**Example 1** *You hold a Chinese passport and you live in China, which is not on the list above. This means that you must complete a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096).*

**Example 2** *You hold a French passport and you live in France, which is on the list above. You have not spent more than three months in a place that is not on the list. You do not need to provide a medical certificate.*

**Example 3** *You hold a British passport and you live in the United Kingdom, which is on the list above. However, in the last five years, you spent five weeks in Thailand and eight weeks in Fiji. Thailand and Fiji are not on the list above, and you have spent a total of at least three months in a place which is not on the list above. You must complete a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096).*

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## Notes:

### Which medical certificate should be provided?

There are two medical certificates, the *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* and the *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)*. The Limited Medical Certificate must only be provided by partners of New Zealand citizens and residents, who meet the requirements to be granted residence under the Partnership Category, which includes living together in a stable and genuine partnership for at least 12 months. You can find out further information about the Partnership Category from the *Residence Guide (INZ 1002)*. All other applicants must provide the *General Medical Certificate*.

If you are applying for a visa as the partner of a New Zealand citizen or resident and you were eligible for inclusion, but were not included in, or were withdrawn from, your partner's residence application, you must provide a *General Medical Certificate*.

### Exception rules for a medical certificate

If you are a person who is required to provide a medical certificate, you do not need to provide one if you have provided a medical certificate which was issued less than 36 months ago with a previous visa application; and

- your health has not deteriorated since then; and
- you have not been requested in writing by an immigration officer to provide a new certificate.

### Exception rules for a chest X-ray certificate

If you are a person who is required to provide a chest X-ray certificate, you do not need to provide one if you have provided a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096) which was issued less than 36 months ago with a previous visa application; and

- your health has not deteriorated since then; and
- you have not been requested in writing by an immigration officer to provide a certificate; and
- you have not spent six consecutive months since your last certificate was issued, in a country, area or territory not listed as having a low incidence of TB.

### Chest X-ray certificate for pregnant applicants

If you are pregnant you do not need to provide a chest X-ray certificate. If you are a person who would ordinarily be required to provide one, you will only be granted a visa valid for three months after the date that you are due to give birth, unless you have provided a chest X-ray certificate issued within the last 36 months with a previous application. Where a visa is only granted for three months after the date you are due to give birth, you will need to provide a chest X-ray certificate with an application for a further visa if you wish to remain in New Zealand.

### Completing medical and chest X-ray certificates

In most countries we require the medical examinations to be carried out by one of a selected panel of medical practitioners or institutions. The details of these countries and the names and addresses of the approved panels are listed on our website [www.immigration.govt.nz/paneldoctors/](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/paneldoctors/).

### Submitting your medical and chest X-ray certificates

Refer to the leaflet 'Health Requirements Guide' for further information.

## Police certificates

You may need to provide us with police certificates to show that you are of good character and do not pose a potential security risk. At the time of lodgement your police certificate must not be more than six months old from date of issue. Police certificates that are older than six months from the date of issue at lodgement of any application **will not** be accepted.

- D7** If you intend to stay in New Zealand for 24 months or longer, you must provide a police certificate from your country of citizenship and any country you have lived in for five years or more since you turned 17. The only exception to this is if you have provided police certificates with a previous visa application, and that certificate was issued less than 24 months ago when you lodge your current visa application, or if you are younger than 17. If you are under 17 you do not need to provide police certificates.
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- D8**

## Assessing your application: bona fides

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When we assess your application and the information you provide, we ensure that it meets all the requirements of the visa you are applying for. This includes the requirement to be 'bona fide', which means you intend a genuine temporary stay.

When we assess if you are a bona fide applicant, we consider all of the information that we have. For example, we will consider:

- your personal circumstances, such as:
  - your family ties in your home country and New Zealand
  - personal, financial, employment or other commitments in your home country and New Zealand
  - any circumstances that might mean you may not want to return to your home country when any visa expires,
- information that we have about previous applications, such as whether you have previously overstayed or breached visa conditions
- whether you have dependants who are unlawfully in New Zealand, and
- your ability to leave or be deported from New Zealand to your country of citizenship.

INZ will consider all of the information you provide in support of your application but is not obliged to ask you for more. So, with evidence that you meet the particular requirements for the type of visa you are applying for, you should provide any evidence that you think demonstrates that you are a bona fide applicant.

## Tax obligations while working in New Zealand

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If you are planning to work or open a bank account 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](http://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.

## For more information

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If you have questions about any of the information in this guide:

- see our website [www.immigration.govt.nz/contactus](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/contactus)
- telephone our call centre on 0508 558 855 (within New Zealand).



