



NEW ZEALAND
IMMIGRATION

Immigration Factsheets

Culturally arranged marriages

August 2018

- Immigration New Zealand accepts visitor visa applications allowing entry to New Zealand for the purpose of a culturally arranged marriage with a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder. Typically, such marriages follow an identified cultural tradition where the arrangements for the marriage, including the initial selection of the people to be married, are made by people who are not parties to the marriage e.g. the couples' parents.
- INZ considers these applications very carefully and we need to be satisfied by the applicant and their intended New Zealand partner (either resident or citizen) showing through submitting evidence and/or at interview that:
 - They genuinely intend to marry within three months of the applicant's arrival in New Zealand;
 - The marriage follows an identified cultural tradition;
 - It is intended the marriage will be maintained on a long term exclusive basis;
 - The intended New Zealand partner supports the application, is an eligible supporting partner, and meets the applicable character requirements; and
 - There is no legal impediment to the intended marriage.
- Once married, the visitor visa holder is able to apply for a further visitor visa or a work visa as the partner of a New Zealand citizen or resident and for residence under Partnership Category. It is important to note that for residence to be granted the couple must be able to demonstrate that they have been living together in a genuine and stable relationship as partners for a minimum of 12 months.
- The table below shows the number of visitor visas approved under 'entry for the purpose of a culturally arranged marriage' in the last few years. It's important to note that there may be other people who have entered into a culturally arranged marriage with a New Zealand citizen or resident who did not apply under this category (i.e. they applied under a general partnership or visitor visa):

Financial year (1 July to 30 June)	Number of people approved	Number of people declined
2013/14	90	126
2014/15	91	144
2015/16	60	154
2016/17	52	112
2017/18	58	128