



Information on Limited Visas

A guide to limited visa entry instructions

This leaflet will give you information on applying for a limited visa to visit New Zealand or study in New Zealand. Read this guide before you apply for a limited visa.

What is a limited visa for?

We grant limited visas to:

- people who would not be accepted for another type of visa because of a risk that they might remain in New Zealand after their visa expires, or
- people who choose the limited visa as their preferred method of entry.

To get a limited visa you must choose to enter New Zealand for an 'express purpose' – a particular reason. See the section 'What is an express purpose?', below.

A limited visa allows you to travel to New Zealand. When you arrive in New Zealand an immigration officer will check your visa. If the officer is happy that you meet all the conditions on the visa, you will be allowed to enter New Zealand and stay in accordance with the conditions of your visa.

What is an express purpose?

When you apply for a limited visa you must tell us the reason that you want to come to New Zealand. This is the express purpose for which your visa is granted. When you have achieved your express purpose you must leave New Zealand, and you cannot apply for another type of visa while you are in New Zealand.

An express purpose might be:

- study as a full fee-paying student (generally only for short courses)
- attending a significant event (for example a wedding, funeral, conference, seminar, graduation, sporting event, anniversary, reunion, religious event or ceremony)
- medical treatment in New Zealand
- a family emergency such as illness or an accident that affects a relative or member of your family in New Zealand
- any specific purpose, other than employment, where the circumstances justify issuing a limited visa.

Who does not need a limited visa to enter New Zealand?

You do not need a visa if one of the following applies to you.

- You are a New Zealand citizen.
- You hold a New Zealand residence class visa.
- You are an Australian citizen.
- You already hold a temporary visa.

You do not need a visa, but you are required to hold an NZeTA, if:

- you hold a current Australian permanent residence visa or a current Australian resident return visa
- you intend to visit New Zealand for six months or less and you are a British citizen or British passport holder who has evidence of the right to live permanently in the United Kingdom
- you intend to visit New Zealand for three months or less and you are from a visa-waiver country.

See our website www.immigration.govt.nz for the list of visa-waiver countries and for information on how to request an NZeTA.

Can you apply for a limited visa?

Anyone can apply for a limited visa. However, before you apply you should understand the restrictions on your immigration rights.

Restrictions on limited visa holders

There are several restrictions on people who hold limited visas.

- You must leave New Zealand no later than the date that your visa expires.
- You may not apply for a different kind of visa while you are in New Zealand. You can apply for a further

limited visa, but it must be for the same express purpose.

- You may not request a special direction or a visa under section 61 of the Immigration Act 2009 while you are in New Zealand.
- You do not have any of the appeal rights that holders of other kinds of visas have, such as the right to appeal to the Immigration and Protection Tribunal.

If you are in New Zealand unlawfully after your limited visa expires you will be liable for immediate deportation from New Zealand.

Can you be refused a visa?

Your application may be refused if:

- you are not of an acceptable standard of health and character
- an immigration officer believes that you are likely to remain in New Zealand unlawfully or likely to breach the conditions of your visa
- Sections 15 and 16 of the Immigration Act 2009 (see below) apply to you and you do not have an exemption.

Sections 15 and 16 of the Immigration Act

Sections 15 and 16 of the Immigration Act apply to you if:

- you have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for five years or more (this applies even if any of your offences have later been taken off the record)
- you were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more in the past 10 years
- you are subject to a period of prohibition on entry to New Zealand
- you have been deported from any country
- you are suspected of being likely to constitute a danger to New Zealand's security or public order
- you are believed to be associated with an organisation or group with criminal objectives, and for that or any other reason considered to be a threat to the public interest or public order
- you are believed to be likely to engage in or facilitate the commission of an act of terrorism
- you are believed to be likely to commit an offence against the Crimes Act 1961 or the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

How do you apply for a limited visa?

If you want to apply for a limited visa, and your express purpose is to study in New Zealand, you must complete the form *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)*. The form and the *Student Visa Guide (INZ 1013)* will list all of the requirements you must meet and evidence you must supply with your application.

If you want to apply for a limited visa for any purpose other than to study or work, you must complete the form *Visitor Visa Application (INZ 1017)*. The form and the *Visitor Visa Guide (INZ 1018)* will list all of the requirements you must meet and evidence you must supply with your application.

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 intend a genuine temporary stay for a lawful purpose.

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. Along 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.

How long can you stay?

The length of your stay in New Zealand will depend on how long you need to achieve your express purpose. When you have achieved your express purpose you will have to leave New Zealand.

Further limited visas

You can apply for a further limited visa if:

- you already have a limited visa, and
- you need more time to achieve the express purpose for which the original visa was granted.

You must allow enough time for Immigration New Zealand to make a decision on your application before your current limited visa expires. There is no guarantee that your application will be approved.

If your limited visa does expire, your application for a further limited visa does not make your stay in New Zealand lawful. Making another application does not give you the right to remain in New Zealand while your application is being considered. You must have a valid visa at all times while you are in New Zealand.

For more information

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

- see our website www.immigration.govt.nz
- telephone our call centre on 0508 558 855 (within New Zealand)
- contact one of Immigration New Zealand's offices.

Immigration New Zealand has offices in Apia, Beijing, Mumbai, Nuku'alofa and Suva.

Our New Zealand offices are located in Auckland, Henderson, Manukau, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Porirua and Christchurch.

You can also contact your nearest New Zealand Embassy or New Zealand High Commission.