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June 2025

# Application for Recognised Seasonal Employer Status

Applying for Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) status

**INZ 1140** 

Please download a copy of this form from our website each time to ensure you get the current version. www.immigration.govt.nz

#### Information for employers

The Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme is intended to help the horticulture and viticulture industries to plan for, and meet, their seasonal labour requirements at times where labour demand exceeds the available New Zealand workforce.

The term 'overseas worker' is used throughout this form. This term has the same meaning as 'non-New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder worker' as used in RSE Instructions.

# Eligible seasonal workers

Employers who have gained RSE status can apply for an Agreement to Recruit (ATR). An ATR allows employers to recruit a set number of workers who are not New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders, to plant, maintain, harvest, and pack crops in the horticulture and viticulture industries. An ATR may be granted where the Ministry of Social Development confirms there are not enough New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders available and willing to fill the employer's seasonal labour requirements.

#### What is an RSE?

An RSE is a New Zealand employer who has had an application for recognition as an RSE approved by Immigration New Zealand (INZ). RSE status is only granted where an employer meets specified standards, particularly in regard to recruitment and employment practice, and has satisfied INZ that they will continue to meet these standards throughout their period as an RSE.

To gain recognition as an RSE an employer must, among other things, be financially viable, comply with relevant New Zealand Instructions and legislation, and have good employment practices.

RSE status will be granted for two years for successful first-time applicants. Prior to RSE status expiring, employers are required to re-apply for RSE status if they wish to apply to recruit more overseas workers.

Obtaining RSE status is step one in a four-step process to employ overseas seasonal labour in the horticulture and viticulture industries.

#### Applications for RSE status

Applications for RSE status must be made on this form and must be accompanied by any documents which are required to support the application and the required fee. See our *Fees Guide (INZ 1028)* for more details.

Send your completed application to:

Recognised Seasonal Employer Unit Immigration New Zealand PO Box 50728 Porirua 5240

To speed up the application process, please supply all requested information and documents when you lodge your application.



### **RSE Instructions process**

#### STEP 1: Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE)

Employer applies for recognition as an RSE. Validity: two years. A further application must be made prior to the end of this period. (RSE status may be granted for three years for subsequent applications.)

#### STEP 2: Agreement to Recruit (ATR)

**Employer** with RSE status applies for an agreement to recruit workers from offshore.

Validity: one seasonal period.

#### STEP 3: Visa application

Prospective worker with an offer of employment linked to an ATR applies for a visa offshore.

Validity: **seven months** maximum in any 11-month period.

However, if the applicant is a citizen of Tuvalu or Kiribati, and is normally resident in Tuvalu or Kiribati, they may be granted a visa for a maximum stay of nine months.







#### Step 4: Following season

Options for the overseas worker to return to New Zealand next season if conditions are met, and:

- they have complied with all immigration requirements, and
- there is a continued labour shortage present, and
- a new Agreement to Recruit is obtained.

#### **RSE** requirements

To be granted RSE status, applicants must demonstrate that they:

- are a New Zealand employer (as defined in RSE Instructions), and
- are in a sound financial position, and
- have human resource policies and practices that are of a high standard, promote the welfare of employees, and include a dispute resolution process, and
- have shown a commitment to training New Zealanders, and to recruiting New Zealanders, and
- have good workplace practices, including a history of compliance with all immigration and employment laws such as the Immigration Act, the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act, the Minimum Wage Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Employment Relations Act, the Holidays Act, and the Wages Protection Act.
- are able to meet the further requirements set out below.

Applicants must consent to INZ seeking information from other services of the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, the Ministry of Social Development, Inland Revenue, the Accident Compensation Corporation and any relevant unions, agencies, and industry bodies concerning the applicant's compliance with New Zealand employment, health and safety, and immigration laws.

Where such consent is not given, an application for RSE status may be declined.

INZ must be satisfied that employers will:

- take all reasonable steps to recruit and train New Zealanders for available positions before seeking to recruit workers who are not New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders, and
- not use a recruitment agent who seeks a commission from workers in exchange for securing an employment agreement, to recruit overseas workers, and
- pay for half the return airfare between New Zealand and the worker's country of residence for each worker recruited under RSE Instructions (or half the return airfare between New Zealand and Nadi, Fiji, for workers from Kiribati and Tuvalu), and
- comply with the requirements for employment agreements including the minimum remuneration, sick leave and pay deduction requirements as set out in RSE Instructions, and
- make available appropriate pastoral care (including food, shelter, clothing, and access to health services and suitable accommodation) to their overseas workers at a reasonable cost during the period of employment, and
- · promptly notify INZ if any overseas workers breach the conditions of their visa, and
- promptly notify INZ of any disputes with holders of RSE limited visas that have resulted in the suspension or dismissal of the worker, and
- not engage the services of a contractor who does not have good workplace practices and who employs overseas workers, and

- have direct responsibility for the daily work output and supervision of overseas workers recruited under these Instructions (unless the exception to this requirement described below applies), and
- pay to MBIE any costs reasonably incurred by MBIE, to a maximum of NZ\$3000 per worker, in relation to the repatriation (including any maintenance and accommodation) of any overseas worker who requires repatriation as a result of a breach of the terms and conditions of their RSE limited visa, and
- disclose, on request, to representatives of MBIE all payments received from RSE workers (including payments for airfares, accommodation and other pastoral care)
- take all reasonable steps to find full time work for the duration of an RSE worker's visa, including by finding work opportunities with other RSE employers if necessary.

Under RSE Instructions, INZ is required to be satisfied that all of the information and documents included in an application for RSE status are genuine and accurate, and may take any steps it considers necessary to verify such information or documents, including interviews. INZ may also, where necessary, conduct a site visit of an employer's premises. Where any information is identified by the employer as commercially sensitive, is provided to INZ in confidence, and INZ considers the disclosure of that information is necessary for the determination of the application, INZ will seek the consent of the employer for the disclosure of that information.

Note: for the purposes of these Instructions, the return airfare is defined as the total cost of travel from the worker's country of residence (or from Nadi (Fiji) for a worker who is a citizen of Tuvalu or Kiribati) to New Zealand and back, including all associated taxes and fees.

#### Direct responsibility and supervision exception

An RSE does not have to be directly responsible for the daily work output and supervision of overseas workers when the workers are temporarily working on the worksite or worksites of another RSE who has agreed to take on these responsibilities. We call this second RSE the recipient RSE. The RSE who employed the workers under RSE Instructions (the first RSE) remains accountable for all other responsibilities under RSE Instructions. We only allow this arrangement if:

- the total period of work on the recipient RSE's worksite/worksites is of one month or less;
- the recipient RSE's worksite/worksites is within the region specified in the first RSE's ATR; or
- the worksite or worksites of the recipient RSE is within another region where the workers are temporarily relocating for the purposes of repatriation; and
- the first RSE has notified INZ in advance of the arrangement.

#### Agreement to Recruit

If the business is granted RSE status, the employer may then apply for an ATR before recruiting overseas workers. To apply for an ATR, a completed *Application for an Agreement to Recruit under the Recognised Seasonal Employer Instructions (INZ* 1141) must be submitted to INZ, including the required supporting evidence. If an ATR is granted, it will allow an employer to recruit a specified number of overseas workers to work in specific jobs with the RSE.

#### Who is eligible to work for an RSE?

An RSE that has been granted an ATR may make an offer of employment to workers from the Pacific nations listed below (within the conditions of the ATR). Workers from these nations who are 18 or over may be granted a limited visa if they hold an acceptable job offer, hold a return ticket to their home country, meet health and character requirements, and meet the requirements for a bona fide applicant.

	RSE Instructions Pacific Nations	
Federated States of Micronesia	Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Fiji	Republic of Marshall Islands	Tuvalu
Kiribati	Samoa	Vanuatu
Nauru	Solomon Islands	
Palau	Timor-Leste	

In circumstances where an RSE cannot recruit overseas workers from the list of nations listed in the table above, they may be granted an agreement to recruit overseas workers from other nations if the RSE:

- · was unsuccessful in recruitment after reasonable attempts to recruit from the nations listed above, or
- has pre-established employment relationships with workers of other nationalities, or
- can provide reasonable grounds why it is not feasible to recruit from the Pacific nations listed above.

When assessing whether an RSE has made reasonable attempts to recruit from the eligible Pacific nations, INZ will require evidence that attempts to recruit have been made, such as a written communication from a national RSE officer stating that they have been consulted and agree that employing workers from the Pacific nations is not feasible in the circumstances.

INZ will assess whether a business has a pre-established employment relationship. Such factors considered are the number of workers employed from each country relative to the total number of workers, the number of previous occasions on which workers have been recruited from these countries, the length of time for which these workers were employed, and whether the RSE has made a substantial investment in establishing formal training opportunities or recruitment processes with workers or communities within these countries.

Any ATR application to recruit outside the Pacific nations listed above must be accompanied by a written request stating the country/countries that the RSE wants to recruit from and supporting evidence documenting why they have not been able to recruit workers from the Pacific.

#### RSE status may be declined or rescinded

An application for RSE status will be declined if an employer does not meet the criteria for RSE status, or if INZ considers that giving the employer RSE status would create unacceptable risks to the integrity of New Zealand's immigration or employment laws or policies.

RSE status may be rescinded if there is any breach of RSE or ATR requirements, or commitments made by the RSE employer in an undertaking to INZ in relations to the approved class of worker border exceptions, other than of a minor nature, or if INZ considers an employer's conduct has created an unacceptable risk to the integrity of New Zealand's immigration or employment laws or policies, or if the employer has breached the obligations of any undertaking made to INZ, other than of a minor nature, as part of enabling an RSE limited visa holder to benefit from a special direction. Where an employer's RSE status has been rescinded, INZ will not approve any further applications for RSE status from the employer that are made within one year from the date their RSE status was rescinded.

#### Applications for reconsideration

There is no statutory right of appeal against a decision by INZ to decline an application for RSE status; however, INZ will reconsider a decision to decline RSE status if the employer provides new information and does so promptly. Any application for reconsideration must be made in writing. INZ's decision on a reconsideration assessment is final.

#### Checklist of required documents

Section I: Evidence required includes a checklist of the documents that are required to be submitted with this application form.

# Lodging this application

# Check before submitting your application.

Have you:

- read Section J: Declaration, and signed and dated the application form?
- enclosed the application fee, or authorised a credit card payment in Section K: Paying your application fee?
- checked that all supporting documents required by this form (see Section I: Evidence required), or indicated by you as being attached, are either attached or enclosed for submission with the application?

Send your completed application to:

Recognised Seasonal Employer Unit Immigration New Zealand PO Box 50728 Porirua 5240

# Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007

Under the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007 it is an offence to provide immigration advice without being licensed or exempt. If your immigration adviser is not licensed when they should be, INZ will either refuse to accept or decline your Request for Approval in Principle. For more information and to view the register of licensed advisers, go to the Immigration Advisers Authority website www.iaa.govt.nz or email info@iaa.govt.nz.

#### Work entitlement

It is an offence under the Immigration Act 2009 to employ a person who is not entitled to work in New Zealand. One way for employers to avoid committing this offence is to check a person's entitlement to work through Immigration New Zealand's online VisaView system. For more information or to register please visit **www.immigration.govt.nz/visaview**. Disclosure of information through VisaView is authorised by legislation.

Tear off and retain pages 1 to 4 if you wish.

OFFICE USE ONLY	Client no.:	Date received: /	/ Application no

June 2025 INZ 1140



# Application for Recognised Seasonal Employer Status

Applying for Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) status

Se	ection A Employer's details
AII a	applicants must complete this section.
A1	Employer's name (eg name of business)
	New Zealand Business Number (if applicable) For help search: www.nzbn.govt.nz
A2	Employer's legal status (eg limited liability company, sole trader)
<b>A3</b>	Name of person completing this application for RSE status Family/last name
	Given/first name(s)
	Your title or position in the business
	Do you have authority to represent the business that is applying for RSE status? Yes No  Do you have authority to enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the business that is applying for RSE status?  Yes No
<b>A</b> 4	Does the business currently have RSE status? Yes No Go to question A7
<b>A5</b>	Provide the business's current RSE number
A6	On what date did you submit your previous RSE application? \[ DD ]/ \[ MM ]/ \[ YYYY ]
<b>A</b> 7	Has the business ever had RSE status rescinded?
	☐ Yes When was RSE status rescinded? ☐ No



<b>8</b> A	Employer's contact details for any communications about this application:	
	Name of contact person (if different from above)	ı
	Address	
	Telephone (daytime)	
	Telephone (evening)	
	Fax	
	Telephone (mobile)	
	Email	
	Business website address	
Se	ection B Employer's business details	
Pro	vide the following details about the business.	
<b>B</b> 1	Date the business was established DD / MM / YYYY	
B2	Number of New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holders who are permanent full-time employees	
B3	Estimated maximum number of full-time workers the business is likely to require during a seasonal peak	
B4	Estimated number of overseas workers the business is likely to recruit under the RSE category. ( <b>Do not</b> include temporary non-New Zealand workers that you intend to recruit under other visa categories.)	
B5	Does the business currently pay workers from overseas and New Zealand workers the applicable market rate?  Yes No	
В6	What is the core area of business (eg strictly planting crops, crop maintenance, harvesting crops, packing crop	s)?
B7	Does the business perform work for other businesses in the horticulture or viticulture industries under a cont for service?	ract
	Yes No Go to B9	
B8	Does the business have direct responsibility (including responsibility for work output) for the workers that are part of the contracted service?	<u>!</u>
	☐ Yes ☐ No	

nstructions? Please tick all that  Planting  Maintaining		Packing
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pe chosen).	i crop size the bi	usiness grows or deals with (if applicable, more than one car
Crop	Tick	Crop size (hectares)
Avocados		
Flowers and foliage		
Fruit – berryfruit		
Fruit – citrus grapefruit		
Fruit – citrus lemons		
Fruit – citrus mandarins		
Fruit – citrus oranges		
Fruit – citrus tangeloes		
Fruit – kiwifruit gold		
Fruit – kiwifruit green		
Fruit – pipfruit apples		
Fruit – pipfruit nashi		
Fruit – pipfruit pears		
Fruit – subtropical		
Fruit – summer apricots		
Fruit – summer cherries		
Fruit – summer nectarines		
Fruit – summer plums		
Fruit – other (specify)		
Grapes – table		
Grapes – wine		
Hops		
Olives		
Vegetables – asparagus		
Vegetables – onions		
Vegetables – potatoes		
Vegetables – squash		
Vegetables – sweetcorn		
Vegetables – other (specify)		
Other (specify)	П	

	e further details in the table belo	ow. No		
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pandemic and w	vere transferred to work for othe	er employers		
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Is the busine	ess registered with the Cor	mpanies Office?		
Yes Provide the Companies Office registration number				
□ No				
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	•	employees).		
	de the name and contact d	employees).		

Se	ction E Human resources
ΕΊ	Who normally has overall responsibility for human resources (HR) or personnel matters in the business?  Name and position
E2	Who is normally responsible for staff recruitment in the business? (Eg yourself, HR manager, local managers, recruitment agency.)
Se	Ction F Compliance with health and safety, employment and immigration instructions and procedures
F1	Has the business ever been found to be in breach of employment or labour law by the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE), or by any New Zealand tribunal, authority or court? (This includes any breaches of the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act, the Minimum Wage Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Holidays Act, and the Wages Protection Act.)
	Yes Provide details below, including type of breach, date of notification by MBIE or date of tribunal, authority or court decision, and penalty imposed or remedial action required. If full details are set out in an attached document please state this.  No
F2	Has the business ever been found to be in breach of New Zealand's immigration legislation (either the Immigration Act 1987 or 2009)?
	Yes Provide details below, including type of breach, date of notification by INZ, or date of court decision if convicted, penalty imposed or remedial action required. If details are set out in an attached document please state this.  No

Se	ction G Employer requirements
G1	If granted RSE status, will the business take all reasonable steps to recruit and train New Zealanders for available positions before seeking to recruit overseas workers?  Yes No
G2	If granted RSE status, does the business intend to use a recruitment agent to recruit overseas workers? $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
G3	If granted RSE status, will the business ensure that they will not use a recruitment agent, to recruit overseas workers, who seeks a commission from workers in exchange for securing an employment agreement?  Yes  No
G4	If granted RSE status, will the business pay for half the return airfare between New Zealand and the worker's country of residence for each worker recruited under RSE Instructions (or half the return airfare between New Zealand and Nadi, Fiji, for workers from Kiribati and Tuvalu)?  Yes No
G5	If granted RSE status, will the business comply with the requirements for employment agreements including the minimum remuneration, sick leave and pay deduction requirements as set out in RSE Instructions? $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
G6	If granted RSE status, will the business make available appropriate pastoral care (including food, clothing, access to health services and suitable accommodation) to their overseas workers at a reasonable cost during the period of employment?
_	☐ Yes ☐ No
G7	If granted RSE status, will the business promptly notify INZ of any overseas workers who breach the conditions of their visas?  Yes No
G8	If granted RSE status, will the business promptly notify INZ of any disputes with holders of RSE limited visas that have resulted in the suspension or dismissal of the worker?  Yes No
<b>G</b> 9	If granted RSE status, will the business ensure it does not engage the services of a contractor who employs overseas workers and does not have good workplace practices?
G10	Yes No  If granted RSE status, will the business have direct responsibility for the daily work output and supervision of overseas workers recruited under these Instructions (unless the exception to this requirement described on page 3 applies)?  Yes No
G11	If granted RSE status, will the business pay to MBIE any costs reasonably incurred by MBIE, to a maximum of NZ\$3000 per worker, in relation to the repatriation (including any maintenance and accommodation) of any overseas worker who requires repatriation as a result of a breach of the terms and conditions of their RSE limited visa?
G12	Yes No  If granted RSE status, will the business disclose, on request, to representatives of MBIE, all payments received from RSE workers (including payments for airfares, accommodation and other pastoral care)?  Yes No
G13	If granted RSE status, will the business take all reasonable steps to find full time work for the duration of an RSE worker's visa, including by finding opportunities with other RSE employers if necessary. $\hfill Yes \hfill No$

# Section H Further information

Under RSE Instructions, INZ may seek information concerning the business's compliance with New Zealand employment, health and safety, and immigration laws from: other services of MBIE, the Ministry of Social Development, Inland Revenue, the Accident Compensation Corporation, WorkSafe New Zealand, and any relevant unions, agencies, industry bodies (including any seasonal coordinators engaged by industry bodies) and regional groups of employer and employee representatives (ie governance groups).

Note: If you do not answer 'Yes' to questions H and H2, your application for RSE status may be declined.

H1 On behalf of the business, do you consent to INZ seeking information concerning the business's compliance with New Zealand's employment, health and safety, and immigration laws from the agencies listed above?

Yes No

On behalf of the business, do you consent to INZ conducting a site visit (to assist in determining this application for RSE and monitor compliance) to all premises the business utilises?

Yes No

H3 If Recognised Seasonal Employer status is granted to the business, on behalf of the business, do you consent to INZ disclosing the business's name and contact details on a publicly-available database for RSE Instructions purposes?

Yes No

H4 On behalf of the business, do you consent to INZ sharing any relevant information collected in this application with the agencies listed above for RSE Instructions purposes?

Yes No

# Section I Evidence required

Provide the following evidence that is required to assist in assessing this application for RSE status.

Evidence required	Check
Business record and financial position	
A signed statement of credit worthiness from you, confirming the business is financially viable and that you know of no adverse credit matters affecting the business.	
A statement from a chartered accountant confirming the business is financially sound and is able to meet all outstanding contingent liabilities.	
An authenticated set of accounts showing a sound financial position.	
Human resource policies and practice	
A written statement documenting any changes to human resource policies and practice since the previous application, or confirmation that there have been no changes.	
A copy of the business's human resource manual or guidelines.	
A written statement detailing the employer's human resource policies and practices.	
Evidence of any pastoral care that the business currently provides to overseas workers and details of what pastoral care the business currently provides to overseas workers recruited under RSE Instructions.	
Evidence that the business pays New Zealand and overseas workers the market rate.	
Good workplace practices	
A written statement documenting any changes to health and safety policies and practice since the previous application, or confirmation that there have been no changes.	
A copy of the business' health and safety policies and procedures.	
Commitment to training	
Evidence of an employer's commitment to training New Zealand citizens and residence class visa holders.	
Commitment to recruitment	
Evidence of an employer's commitment to recruiting New Zealand citizens and residence class visa holders.	
Breach of immigration instructions	
If the business has previously breached any of the requirements of immigration instructions (regardless of whether or not that resulted in RSE status being rescinded), provide evidence that both the cause and consequence of the breach have been remedied.	

# Section J

# Declaration

I understand the notes and questions in this form and I declare that the information given about the business is true and correct.

I understand that if I make any false statements, or provide any false or misleading information, or have changed or altered this form in any way, this application for Recognised Seasonal Employer status may be declined, and that I may also be committing an offence under section 342 of the Immigration Act 2009 and may be liable to prosecution.

I understand that I am required to inform INZ about any relevant changes to the circumstances of the business that occur after I lodge this application and during any period that the business holds RSE status.

I understand that I am required to advise INZ, at the earliest convenience, if any overseas workers on a limited visa breach the conditions of their visa.

I declare that there are no matters or warrants outstanding, or investigations of any kind, which could have any current or future effect on the ability of the business to honour its obligations as an employer under Recognised Seasonal Employer Instructions.

I authorise INZ to make any enquiries it deems necessary in respect of the documents or information provided in respect of this application, and to share information provided about me or the business with other government agencies (including overseas agencies) to the extent necessary to make decisions about whether I qualify as a recognised employer under Recognised Seasonal Employer Instructions.

Note: Where any information is identified by the employer as commercially sensitive and is provided in confidence to INZ, and INZ considers that disclosure of that information is necessary for the processing of this application, it will seek the consent of the employer for the disclosure of that information

I accept that any advice given to me by INZ before lodging this application was intended to assist me, and that acting on that advice does not mean that this application to obtain RSE status will be approved.

I understand that if this application for Recognised Seasonal Employer status is approved I will be required to submit an Agreement to Recruit (ATR) application before recruiting overseas workers, and at this time I will be required to provide further details of how the business will meet the conditions and requirements in the Recognised Seasonal Employer Instructions.

I understand that the information provided in this form may be used by MBIE for in-house research purposes.

I agree to comply with reasonable requests from MBIE for additional information that may be required for research purposes, ie by taking part in a survey.

This form must be signed by a person who has authority to make representations and enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the business.

Job title or position	
Name	
	D-+- DD  MM   YYYY
Signature of applicant	Date DD / MM / YYYY

# About the information you provide

Immigration New Zealand collects the information about you on this form to decide whether your business is eligible to be approved Recognised Seasonal Employer status under Recognised Seasonal Employer Instructions.

The address of Immigration New Zealand is PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, New Zealand. Do not send your application to this address.

Collecting the information is authorised by the Immigration Act 2009 and the Immigration Regulations made under that Act. You do not have to provide the information, but if you do not we are likely to decline your application.

Immigration New Zealand may also share the information you have provided with other government agencies that are entitled to it by law, or with other agencies (as you have agreed in the declaration).

You have the right to see the information we hold about you or the business and to have any of it corrected if you think it is necessary.

#### For more information

If you have questions about completing the form:

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

# Section K Paying your application fee

To find out how much to pay, payment methods, where to send your application, and how long a decision may take, see www.immigration.govt.nz/fees.

Your application fee and immigration levy	_
Amount you are paying:	
Amount	
Currency (e.g. NZD, USD, RMB)	
Application number (office use only)	
Credit/debit card details	
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa	
Name of cardholder	
Card number	
CVC/CVV number	_
Note: Your CVC/CVV number is the three-digit number found on the signature strip on the back of your credit/debit card.	
Expiry date DD / MM / YYYY	
Signature of cardholder	
Date DD / MM / YYYY	



