



Student Visa Guide

A guide to applying for a student visa

Apply for your visa online – it's faster & easier

Apply for your visa online as it is faster and easier than completing a paper form. The process of completing an application online should take less than 15 minutes.

Dynamic forms will only ask you questions relevant to the visa that you are applying for, and only request evidence that is required to support your application, e.g. medical exam.

If you require a third party to assist, for example a Licensed Immigration Adviser (LIA), they are now able to complete their actions online in a secure environment, keeping your information private. Your sponsor or supporting partner can also complete their declaration themselves directly online.

You will be able to see the status of your application after you have submitted it, by viewing the online dashboard. Go to www.immigration.govt.nz/visit for more information on how to apply online. You will require a **RealMe account**.

Information about this guide

This guide will help you to complete the form *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)*. It will give you information about coming to New Zealand as a student and help you to understand the requirements you need to meet if you want to study in New Zealand.

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

- how to decide which visa you need to apply for
- what evidence you need to provide with your application form
- what to do if you want to work in New Zealand while holding a student visa.

Where do you send your application and documents?

For information about where to send your application, how much to pay and how long a decision may take, see www.immigration.govt.nz/fees

Do you need a visa to study in New Zealand?

Most overseas students need a visa to study full-time in New Zealand. You are considered to be a domestic student who does not need a student visa if one of the following applies to you.

- You are a New Zealand citizen.
- You hold a New Zealand residence class visa.
- You hold a special temporary (diplomatic, consular or official) visa.

However, some overseas students have domestic student status and require a student visa to study or train in New Zealand.

- University students who enrolled in a PhD programme for the first time after 10 April 2005.
- Some primary and secondary school students.

You do not need a student visa for one or more programmes of study, up to a total of three months, that the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has approved or exempted (see the NZQA website www.nzqa.govt.nz). In this case you may need to apply for a visitor visa.

A student visa is also not required for a single period of up to three months' study at a primary, intermediate, or secondary school. The study must be completed within that calendar year. See the *Visitor Visa Guide (INZ 1018)* for more information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is full-time study?

Full-time study for:

- **private training establishments (PTE)** is enrolment in:
 - i. a programme of study that requires attendance for a minimum of 20 hours per week, or
 - ii. at least three papers, or equivalent, per semester if the offered programme of study is at level 7 or above on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework
- **tertiary institutions other than a PTE** is enrolment in at least three papers, or equivalent, per semester
- **primary, intermediate, or secondary school** is attending school.

What is part-time study?

Part-time study means fewer hours or fewer papers than full-time study.

If you want to study part-time and you hold a New Zealand visitor visa or work visa, you will have to apply for a variation of conditions to allow you to study unless:

- your employer has authorised your programme of study or training; or
- you are undertaking one or more programmes of study of not more than three months' duration in total.*

To apply for a variation of conditions you will need to:

- complete the form *Application for Variation of Conditions or a Variation of Travel Conditions (INZ 1020)*
- show evidence that you are enrolled in the programme of study and have paid the tuition fees for non-New Zealand students, and
- pay the application fee and levies.

If you are studying less than 20 hours each week to finish your programme of study you may be eligible for a student visa.

* If you hold a temporary visa that is valid for 24 months or more, you can study one or more programmes of study for up to three months in total in each 12-month period.

What are international and domestic students?

Domestic students

Domestic students do not pay full fees as the New Zealand Government partially or totally subsidises the education provider for the cost of the programme of study.

Primary and secondary schooling

You may be eligible for a visa as a domestic student to study at primary or secondary school level if you are in New Zealand to study under a New Zealand Government-approved exchange programme scheme or your parent or legal guardian is one of the following.

- A New Zealand citizen (and the Department of Internal Affairs is considering your application for New Zealand citizenship).
- A New Zealand residence class visa holder (and Immigration New Zealand is considering your application for New Zealand residence).
- A student in New Zealand under an exchange programme approved by the New Zealand Government.
- The holder of a valid work visa, except a visa granted under:
 - Recognised Seasonal Employer instructions
 - Foreign Crew of Fishing Vessels instructions
 - Supplementary Seasonal Employment instructions
 - Silver Fern Job Search instructions
 - Skilled Migrant Category Job Search instructions
 - any Working Holiday scheme
 - Essential Skills instructions, where the work offered is lower-skilled.
- An overseas student enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme in a New Zealand university.
- The holder of a New Zealand scholarship funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).
- The holder of a military visa.

Find out more information regarding whether your parent is eligible to support your visa at www.immigration.govt.nz/childstudentvisa.

Tertiary study

You are considered to be a domestic student to study at tertiary level if you are a PhD student or an exchange student studying under a New Zealand Government-approved exchange programme/scheme.

The Ministry of Education holds a list of who is considered to be a domestic student for the purpose of fee payment and enrolment. To check eligibility for domestic student status, see the Ministry of Education website www.education.govt.nz.

International students

Students who are not domestic students are international students and must pay full fees. International students may cover the full cost of the fees themselves, or they may have a scholarship from the education provider or another organisation.

What programmes can you study?

Your programme of study and education provider must be approved by the Ministry of Education to offer places to overseas students. Your education provider must also be a signatory to the Ministry of Education's *Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code Of Practice 2016* to be able to offer you a place. You can find out from the education provider whether they and their programmes of study are approved.

Pathway student visas

A pathway student visa will allow you to undertake up to three consecutive programmes of study on a single student visa. Selected education providers can offer a range of consecutive programmes of study either within their own institution or in conjunction with other selected education providers. A pathway student visa can be granted up to maximum of five years and removes the need to apply for new student visas as you progress on an education pathway.

Specific application requirements for a pathway student visa are covered in the sections below.

Applying for a student visa

You can apply for a student visa before travelling to New Zealand. A student visa granted offshore will allow you to travel to the New Zealand border. When you arrive, an officer will check that you meet all of the conditions of your visa to be granted entry permission to study in New Zealand.

You can also apply for a student visa when you are already in New Zealand. A student visa granted onshore will usually include travel conditions allowing multiple journeys, so you can travel out of New Zealand and back in before the expiry of the visa.

Student visa conditions

A student visa (whether granted onshore or offshore) allows you to study full-time in New Zealand for a limited period of time. A student visa may have conditions you must meet – for example, it may include:

- the name of the programme you are allowed to study
- the name of the educational provider
- the New Zealand location of the provider, and
- the requirement to hold insurance.

Applying for a limited visa

The *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* can also be used to apply for a limited visa or a further limited visa. You can apply for a limited visa if you wish to come to New Zealand for an express purpose: to study. If you want to apply for a limited visa and your express purpose is not to study, you should use the form *Visitor Visa Application (INZ 1017)*.

If you are granted a limited visa you will not be able to apply for any other type of visa during your stay in New Zealand. Holding a limited visa also restricts your immigration rights when you are in New Zealand.

To find out whether applying for a limited visa rather than a student visa is the best option for you, please read the leaflet *Information on Limited Visas (INZ 1070)*.

What evidence do you need to provide with your student visa application if you are an international student?

You may provide copies of the documents unless otherwise specified to provide original or certified copies

Offer of place/confirmation of enrolment

You must show that you have been offered a place or hold a confirmation of enrolment at a New Zealand education provider (if you are continuing to attend the same provider and studying the same programme of study as you have on a previous student visa).

The offer of a place must also include a declaration from your education provider that they have assessed and are satisfied that the programme is appropriate for your expectations, and that you have the English language proficiency and academic capability to succeed in the programme offered.

See www.immigration.govt.nz/offerofplace for more details about what is required on an offer of a place.

Pathway student visas

If your intended education pathway involves more than one selected education provider, you must provide:

- a joint letter of support from your pathway education providers, and
- a separate offer of place from each.

Only the offer of place for the first programme of study has to be unconditional. The second or subsequent offers will generally be conditional on successfully completing previous programmes of study. The granting of a pathway student visa does not guarantee you entry to second or subsequent programmes of study on your intended pathway.

Tuition fees

If you are in New Zealand or already hold a student visa, you need to provide evidence that you have either paid the tuition fees for one course or one year of study (whichever is shorter), or that you are exempt from tuition fees. If you are outside New Zealand applying for your first student visa, you must show you have sufficient funds to pay the tuition fees once your student visa is approved in principle.

You can also provide evidence that the tuition fees will be covered by:

- a foreign government loan, or
- an MFAT funded New Zealand scholarship, or
- a foreign government scholarship, or
- a study abroad or non-award scheme, or
- other funds.

Pathway student visas

If you are applying from outside New Zealand, you must show you have:

- sufficient funds to pay the tuition fees for your first programme of study or first year of study (whichever is shorter) once your visa is approved in principle, and
- demonstrate that you have access to sufficient funds to pay your tuition fees for the balance of your intended study pathway.

If you are applying for a pathway student visa onshore you must show you have:

- paid the tuition fees for your first programme of study or first year of study (whichever is shorter), and
- demonstrate that you have access to sufficient funds to pay your tuition fees for the balance of your intended study pathway.

Funds for living costs

You must provide evidence that you have enough money to live on while you're studying in New Zealand.

You must show us that you have one of the following:

- enough money to support yourself, or
- sponsorship by a New Zealand family member, friend or organisation, or
- a financial undertaking by a non-New Zealand family member, friend or organisation, or
- a foreign government loan, or
- full financial support from a foreign government, or
- an MFAT funded New Zealand scholarship

Money to support yourself

Acceptable evidence of your funds includes bank statements in your name, going back at least six months. You may be asked to provide evidence of the source of funds for large or recent deposits. You can send in photocopies of your bank statements with your own *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* form, or upload scanned copies if you apply for your visa online.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship may be provided by a family member or friend who is a New Zealand citizen or resident, or by a New Zealand organisation.

A sponsor is responsible for making sure your accommodation and living needs are met while you are in New Zealand, and for making sure you can leave New Zealand at the end of your stay. The sponsor must genuinely intend to meet their financial obligations and hold sufficient funds for each student they are supporting.

If you have a sponsor, they must complete the *Sponsorship for Temporary Entry (INZ 1025)* form and you must send it with your own *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* form, or upload a scanned copy if you apply for your visa online.

If you are applying in New Zealand for a further student visa and will be studying in the tertiary sector as an international student, you must be sponsored by the same person or organisation that sponsored your initial student visa. If you hold a student visa as an international tertiary student and weren't sponsored for your initial student visa, you can't become sponsored once you arrive in New Zealand.

Primary and secondary students, and people applying in New Zealand for their first student visa (such as people who enter as visitors), can be sponsored by an acceptable sponsor, even if they were not previously sponsored by that person or organisation.

Financial undertaking

A financial undertaking can be provided by a family member or friend who is not a New Zealand citizen or resident, or by a non-New Zealand organisation. Only one person can support each student.

The person or organisation providing the financial undertaking is responsible for providing you with funds for living costs while you are in New Zealand and must genuinely intend to meet their financial obligations and hold sufficient funds for each student they are supporting.

The person making the financial undertaking must complete the form *Financial Undertaking for a Student (INZ 1014)* and provide six months' worth of bank statements. You must send in the completed Financial Undertaking form, and bank statements with your own *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* form or upload scanned copies if you apply for your visa online.

If you are applying in New Zealand for a further student visa, a financial undertaking can only be provided by the same person or organisation that provided a financial undertaking for your initial student visa. If a financial undertaking wasn't provided for your initial student visa, a financial undertaking can't be started once you arrive in New Zealand.

Government loans or scholarships

If you will be financially supported by your own Government or are an MFAT funded New Zealand scholarship recipient, you must provide copies of the documents explaining your entitlements and payment arrangements with your application. You must upload scanned copies of these documents if you apply online.

How much money will I need?

The amount of money you need depends on how long you will be studying and your level of study in New Zealand.

If your study is at compulsory education level (such as primary, intermediate or secondary school) and you will be studying for less than 36 weeks, you need to provide evidence of funds of at least NZ\$1,417 for each month of study.

If your study is at compulsory education level and you will be studying for 36 weeks or more, you need to provide evidence of at least NZ\$17,000 for each year of study.

If your study is non-compulsory or at tertiary level and you will be studying for less than 36 weeks, you need to provide evidence of funds of at least NZ\$1,667 for each month of study.

If your study is non-compulsory or at tertiary level and you will be studying for 36 weeks or more, you need to provide evidence of at least NZ\$20,000 for each year of study.

If you are applying for a pathway student visa and your intended study pathway is more than one year, you only have to demonstrate evidence for the first year of study and the ability to access funds to support yourself for the remaining intended period of study.

Outward travel

You need to provide evidence that you have the financial means to leave New Zealand before your student visa expires. You can do this by providing evidence that:

- you have a fully paid travel ticket out of New Zealand, or
- you have sufficient funds to purchase one, or
- someone else (for example a guarantor or sponsor) has agreed to buy you an outward travel ticket.

Attendance and performance

If you already hold a student visa and you are applying for a further student visa, you must also send evidence of:

- your previous student performance
- satisfactory attendance (you must attend at all times as required), and
- your progress, which will be primarily determined by your education provider against its own academic policies.

Please send only photocopied evidence of student performance, attendance, and progress. **Do not** send original documents.

Insurance requirements for foreign fee-paying students

Foreign fee-paying students (excluding MFAT funded New Zealand scholarship students) are required to hold insurance as a condition of their visa. You should have an insurance policy which complies with the insurance requirements of the *Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code Of Practice 2016* and is acceptable to your education provider. You do not need to provide evidence of your insurance policy with your student visa application, however, you are required to declare in your application that you will make the necessary arrangements to meet this condition.

The Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016 states that an international student's insurance must cover all of the following:

- student's travel (this includes travel to and from New Zealand, within New Zealand, and outside New Zealand—if travelling as part of the course)
- medical care in New Zealand, including diagnosis, prescription, surgery, and hospitalisation
- repatriation or expatriation of the student as a result of serious illness or injury, including cover of travel costs incurred by family members assisting repatriation or expatriation

- death of the student (including cover of the travel costs of family members to and from New Zealand, costs of repatriation or expatriation of the body, and funeral expenses)

Many students arrange their insurance policy through their education provider. In some cases the insurance policy is not obtained until the student has arrived in New Zealand and the enrolment process has been completed. Therefore you are required to hold insurance from the date you finalise the enrolment process with your education provider until the expiry of your visa, unless you depart New Zealand earlier.

Where your provider has arranged your insurance policy, it may only cover the length of your programme of study rather than the length of your student visa. If this is the case, and you will be remaining in New Zealand to holiday or to work (if you are eligible to undertake holiday work), you will need to arrange an extension of your insurance policy to cover the remainder of the time you will spend in New Zealand.

If you do not comply with the requirement to hold insurance while in New Zealand, you may become liable for deportation. You may also be required to provide evidence of the insurance policy you held with any subsequent visa application you make.

Insurance requirements for domestic students (includes PhD students)

Domestic students are not covered by the *Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code Of Practice 2016* and are therefore not required to hold acceptable insurance.

What evidence do you need to provide with your student visa application if you are a domestic student?

Evidence of domestic status

You need to show that you are domestic student by providing evidence of the relationship between you and your parent or legal guardian. This evidence could be:

- your birth certificate or adoption papers (if they are your parent)
- court documents (if they are a court-appointed guardian)
- relevant legal documents if they are a testamentary guardian (that is, they were named as guardian in your parent's will, and your parent is deceased).

Dependent children of Essential Skills work visa holders

If one of your parents holds an Essential Skills work visa you will need to provide evidence that they are eligible to support your visa. Find out more at www.immigration.govt.nz/childstudentvisa.

Dependent children of Religious Worker work visa holders

If one of your parents holds a work visa granted under Religious Worker instructions:

- your visa may be sponsored by the organisation sponsoring your parent's visa, or
- you will need to provide evidence that your parents' combined income from salary or wages meets the minimum income threshold.

Acceptable evidence includes copies of an employment agreement and/or a description of the work with salary or wages equal to or higher than the minimum income threshold.

Note: If you are not sponsored and the minimum income threshold is not met, your student visa application may be declined. Find out more at www.immigration.govt.nz/childstudentvisa.

Can you work while holding a student visa?

You may be allowed to work for up to 20 hours each week and full-time all scheduled vacations and/or during Christmas and New Year holiday period (summer vacation).

You should read the following information to see if you meet the requirements to be allowed to work, and the restrictions on the type of work you will be allowed to do.

You can also apply for a variation of conditions at a later date, as long as your student visa is current. See 'Applying for a variation of conditions after you have your visa' below.

Tertiary students work rights

You do not need to have a job offer to work part-time (20 hours per week), but you must be enrolled in a full-time programme of study that meets one of the following criteria:

- The programme of study is at least two years' duration
- The programme of study leads to a New Zealand qualification that qualifies for points under the Skilled Migrant Category of Immigration New Zealand's Residence Instructions.

- The programme of study is at least one academic year long and you are taking part in an approved tertiary exchange scheme.
- The programme of study is at a private training establishment or tertiary institution, and the main purpose is to develop English language skills. You must also have English language test results, as set out in the table below.
- You are undertaking full-time English language study of at least 14 consecutive weeks' duration at a university or an education provider that holds Category One status under the New Zealand Qualifications Authority's External Evaluation Review quality assurance system.
- You are a New Zealand scholarship student studying under one of the following schemes:
 - New Zealand Scholarship
 - New Zealand Commonwealth Scholarship
 - New Zealand Short Term Training Scholarship
 - New Zealand English Language Training for Officials Scholarship.

ACCEPTABLE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST RESULTS

| Test | Minimum score required |
|--|--|
| International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - General or Academic Module | Overall score of 5.0 or more |
| Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT) | Overall score of 35 or more |
| Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) | Overall score of 36 or more |
| Cambridge English B2 First (FCE); or B2 First for Schools (FCE for Schools) | Overall score of 154 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.

Full-time work rights

You may work full-time during all vacations scheduled by your education provider if you are undertaking a full-time programme of study of at least one academic year's duration. An academic year means a programme of study of a minimum of 120 credits during a period of at least eight months (minimum of two semesters)

If your full-time programme of study has a duration of at least eight months (minimum of two semesters), but is less than 120 credits, you can work full-time over the Christmas and New Year holiday period (summer vacation). You do not have to have a job offer.

Unlimited work rights for PhD and Masters by research students

If you are enrolled in Masters by research or doctoral degree programmes awarded by a New Zealand tertiary institution, you will be eligible for unlimited work rights.

Secondary school students work rights

If you are studying in years 12 or 13 (the last two years of secondary school), you can work up to 20 hours per week during the school year and full-time in the summer vacation period between school years if you have written permission from your school (if you are under 18 years of age) and your parents.

If you are an exchange student with an Exchange Provider Organisation (EPO), you must also provide written permission from the EPO.

Restrictions on type of employment

People who hold student visas may not be self-employed, provide commercial sexual services, or operate or invest in a business of prostitution.

Pathway student visa holders

If your first programme of study on your pathway student visa qualifies for work rights as specified above, you will be granted work rights for the entire duration of your visa. If not, and your second or subsequent programme of study qualifies, you can apply for a variation of conditions to obtain work rights.

Tax obligations while working 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.

Applying for a variation of conditions after you have your visa

If you already have a student visa you can apply for a variation of conditions to allow you to:

- work during your programme of study or full-time between scheduled vacations, or
- change your programme of study, your education provider and/or your location of study (see below).

You will need to complete the form *Application for Variation of Conditions or a Variation of Travel Conditions (INZ 1020)*. You will have to pay a fee if you are applying for a variation of conditions when you already have a visa to study.

For more information, see:

- our *Fees Guide (INZ 1028)*
- our website www.immigration.govt.nz/fees.

Pathway student visas

If you have been granted a pathway student visa and wish to change your education provider or move to a lower level programme of study you must apply for a new student visa.

If you wish to change to a programme of study at the same or higher level than the one you are currently studying, you may apply for a variation of conditions. If granted, you will remain on your pathway student visa.

Changing programme of study and/or education provider

If you wish to change your programme of study, your education provider and/or the location of your study, you must **first obtain a variation of conditions** (or a further student visa). You must approach Immigration New Zealand immediately to make an application or contact us on 0508 558 855 to discuss your situation. You may be required to provide evidence to demonstrate that you continue to meet student instructions.

If you withdraw from your programme of study and/or education provider before obtaining authority to do so, you will be in breach of your visa conditions. Applicants who breach their visa conditions may not ordinarily be granted further visas (or a variation of conditions) and may be liable for deportation and required to leave New Zealand.

Exchange students

Students who are in New Zealand to study under an exchange programme approved by the New Zealand Government require a student visa, but do not have to pay tuition fees.

For more information, contact an exchange scheme provider. You can find a list of providers on the Ministry of Education's website www.education.govt.nz.

How much does a student visa cost?

For information about fees and levies:

- see our *Fees Guide (INZ 1028)*
- see our website www.immigration.govt.nz/fees.

Who can you include in your application?

You cannot include anyone else on your application form. If your partner, your children, your parent/legal guardian, or anyone else will accompany you to New Zealand, they must apply separately for the type of visa they require.

Do you have to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian?

If you are less than 10 years old, your legal guardian must accompany you to New Zealand unless any of the following apply.

- You are a domestic student (see 'What are international and domestic students').
- You are enrolled in a school hostel approved by the Ministry of Education.

If you are aged between 10 and 17 years old, you may not need to be accompanied by a legal guardian if you are in the care of a residential caregiver. Your education provider must confirm that your residential caregiver meets the definition set out in the Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016.

Your parent or legal guardian cannot apply with you on your application form. They must apply separately for the type of visa they need. They may apply for a visitor visa, to allow them to live with you and care for you in New Zealand.

Your parent or legal guardian must live with you while you are studying, and cannot leave New Zealand without you. If you and your legal guardian do not meet these conditions, we may make you and your guardian liable for deportation.

Your parent or legal guardian can be granted a visitor visa valid for the same period as your student visa.

Note: if you are not enrolled in school years 1-13 and you turn 18 during the validity of your student visa, your legal guardian can only be granted a visitor visa valid until the day before you turn 18.

What type of evidence do we need about your legal guardian?

You must provide evidence that your legal guardian cares for you in your home country, such as:

- documents that show they have paid for your education
- educational records or documents that show they are responsible for your education
- your legal guardian's passport or residency document to show that you have been living with them in your home country.

You should also provide evidence of your guardian's legal right to provide care for you, such as:

- your birth certificate or adoption papers (if they are your parent)
- court documents (if they are a court-appointed guardian)
- relevant legal documents if they are a testamentary guardian (that is, they were named as guardian in your parent's will, and your parent is deceased).

Will you be eligible for publicly funded health care in New Zealand?

Student visa holders are not generally eligible for publicly funded health and disability services.

People covered by New Zealand's reciprocal health agreements with Australia and the United Kingdom are entitled to publicly funded health care for immediately necessary medical treatment only.

If you seek health care when you are in New Zealand you should carry your passport so that health providers can check whether you are eligible for publicly funded health care. We strongly recommend that you arrange comprehensive health insurance for your stay in New Zealand. (See 'Insurance requirements for foreign fee-paying students').

For more information about health services, see the Ministry of Health website www.health.govt.nz.

Interim visas

If we haven't made a decision on your student visa application when your current visa expires, we will normally grant you an interim visa. We will tell you by email or letter whether we grant you one. You don't need to apply for an interim visa and there is no fee.

The interim visa will let you stay in New Zealand while we make a decision on your application. Its conditions (including whether you can work) will depend on the type of visa you hold and the type of visa you have applied for. Your interim visa will expire after 6 months if we haven't made a decision on your application in that time. If we decline your application, your interim visa will expire 21 days later.

Can you work in New Zealand after completing your studies?

You may be eligible to work in New Zealand once you have completed your studies. You will need to apply for a work visa.

Applying for a Post-Study work visa

Depending on the qualification you have completed you will be eligible to apply for either a one, two or three year work visa. You may refer to the Work Visa Guide (INZ 1016) for further information.

To be eligible for a Post-Study work visa you must:

- have successfully completed a New Zealand tertiary qualification
- have recently finished your qualification, and apply no later than three months after the end date of your student visa for that qualification
- show that you have at least NZ\$5,000 to support yourself financially.

VisaView

It is an offence for an employer to employ a person who is not entitled to work for them in New Zealand. It is also an offence for an education provider to allow a person to undertake a course of study if that person is not entitled to do so.

VisaView is an online enquiry system that allows registered employers and education providers to check whether a person who is not a New Zealand citizen can work or study in New Zealand for them.

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

Importing your car, boat, and/or household items

You may be able to bring your car, boat, and/or household items to New Zealand free of Customs charges. For detailed information on restrictions, and to find out if you must pay Customs charges, see the New Zealand Customs Service website www.customs.govt.nz. For enquiries, email feedback@customs.govt.nz, or telephone:

- 0800 428 786 (within New Zealand)
- +64 9 300 5399 (outside New Zealand).

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

About the application form

To apply for a student visa, or a limited visa to study, you must complete and sign the *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* form. If you are under 18 years of age, your parent or legal guardian must sign the form for you. Send it to us with:

- the application fee and levies
- all the documents we need to assess your application.

You may provide copies of the documents unless original or certified copies are specified. 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; and
- be accompanied by copies of the original document; and
- not be made by you, any of your family members or an immigration adviser assisting with your application; and
- be certified as a correct translation made by a person familiar with both languages and competent in translation work; and
- be on the official letterhead of the translation business (if applicable); and
- 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; or
- 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

Where you enter the details of an organisation or business, the form will have a field for a New Zealand Business Number (NZBN). The NZBN should have 13 numbers and always begins with 94. An NZBN is a unique identifier for all organisations operating in New Zealand. You do not have to fill in the NZBN if you do not know what it is or if the organisation you are providing details about is based outside New Zealand. You can find more information about the NZBN, including finding an NZBN for a specific organisation, by going to www.nzbn.govt.nz.

Completing Section A Personal details

Passport photographs

You must attach two passport-size photographs to the form at the section indicated. 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 your 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.

While you can provide a certified copy of your passport with your application, we highly recommend you provide your original passport. This will enable us to process your application faster and it may be needed to complete your application. Please note during the processing of an application an immigration officer may request any document, including your original passport.

A9 Partnership status

You have the following options for your partnership status.

- Married/in 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)
- Single
- 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 your current, or most recent, partnership status.

Completing Section B Contact details

- B6** An agent 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

- C3** A child is considered to require special education services if they need a specialist teacher and/or other specialists such as a speech language therapist, an occupation therapist, a physiotherapist, and an educational psychologist to assist with their education.

- C5** If you are pregnant you do not need to provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*, if the questions relating to medical certificates (below) indicate that you would ordinarily be required to provide one.

If you are required to provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*, and you are due to give birth while in New Zealand, 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 (INZ 1096)* with an application for a further visa if you wish to remain in New Zealand.

- C6** If you intend to give birth in New Zealand, please indicate how the cost of maternity health services will be paid for and provide the relevant evidence.

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.

To find out if you are eligible for publicly funded maternity services, you may check your eligibility through the Ministry of Health at 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 partnership or 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. Funds to cover the cost of maternity health services must be additional to the funds you hold to support yourself in New Zealand and to purchase an outward ticket.

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 and chest X-ray certificates

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

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

Note that children under 11 years of age and pregnant women are not required to have an X-ray, unless a special report is needed.

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 time you intend to study 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 for seven months, and you wish to complete a six-month course. This will mean a stay in New Zealand of more than 12 months in total.*

Medical certificates you may provide

If you are required to provide a medical certificate (see below), other than the *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* there are two additional certificates.

If your parents are not New Zealand citizens or residents and you are required to provide a medical certificate, you must provide a *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)*.

If you are the dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or resident and you meet the requirements to be granted residence under the Dependent Child Category, you must provide a *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)*. However, if you were eligible for inclusion in your parents' application for a residence class visa but were not included in, or were withdrawn from, your parents' application, you must provide a *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)*.

You can find out further information about the Dependent Child Category from the *Residence Guide (INZ 1002)*. If you provide a *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1096)* and you do not qualify under the Dependent Child Category, you will be required to undergo another medical examination and provide a *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)*.

Completion of 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.

Submitting your medical and chest X-ray certificates

Refer to the leaflet Health Requirements Guide for further information.

Other domestic, exchange, PhD and MFAT funded New Zealand scholarship students should answer questions [C9](#) to [C14](#). Foreign fee-paying students must answer questions [C15](#) to [C22](#).

C9 You are not required to provide a medical certificate or *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* if you will be in New Zealand for less than six months.

C10 You must provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* less than three months old, unless the exception rules apply to you (see below), if including any time you have already spent in New Zealand you:

- C14**
- 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
 - have spent six consecutive months in a place that is not on the list of places with a low incidence of TB since the date of issue of any chest X-ray certificate that you may have submitted with a previous application; or
 - will be in New Zealand for more than 12 months, in which case you must also provide a *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* or a *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)*.

Only foreign fee-paying students (excluding PhD, exchange and MFAT funded New Zealand scholarship students) should answer questions [C15](#) to [C22](#).

C15 You are not required to provide a medical certificate or *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* if you will be in New Zealand for less than six months.

C16 You must provide a *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* if you answer 'yes' to any of the questions in [C16](#).

C17 You must provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* less than three months old, unless the exception rules apply to you (see below), if including any time you have already spent in New Zealand you:

- C19**
- will be in New Zealand for more than six months, and you are either from, or have spent more than three months visiting, a place that is not on the list of places with a low incidence of TB (see below); or
 - have spent six consecutive months in a place that is not on the list of places with a low incidence of TB since the date of issue of any chest X-ray certificate that you may have submitted with a previous application.

C21 You do not need to provide a *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* or *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* unless questions [C15](#) to [C19](#) indicate that you are required to do so, or you have been advised by Immigration New Zealand in writing to provide medical or chest X-ray certificates with this application.

C22 This declaration requires you to agree to, and confirm your understanding of, the requirement to hold insurance as a condition of your student visa and the implications of not holding insurance. Refer to 'Insurance requirements for foreign fee-paying students' earlier in this guide for further information about the insurance requirements.

COUNTRIES, AREAS AND TERRITORIES WITH A LOW INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Aland Islands | Croatia | Kuwait | Saint Lucia |
| Albania | Cuba | Latvia | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| American Samoa | Curacao | Lebanon | Samoa |
| Andorra | Cyprus | Liechtenstein | San Marino |
| Anguilla | Czech Republic | Lithuania | Saudi Arabia |
| Antarctica | Denmark | Luxembourg | Serbia |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Egypt | Maldives | Seychelles |
| Argentina | Estonia | Malta | Sint Maarten |
| Armenia | Falkland Islands | Martinique | Slovakia |
| Aruba | Faroe Islands | Mauritius | Slovenia |
| Australia | Finland | Mayotte | South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands |
| Austria | France | Mexico | Spain |
| Bahamas | French Guiana | Monaco | Suriname |
| Bahrain | French Polynesia | Montenegro | Svalbard and Jan Mayen |
| Barbados | Germany | Montserrat | Sweden |
| Belarus | Gibraltar | Netherlands | Switzerland |
| Belgium | Greece | New Caledonia | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Belize | Grenada | (New Zealand) | Togo |
| Bermuda | Guadeloupe | Norfolk Island | Tonga |
| Bonaire | Guam | North Macedonia | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Guatemala | Norway | Tunisia |
| Bouvet Island | Guernsey | Occupied Palestinian Territory | Turkey |
| British Indian Ocean Territory | Heard and McDonald Islands | Oman | Turks and Caicos |
| British Virgin Islands | Honduras | Panama | United Arab Emirates |
| Bulgaria | Hungary | Pitcairn Islands | United Kingdom |
| Cabo Verde | Iceland | Poland | United States of America |
| Canada | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Portugal | Uruguay |
| Cayman Islands | Iraq | Puerto Rico | United States Virgin Islands |
| Chile | Ireland | Qatar | Vanuatu |
| Christmas Island | Isle of Man | Reunion | Vatican City |
| Cocos (Keeling) Islands | Israel | Saint Barthelemy | Wallis and Futuna Islands |
| Colombia | Italy | Saint Eustatius & Saba | |
| Comoros | Jamaica | Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha | |
| Cook Islands | Japan | Saint Kitts and Nevis | |
| Costa Rica | Jersey | | |
| | Jordan | | |

Examples of who is and who is not required to provide a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096), if your intended stay in New Zealand is more than six months:

- 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 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 Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096).
- 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. This means that you must complete a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096).

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 *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* or *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)*, 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.

If you are a dependent child of an Essential Skills visa holder and you have provided a medical certificate in a previous visa application you do not need to provide one.

Exception rules for a chest X-ray certificate

If you are a person who is required to provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*, you do not need to provide one if you have provided a chest X-ray 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 certificate, and
- you have not spent six consecutive months, since the date of issue of any chest X-ray certificate that you may have submitted with a previous application, in a place not listed as having a low incidence of TB.

If you are a dependent child of an Essential Skills visa holder and you have provided a chest x-ray certificate in a previous visa application you do not need to provide one.

Completing Section D Your character

D3 If you have been removed, deported or excluded from any country, you may not meet character requirements and may not be eligible to be granted a visa. You must declare if you have been removed, deported or excluded from any country, excluding New Zealand.

D8 Police certificates you must provide

↓ If you are 17 years old or over and 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 your turned 17, unless you are exempt.

D9

Exemptions from providing a police certificate

If you are a person who is otherwise required to provide a police certificate, you do not need to provide one if you have provided a police certificate with a previous application, and that certificate was dated:

- less than 36 months ago, if you are a full-fee-paying or PhD student, or
- less than 24 months ago, if you are not a full-fee-paying or PhD student.

You are also exempt from having to provide a police certificate if you:

- are younger than 20, and
- held a student visa on your 17th birthday, and
- have held student visas (or interim visas with study conditions) continuously since turning 17.

Despite any exemptions, you must provide a police certificate for your application if an immigration officer requests one from you.

If you are a dependent child of an Essential Skills visa holder and you have provided a police certificate in a previous visa application you do not need to provide one.

Completing Section E Your visa

E1 Applying for a student visa

You should apply for a student visa if:

- you are outside New Zealand, and
- you want to come to New Zealand to study full-time for longer than three months, or
- you are already in New Zealand, and
- you want to study full-time.

Note that when you are granted a student visa it will usually include multiple-entry travel conditions, so you will be able to leave and re-enter New Zealand before you complete your programme of study.

Applying for a limited visa

Read 'Applying for a limited visa' in the General Information section before you apply for a limited visa.

You should apply for a limited visa if:

- you are outside New Zealand, and
- you need a limited visa to travel to New Zealand for an 'express purpose'.

You must list the reasons why you need a limited visa.

Applying for a further limited visa

Read 'Applying for a further limited visa' in the General Information section before deciding to apply for a further limited visa.

You can apply for a further limited visa if:

- you are in New Zealand, and
- you already hold a limited visa that will not last long enough for you to achieve the 'express purpose' that the visa was granted for.

You must list the reasons why you need a limited visa.

Assessing your application: bona fides

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 genuinely intend to study.

When we assess if you are a bona fide student, 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,
- 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.

For more information

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

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



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government