

# **New Zealand – Working/Studying /Visas**

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## **New Zealand – General Information**

New Zealand is a great place to travel and work. It is a modern stable democracy with a beautiful landscape: dramatic alpine and coastal areas, spectacular glaciers lakes fiords, and lush forests there is also a very pleasant climate. In addition, New Zealand has a wide and diverse culture with people generally having a high standard of living with a relatively low cost of living

**Location:** New Zealand is located in the South Pacific Ocean 1600km south-east of Australia. It is made up of the North and South Islands and several smaller islands. The total land area is over 250 square kilometres.

**Population:** 4,788,515 (2019) with approximately 3,749,200 people living on the North Island and 1,039,315 on the South Island. Almost 90% of the population live in cities with over half living in the four main urban areas of: Auckland; Christchurch; Hamilton; Wellington

Capital city and centre of government is Wellington, located on the North Island.

**Climate:** New Zealand has a very mild, maritime climate, which is often wet, overcast, and unpredictable, but never extreme in lowland areas. In the alpine regions temperature variations and weather changes are more dramatic.

**History:** New Zealand is a very young country, with European settlement on a large scale only occurring over the last 150 years.

New Zealand's economic growth is set to continue to beat the average of the 35 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperative and Development, as activity shifts away from consumption and towards investment, the OECD said in its biannual Economic Outlook.

The country's economic growth was "solid" in 2017, underpinned by consumption and international tourism, and "solid economic growth" is projected to continue at 3 per cent in 2018 and 2019, the OECD said in its latest report.

**Currency:** - New Zealand's unit of currency is the New Zealand dollar (NZ\$). 1 Euro is equivalent to approximately 1.71 NZ\$(May 2019)

**Language:** English is the main written and spoken language in New Zealand – Maori is also an officially recognised language and is spoken fluently by over 4% of the population

Politics: **Type of government:** parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm

### **Key Contacts:**

#### **NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION**

New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TQ

Tel: 004420 7930 8422. Fax: 004420 7839 4580. E-Mail:

aboutnz@newzealandhc.org.uk

Web page: <http://www.nzembassy.com/united-kingdom>

Diplomatic and Consular Information for New Zealand.

Embassy of Ireland,  
Peter Ryan-Ambassador,  
Level 14, Solnet House,  
70 The Terrace,  
Wellington 6011,  
New Zealand

Telephone; +64 (4) 4712252

<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/new-zealand/>

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## **New Zealand – Working**

New Zealand may not lure as many Irish as its Aussie neighbour, but its more temperate climate, lush green scenery and lower cost of living make it an attractive option for young people and families who are looking to find a new home down under, especially for workers in construction trades.

The New Zealand economy took a tumble around the same time as the recession hit Ireland in 2008, but it didn't fall as far and recovered much more quickly. The unemployment rate was just 4.4 per cent in May 2018, the lowest since the last quarter of 2008.

Ireland is one of the countries targeted by the New Zealand government to fill acute skills shortages, which have emerged in industries ranging from construction to hospitality, healthcare and information technology in recent years.

Although the number of Irish people moving there has been declining since it peaked in 2013, when more than 5,000 Irish got visas to work there, it remains a popular destination, with more than 3,300 Irish granted work visas in 2017.

Over the past 10 years, about 30,000 Irish people have received permission to work in New Zealand and there are, certain sectors which still need skilled workers check out Immigration New Zealand

According to the New Zealand Department of Labour areas of growth over the next few years are expected to be in:

**business services,**

**engineering,**

**health education**

**retail and social care - particularly care of elderly**

**construction – particularly in reconstruction following the recent Canterbury and Christchurch earthquakes**

### **How to find a job in New Zealand**

When looking for a job it is best to cover all the angles – the more applications you make the better your chance of finding something suitable. The following sources may be useful:

- The internet is a useful option, particularly before you travel to New Zealand – not only can you get a good idea of the jobs available but you can also apply for jobs online. Useful New Zealand websites include the following:  
[www.workingin-newzealand.com](http://www.workingin-newzealand.com) working and living in New Zealand;  
[www.jobs.govt.nz](http://www.jobs.govt.nz) jobs in the public sector;  
[www.kiwicareers.govt.nz](http://www.kiwicareers.govt.nz) job vacancies as well as job finding tips;  
[www.backpackerboard.co.nz](http://www.backpackerboard.co.nz) backpacking website with lots of casual jobs;  
[www.seasonalwork.co.nz](http://www.seasonalwork.co.nz) listings for seasonal jobs e.g. fruit picking.  
[www.bbhnet.co.nz](http://www.bbhnet.co.nz) listings for work in hostels across New Zealand;  
SEEK major New Zealand job listing website.
- Consult of as many New Zealand newspapers as possible, most of which contain job sections. Vacancies are advertised mostly on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Major daily newspapers include:
  - The New Zealand Herald (Auckland),
  - The Dominion Post (Wellington),
  - The Press Christchurch

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For a more comprehensive list of New Zealand newspapers search;  
<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/nz.htm>

- Recruitment consultants tend to specialise in skilled, professional and executive jobs, while employment agencies handle all kinds of jobs, including unskilled and temporary jobs. You can find local recruitment consultants and employment agencies by looking in the New Zealand yellow pages, ([www.yellowpages.co.nz](http://www.yellowpages.co.nz)). Employment agencies are also listed on the New Zealand Immigration Service website ([www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)). Some of the largest recruitment agencies are:
  - Debbie Graham & Associates ([www.dgal.co.nz](http://www.dgal.co.nz))
  - Manpower ([www.manpower.co.nz](http://www.manpower.co.nz))
  - Momentum Consulting Group ([www.momentum.co.nz](http://www.momentum.co.nz))
  - Resource Edge ([www.ultimateaims.com](http://www.ultimateaims.com))
  - Robert Walters ([www.robertwalters.com](http://www.robertwalters.com))
  - Advanced Personnel (<http://www.advancedpersonnel.co.nz/a/jobsearch.cfm>)
- Employment agencies are also listed on the New Zealand Tourism Guide website
  - Some of the largest recruitment agencies are;
  - Byron Employment
  - Manpower
  - Momentum Consulting Group
  - ODG Recruitment
  - Robert Walters
  - Seasonal Solutions
  - Frenz (farm work)
  - Adecco
- You can apply to companies directly in New Zealand. This approach can be particularly successful if you have skills, experience and qualifications that are in short supply in New Zealand. Useful addresses can be obtained from trade directories such as Maori Business Directory, [\\_Kompass New Zealand www.kompass.com](http://www.kompass.com) or from the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce. To find Irish companies with interests in New Zealand contact Enterprise Ireland.
- You can also be successful in obtaining a job by networking and using your contacts in New Zealand be they friends, relatives, colleagues or business contacts.
- Check out the career services in the universities as they will post graduate level vacancies on their website [www.studyoptions.com](http://www.studyoptions.com) will link you to the universities and colleges.
- Some organisations run special schemes to help people find short-term work these generally offer a full package for example USIT, IEP (International Exchange Programmes) arrange your flights, insurance, visa, arrival transportation, accommodation, orientation, job search and 24 hour support while you are in New Zealand. BUNAC will do a similar job providing help and information in finding a job.

You can also be successful in obtaining a job by networking and using your contacts in New Zealand be they friends, relatives, colleagues or business contacts. WebSites such as Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and Myspace [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com) have increased in popularity for both graduates and employers alike.

Graduate Careers Fairs can be useful way of finding work and may also provide an opportunity to find out about graduate schemes being offered by companies. Many fairs offer other facilities such as CV workshops, and a chance to network. The

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following websites list career fairs and may be useful:

<https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/events-expos> ,

<http://www.downunderlive.co.uk/new-zealand.php>

Check out the career services in the universities as they will post graduate level vacancies on their website [www.studyoptions.com](http://www.studyoptions.com) will link you to the universities and colleges.

Some organisations run special schemes to help people find short-term work these generally offer a full package for example USIT, IEP (International Exchange Programmes) arrange your flights, insurance, visa, arrival transportation, accommodation, orientation, job search and 24 hour support while you are in New Zealand. BUNAC will do a similar job providing help and information in finding a job.

## Types of Jobs

Temporary, casual and seasonal jobs which last for a few days, weeks or months are available throughout the year in New Zealand, particularly during the summer and early autumn Opportunities for temporary, casual and seasonal jobs include the following:

- **Tourism** - jobs are available in shops, at tourist attractions, and on boats and beaches or ski resorts throughout the country during these periods.
- **Hotels & Catering** -hotels, motels, lodges, restaurants and bars normally require barmen and barmaids, chamber-maids, handymen, receptionists, and waiters and waitresses throughout the year.
- **Fruit Picking and packing** - hard work not great pay but a good way to see another side of New Zealand life.
- **Hostel Work** - many travellers work in a hostel cleaning or on reception in return for free board and some spending money. **BBH Hostels** The Budget Backpacker Hostel Chain has listings on its website for people wanting to work in hostels in return for free board and/or pocket money.
- **Farm** - there are thousands of farms of all sizes throughout New Zealand requiring temporary labour, particularly during busy periods such as harvest times or sheep-shearing. There are a number of organisations in New Zealand which assist you in finding work on farms in return for free food and board. You usually work a few hours a day and get to see New Zealand farm life first hand. **Help Exchange** is a free online listing of host organic farms, non-organic farms, farm stays, homestays, ranches, lodges, B&B, inns, backpackers hostels and others who invite volunteer helpers to stay with them short-term in exchange for food and accommodation.
- **Office / Temp Work** - some employment agencies specialise in temporary and casual job vacancies in offices. It is an advantage if you have some experience or if you have a qualification in a profession. Many New Zealand professionals leave the country each year to spend 6 or 12 months working and travelling abroad and qualified replacements are required to fill the vacancies.
- **Industry** - casual jobs are often available in factories and warehouses such as cleaning, driving, labouring, portering and security work.
- **Internships** - New Zealand is a participant in an international trainee programme designed to give young people the opportunity for further education and occupational training. The trainee agreement covers many professions, but your position must be in the occupation for which you were trained. Positions are usually granted for a year and can sometimes be extended for a further six months. Internships are essentially a way of having the whole travelling, gap year experience – and getting some work experience on the way.

Check out the following sites:

TU Dublin Career Development Centre offers advice in good faith on the basis of the best information available. The Centre accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice.

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[www.enterprise-ireland.com](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com) Post-Grad work experience abroad with Enterprise Irl.

[www.internshipnz.com](http://www.internshipnz.com)

[www.yearoutgroup.org](http://www.yearoutgroup.org)

<http://www.workingabroad.net/where-to-go/new-zealand/>

[www.internshipsinternational.org](http://www.internshipsinternational.org)

Queenstown Resort College offers paid internships in the tourism and hospitality industry.

The International Association for the exchange of students. This is for students to gain experience in technical and commercial internships.

- The skill shortage list, featuring professions which range from apiarist and shepherd to scaffolder and ski instructor. There are also vacancies for dozens of less exotic occupations. See <http://www.visabureau.com/newzealand/embassy.aspx>

### How to apply for jobs

When you find a suitable vacancy:

- Your application should focus on the job you are applying for.
- It is important to ensure that your CV and cover letter goes into enough detail to adequately describe your employment experience in full.
- Dress standards in New Zealand offices tend to be less corporate than in Ireland, but you should attend interviews in reasonably formal business attire.
- Degrees attained from universities in most western countries are considered equivalent to degrees from New Zealand universities and most school qualifications are recognised by employers and university admissions staff.
- Working conditions are generally good and the website of the Department of Labour / [www.dol.govt.nz](http://www.dol.govt.nz) has a section on work life balance.
- A national minimum wage applies in New Zealand, which is currently \$17.70 per hour
- All employees are entitled to at least four weeks' paid holidays per year.

### Check out the following sites:

[www.enterprise-ireland.com](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com) Post-Grad work experience abroad with Enterprise Ireland

[www.internshipnz.com](http://www.internshipnz.com)

<http://www.yearoutgroup.org/>

[www.kiwi-internships.com](http://www.kiwi-internships.com)

[www.studyoptions.com](http://www.studyoptions.com)

**Queenstown Resort College** offers paid internships in the tourism and hospitality industry.

<http://www.leargas.ie/programmes/iaeste/for-students/about/> technical and commercial students can apply to the International Association for the exchange of students for technical experience for internships in those areas.

Teaching – qualified teachers who are interested in teaching in New Zealand can find more information on <https://www.teachnz.govt.nz/>

Volunteering - can be a great way of gaining work experience, there are a large number of voluntary agencies throughout New Zealand. You can search for voluntary opportunities by type and location on [www.volunteernow.org.nz](http://www.volunteernow.org.nz)

The skill shortage list features professions which range from apiarist and shepherd to scaffolder and ski instructor. There are also vacancies for dozens of less exotic occupations.

See [www.visabureau.com/newzealand/skill-shortage-list.aspx](http://www.visabureau.com/newzealand/skill-shortage-list.aspx)

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## **Applying for jobs**

When you find a suitable vacancy your application should focus on the job you are applying for. It is important to ensure that your CV and cover letter goes into enough detail to adequately describe your employment experience in full. The typical length of a graduate CV in New Zealand is two to four pages. Online applications are becoming more common and require a similar amount of attention to detail. Make sure you write a concise application email and attach your CV. Remember to always use full words and formal language when submitting an online application or applying via email.

A national minimum wage applies in New Zealand, and is divided into three categories: The adult minimum wage is \$17.70 per hour (April 2019). The starting -out wage and the training minimum wage are \$14.16 per hour. (Mar 2019)

Many university careers service websites offer good advice on CVs and applications

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en.html>, <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/>,

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/>,

<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/>, <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/>, <https://www.massey.ac.nz/>,

<https://www.aut.ac.nz/> and <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/>

Dress standards in New Zealand offices tend to be less corporate than in Ireland, but you should attend interviews in reasonably formal business attire.

Degrees attained from universities in most western countries are considered equivalent to degrees from New Zealand universities and most school qualifications are recognised by employers and university admissions staff.

Working conditions are generally good and the website of the **Department of Labour** has a section on work life balance.

Employees are entitled to four weeks of holiday a year,

Salaries may seem a bit lower than at home but the cost of living is generally cheaper, costs can be compared and average salaries can be found on

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/skilled-migrant-and-essential-skills-visas-2014-changes-to-remuneration-thresholds>

Salaries and wages are all subject to tax take a look at the **Inland Revenue site** for more information.

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## **New Zealand - Study**

### **Study opportunities**

In New Zealand, you can study for internationally recognised qualifications at a wide range of educational institutions. Find out about the study opportunities on New Zealand's Immigration Department's website.

### **Meeting the visa requirements**

Find out what you need to do to meet our requirements to get a student visa. You can also find out about what your student visa means for your family.

### **How to apply**

Find out about the application process:

### **After you are accepted**

If you have a Student Visa, you may be able to work part-time, up to 20 hours per week, and full-time during scheduled holidays.

Check your visa – it will show if and when you are allowed to work while you are studying in New Zealand.

### **Working during the term**

To work for up to 20 hours per week, you must meet one of seven requirements. The most common requirements are:

- Your study programme is for at least two years.
- The study leads to a New Zealand qualification that gains points under the Skilled Migrant Category.
- You are taking an English language course that meets conditions approved by Immigration New Zealand.

For more information on who may work while studying, please see this Immigration New Zealand webpage.

- New Zealand's education system is similar to the Irish system. New Zealand has eight universities all of which offer general undergraduate and graduate degrees and diplomas in arts, sciences and commerce, as well as specialist degrees in particular disciplines:
  - University of Auckland
  - University of Canterbury
  - University of Otago
  - University of Waikato
  - Victoria University of Wellington
  - Massey University
  - Auckland University of Technology
  - Lincoln University
- There are also numerous Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Private Training Institutes offering a wide range of academic and professional courses.
- The academic year matches the calendar year and university begins at the end of February, beginning of March and ends in October.
- You must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance while you're studying in New Zealand (a requirement of the Ministry of Education's Code of Practice).

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- Tuition fees are set by the institutions so they vary according to what subject you study and where you study it, but you can expect to pay between NZ\$20,000 and NZ\$250,000 per year for an under-graduate degree and up to NZ\$42,184 per year for post-graduate study. According to Education NZ, it's recommended that third level students' budget for up to NZ\$20,000 in living expenses per year.

### **Scholarships**

There are scholarships available for international students from various New Zealand universities see <http://www.infozee.com/nz/financial-aid.htm> or <http://www.newzealandeducated.com/scholarships/homepage.html>

For more information on New Zealand study check out:

**Study Option** [www.studyoptions.com](http://www.studyoptions.com) - a free advice & guidance service for Irish students looking to study an undergraduate, postgraduate degree, vocational programme, short course or internship in Australia or New Zealand. Education New Zealand website.

### **Silver Fern categories**

This visa is for highly skilled young people who want to live and work in New Zealand long-term. To apply you will need to have the right qualifications and genuinely intend to look for skilled employment once in New Zealand. If you are able to find long-term skilled employment, you may be able to apply for residence under the Skilled Migrant Category.

For further information visit website.

### **Undertaking study or training while holding a work visa**

This section details what you need to know if you wish to undertake any study or training while holding a work visa.

### **More about applying for a visa**

This section has information to help you if you are applying for a visa, and want to find out more about dealing with Immigration New Zealand, what the process involves, what you need to do to get your documents together, and what you can do if there is a problem, or the processing of your application is delayed.