

VISA PAK ISSUE 341 — 19 JANUARY 2018

WD2.B – FURTHER VISAS UNDER POST-STUDY WORK VISA (OPEN) INSTRUCTIONS

The New Zealand Qualifications Framework has a number of different qualification types at Level 7 – Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates, Diplomas and Bachelor's Degrees. The attainment of any of these qualifications represents attainment of the same academic level.

However, each qualification type has its own purpose, its own set of requirements and its own set of descriptors. While a bachelor's degree and a level 7 diploma sit at the same level, they do not serve the same purpose. A diploma is primarily focused on gaining specialised professional skills and doesn't usually lead to further studies; whereas a bachelor's degree is a three year qualification that provides individuals with a systematic and coherent introduction to a body of knowledge of a recognised major subject, as well as to problem-solving and associated basic techniques of self-directed work and learning, as does often lead to further study at postgraduate level.

Applicants are not eligible to obtain a second work visa under the Post-Study work visa (Open) instructions at WD2.b unless they have undertaken and completed a *second higher qualification* that is either a New Zealand **bachelor degree or post-graduate qualification**.

Note: a post-graduate qualification is at Level 8 or above.

As instructions reference the **type** of qualification (bachelor's degree or postgraduate qualification), the applicant must hold that specific type of qualification. For example, a Level 7 Diploma will not meet instructions under WD2.b as this is neither a bachelor's degree nor a post-graduate qualification.

However, where instructions reference a level only (such as under Skilled Migrant instructions SM6), you cannot apply a type of qualification to this.