

VISA PAK ISSUE 228 — 14 SEPTEMBER 2015

FUNDS OR SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS UNDER SPECIAL VISITOR CATEGORIES

This advice provides clarification to staff around the requirements for applicants under special visitor categories. Recently, Operations Support has received queries from stakeholders wanting to know whether applicants under certain special visitor categories need to meet the generic funds or sponsorship requirements at V2.20. It is important that offices are consistent in how they treat these applicants.

General visitor visa requirements

Immigration instructions V2.1 list the requirements that visitor visa applicants need to meet to be granted a visitor visa. In addition to the bona fide and health and character requirements, visitor visa applicants need to meet the funds or sponsorship requirements at V2.20 and, if applicable, the onward travel requirements at V2.25. They must also be coming to New Zealand for a lawful purpose.

V2.1 Visitor visa requirements

To be granted a visitor visa applicants must:

- a. meet the requirements under Generic Temporary Entry instructions for:
 - i. lodging an application for a temporary entry class visa as set out at [E4](#); and
 - ii. bona fide applicants as set out at [E5](#); and
 - iii. health and character as set out at [A4](#) and [A5](#); and
- b. meet the funds or sponsorship requirements (see [V2.20](#)); and
- c. meet the onward travel requirements, if relevant (see [V2.25](#)); and
- d. be coming to New Zealand for a lawful purpose.

Any visitor visa applicants, even those coming under a special visitor category, need to meet the general visitor visa requirements listed under V2.1 (including the funds or sponsorship requirements at V2.20 and the onward travel requirements at V2.25), unless these instructions or the relevant special visitor category instructions say they are exempt.

Notable examples

Some common examples are outlined below:

1. A dependent child of a New Zealand citizen who has applied for a visitor visa under the special visitor category *V3.20 Dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders*. The instructions at V3.20 do not exempt applicants under this category from meeting funds or sponsorship requirements. While the V2.20 instructions set out scenarios in which evidence of funds or sponsorship is not required for certain categories of dependent children, these do not cover dependent children of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders.
2. A conference delegate travelling to New Zealand to attend a conference who has applied for a visitor visa under the special visitor category *V3.65 Conference delegates*. The instructions at V3.65 do not exempt applicants under this category from meeting funds or sponsorship requirements, nor are they exempted under the V2.20 instructions.



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3. A member of a high-end music act travelling to New Zealand to perform a concert. All of the performers have applied for visitor visas under the special visitor category *V3.145 High-end music acts*, as they are being promoted by a promoter on Immigration New Zealand's Approved Music Promoter List. The instructions at V3.145 do not exempt applicants under this category from meeting funds or sponsorship requirements. Again, they are also not exempted under the instructions at V2.20.

In each of the examples above, the applicant needs to meet the generic funds or sponsorship requirements. Immigration officers are able to use their discretion in determining what is acceptable as evidence of these requirements being met. In the case of a high-end music act, for example, a letter from the promoter guaranteeing to cover costs for the group while in New Zealand may be sufficient.