



NEW ZEALAND  
IMMIGRATION

# Visiting New Zealand

A GUIDE FOR SPORTSPEOPLE  
AND THEIR SUPPORT STAFF



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INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT  
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[immigration.govt.nz](https://immigration.govt.nz)

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New Zealand Government

## Visitor Visas

New Zealand has a special policy that allows sports people, match and tournament officials, and accredited media personnel to enter as visitors. There are different visa requirements for visitors to New Zealand that depend on your length of stay and your nationality. If you're from a country that does not require prior visa approval, you can travel visa free to New Zealand and apply for a visitor visa on arrival.

British citizens and other British passport holders who can produce evidence of the right to reside permanently in the UK can visit New Zealand for up to six months without a visa.

Australian citizens or holders of a current resident return visa issued by the Commonwealth of Australia do not need a visa.

## Visiting New Zealand for up to three months to take part in sporting events

If you are a sports person on tour or competing in a tournament, and the country you are from is on the visa free country list, you can travel to New Zealand without a visa and receive a visitor visa on arrival. This also applies to support staff, match and tournament officials, and media and broadcasting associated with the event. Sports people and support staff entering for less than three months from countries that are not on the visa free country list must apply for a visitor visa to enter New Zealand.

## Who must apply for a work visa?

Some people entering New Zealand for sporting purposes require a work visa. If you fall into one of these categories, or are unsure if you require a work visa please refer to the *Work Visa Guide (INZ 1016)*, [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) or contact your nearest Immigration New Zealand office for more information.

**Entering New Zealand for a tour or tournament for more than three months:**

You must complete the Work Visa Application Form and provide the same information as outlined below in this guide.

**Taking up a paid position in a New Zealand sports club as a player or coach:**

You must complete the Work Visa Application Form and have a written offer of employment from that club.

## Visa free country list

Andorra	Argentina	Austria
Australia	Bahrain	Belguim
Brazil	Brunei	Bulgaria
Canada	Chile	Cyprus
Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia*
Finland	France	Germany
Greece*****	Hong Kong**	Hungary
Iceland	Ireland	Israel
Italy	Japan	Korea (South)
Kuwait	Latvia*	Liechtenstein
Lithuania*	Luxembourg	Malaysia
Malta	Mexico	Monaco
Netherlands	Norway	Oman
Poland	Portugal***	Qatar
Romania	San Marino	Saudi Arabia
Singapore	Slovak Republic	Slovenia
South Africa	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland	Taiwan	United Arab Emirates
United States of America****	United Kingdom	Uruguay
Vatican City		

- \* Visa waiver does not apply to people travelling on an alien's (non-citizen's) passport issued by these countries.
- \*\* Residents of Hong Kong must be travelling on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or British National (Overseas) passports to qualify for visa free status.
- \*\*\* Portuguese passport holders must also have the right to live permanently in Portugal.
- \*\*\*\* Including residents of US territories.
- \*\*\*\*\* Greek passport holders whose passports were issued on and after 1 January 2006. (Greek passports issued before 1 January 2006 are not acceptable for travel after 1 January 2007).

## Applying for a Visitor Visa to attend sporting events in New Zealand

You must apply for a visitor visa if your country is not on the list of visa free countries. You must apply before you leave your home country and receive your visa before arriving in New Zealand.

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

The fastest and easiest way to apply for a visitor visa is online. Once you have your documents prepared, it should take less than 15 minutes to complete the online application form. If you are travelling as part of a group you should use the paper form instead.

To apply online, go to **[www.immigration.govt.nz/VisitorApply](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/VisitorApply)**

Each completed application form must be submitted to Immigration New Zealand with the following:

- › the applicant's current valid passport
- › two passport sized photographs
- › the appropriate fee and immigration levy
- › evidence of accommodation, funds and maintenance in New Zealand or evidence of sponsorship
- › evidence of previous overseas travel history, including countries and dates of sporting events you have attended
- › past and current employment records with a reference letter from current employer
- › invitation letter from the tournament organiser
- › confirmed travel itinerary and evidence of onward travel
- › applicants under 16 years of age travelling to New Zealand alone or with one parent only, should submit a consent letter from both parents.

Athletes must also supply:

- › evidence of national and international recognition in the particular sport
- › evidence of national and international participation and achievement in the particular sport.

Coaches, support staff, and match and tournament officials must provide:

- › details of their support or official role and how their support functions are essential to the tour
- › evidence of their qualifications for their support or official role
- › evidence of previous involvement in support or official roles for the specified sports team or athletes.

Media and broadcasting personnel must supply a letter of accreditation from the international governing body or the New Zealand tournament organiser.

Referees and umpires must also supply:

- › evidence of their qualification for the role
- › a written invitation to come to New Zealand to referee or umpire.

### ■ **Funds for your stay**

You must have sufficient funds or sponsorship for the duration of your stay. This maintenance requirement is assessed at NZ\$400 per month if accommodation is pre-paid or provided by your sponsor and at NZ\$1,000 per month if pre-paid accommodation is not available.

### ■ **Health requirements**

You are expected to be in good health for the period of your stay in New Zealand.

While in New Zealand, you must not require extensive medical treatment or care, or cause others to become ill. Appropriate health insurance is recommended in case you require hospital or medical treatment.

An immigration officer may request you to undergo medical and X-ray examinations if there are any indications that you may not meet the health provisions.

### ■ **Character requirements**

You must be of good character and not pose a potential security risk.

If you have a criminal conviction or are currently being investigated for an offence, a police certificate will be required along with a personal statement about the incident so that this can be considered for a character waiver. An immigration officer may also request you to provide a police certificate if there are indications that you may not meet the character provisions.

### ■ **Evidence of being a genuine visitor**

All visitor visa applicants are required to be what is legally termed a bona fide visitor to New Zealand.

A bona fide applicant for temporary entry is a person who genuinely intends to stay in New Zealand temporarily for a lawful purpose and in the opinion of an immigration officer is not likely to remain in New Zealand unlawfully, or to breach the conditions of any visa granted, or to be unable to leave or be removed from New Zealand.

You must show that you genuinely intend to stay temporarily in New Zealand and for a lawful purpose. In assessing this, the immigration officer will take into account your personal circumstances including, but not limited to:

- › the strength of any family ties in your home country and New Zealand
- › the nature of any personal financial, employment or other commitments in your home country and New Zealand
- › any circumstances that may discourage you from returning to your home country when any visa expires.



### ■ **Additional requirements**

In some circumstances, an immigration officer may request additional information. This may include requests for additional documentation and/or a personal interview.

Meeting all of the mandatory requirements for lodging an application for a temporary visa will not guarantee that a visa will be issued.

### ■ **Where to lodge your completed visa application**

Send your completed application form and documents to your nearest Immigration New Zealand office or Visa Application Centre

See [www.immigration.govt.nz/fees](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/fees) to find out where to send your application and for the fee and immigration levy in your local currency and acceptable methods of payment.

### ■ **Start the process early**

It is recommended that the application process is started well in advance so that there are no last minute delays. In some cases, the process will take a few weeks; in other cases, it may take much longer.

### ■ **Organisers of team travel**

Team organisers are responsible for ensuring that all applications are lodged at the same time, with all the information required for each visa applicant including valid passports, fees, immigration levy and supporting documents.

Please ensure each applicant attaches a copy of the letter of invitation to their application.

### ■ **Australian visas**

If you intend to visit or transit through Australia as part of your broader travel plans, you will need to obtain an Australian visa.

For further information you should visit the Australian immigration website [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au).





