



# New Zealand

*the right choice*



# Study

To study in New Zealand, you may need to apply for a Student Visa or Permit. This booklet provides you with information on how to apply.

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*For more information about New Zealand's immigration policies, contact the New Zealand Immigration Service or visit our website at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)*

## KIA ORA - Welcome

New Zealand welcomes many thousands of students every year – some come for only a short time, others may eventually make New Zealand their home.

**You need to know that it is unlawful to stay in New Zealand for longer than the time specified in your permit.**

You are responsible for making sure you leave New Zealand before your permit expires – if you do not, the New Zealand Immigration Service has the power to make you leave.

Please take time to read this guide carefully and refer to this guide when completing the form, *Application to Study in New Zealand* (NZIS 1012).

**Your application may not be accepted if you do not answer all the relevant questions or provide all the required documentation.**

If you apply for a further permit while in New Zealand, you need to allow sufficient time for a decision to be made on your application before your current permit expires.

If your permit does expire, your application for a further permit does not make your stay in New Zealand lawful or give you the right to remain in New Zealand while your application is being considered.

## What You Need to Know When Coming to Study in New Zealand

New Zealand has implemented a system, Advance Passenger Screening, designed to enhance the security of New Zealand's borders. If:

- you do not have an appropriate visa to enter New Zealand; **or**
- your visa has expired; **or**
- your visa has not been transferred to your current/new passport or the passport being used to enter New Zealand, you may be refused permission to board your flight to New Zealand.

To minimise any disruption to your travel plans please ensure your travel documents are up-to-date and that you have the appropriate and current visa. If you have any questions check out [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

## Objective of Student Policy

The purpose of New Zealand's student policy is to contribute to New Zealand's sustainable economic development by:

- facilitating the entry of genuine students, with a focus on attracting and developing students who have the skills and talent New Zealand needs;
- increasing global connectedness;
- supporting the sustainable growth of export education capability;
- earning foreign exchange;
- strengthening New Zealand education, while managing risk to New Zealand and maintaining social cohesion.

## What is a Student Visa?

A Student Visa is an endorsement in your passport to allow you to enter or re-enter New Zealand. It shows you have permission to travel to New Zealand and may be granted a Student Permit when you arrive. The visa may be single for one journey, or multiple for more than one journey.

## What is a Student Permit?

A Student Permit is an endorsement in your passport or, where the permit is granted via electronic means, an electronic record that is kept by the Department of Labour and may be confirmed in writing on request. It will state the expiry date of your permit and conditions of your permit. The conditions may include:

- the course of study
- the educational institute
- the location of the institute in New Zealand.

## Who Does Not Need a Student Visa or Permit to Study in New Zealand?

You do not need a Student Visa or Permit to study in New Zealand if you are:

- a New Zealand citizen or a New Zealand Residence Permit holder (to re enter a resident needs a current New Zealand Returning Resident's Visa); **or**
- an Australian citizen, or a resident who holds a current Australian resident return visa; **or**
- exempt from the requirement to hold a permit to be in New Zealand; **or**
- to undertake a course of no more than three months and hold a Visitor's Visa or Permit; **or**
- the holder of a Limited Purpose Visa for study purposes.

## What if I Want to Study Part Time?

If you are a visitor or worker in New Zealand and wish to study part time, you may apply for a Variation of Conditions to allow you to study.

You must show evidence that you are enrolled in the course and have paid the course fees for non New Zealand students, and pay the Variation of Conditions fee (see *New Zealand Immigration's Guide to Fees* (NZIS 1028)) or visit our website at: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

## Who Needs a Student Visa?

You will need to apply for a Student Visa (or a Limited Purpose Visa for study purposes, see the leaflet *Information on Limited Purpose Visas and Permits* (NZIS 1070)) if you are outside New Zealand, and are coming to New Zealand to study full time for longer than three months. However, potential students entering New Zealand from visa free countries will be able to apply for a student permit once they have found an educational institute.

## What About My Family?

Your partner and children cannot apply with you on your application form. They must apply separately for the type of permit they require. Partners of student visa/permit applicants must satisfy the NZIS that they are living in a genuine and stable partnership and meet the minimum requirements for recognition of a partnership, which are that you:

- are both aged 18 years or older (or evidence of parental/guardian/other consent if aged 16 or 17 years); **and**
- have met prior to this application being made; **and**
- are not close relatives.

## Who Needs a Student Permit?

You may apply for a Student Permit if you are a visitor or a worker in New Zealand and wish to study full time.\*

You can also apply for further Student Permits in New Zealand. Your partner may apply for a Visitor Permit or Student Permit and in certain circumstances a Work Permit. Your dependent children may apply for a Visitor Permit or Student Permit.

\*Full time study:

- for Private Training Establishments full time study is considered a minimum of 20 hours per week attendance.
- for other tertiary institutions full time study is considered at least 3 papers, or equivalent, per semester.

## Guardians Accompanying Students to New Zealand

The Ministry of Education's Code of Practice for pastoral care requires that students:

- enrolled in years 1 to 8 in schools, or
- aged 13 and under and enrolled in Private Training Establishments

must be accompanied in New Zealand by their legal guardian.

Only students in the following situations are exempt from this requirement:

- domestic students;
- students enrolled in a school hostel approved by the Ministry of Education;
- students enrolled in years 7 or 8 in a school which has prior programme approval from the Ministry of Education;
- students aged 11 to 13 years and enrolled in a Private Training Establishment which has prior programme approval from the Ministry of Education.

Despite these exemptions the school or other education provider may require that a student under 17 or in years 1-8 is accompanied by a legal guardian in New Zealand for enrolment and study.

Visitor Permits are also available for legal guardians of students aged 17 or under in years 1-8 if the guardian wishes to accompany them to New Zealand for the duration of their studies.

In all cases where a guardian is accompanying a student, the student must provide evidence of their legal guardian with their Student Visa and/or Permit application.

A legal guardian, who is issued and/or granted a Visitor Visa and/or Permit to accompany a student in New Zealand, is subject to the condition that they live with the student for the duration of their studies. Where this condition is breached, both the guardian's and student's permit may be revoked.

**Note:** A legal guardian must not leave New Zealand without the student they are responsible for.

### Definition of 'legal guardian' for the purposes of student policy:

A 'legal guardian' is the person:

- with the legal right and responsibility to provide for the care (including education and health) of an international student, **and**
- usually provides for the care of the student in the student's home country.

This definition includes the student's biological or adoptive parents, testamentary guardian, or court-appointed guardian.

**Note:** The holder of a current guardian visitor permit is not eligible for any student permit, or a work permit under the General or Specific Purpose or Event policies. Guardians, however, are able to apply for a *variation of conditions* for part time study or work.

## Who is a Domestic Student?

A 'domestic student' means a 'domestic student' as defined in Section 2 of the Education Act 1989 and includes:

- a New Zealand citizen, including students from Tokelau, the Cook Islands and Niue;
- a New Zealand resident;
- a diplomat and/or consular official (including their partners and dependent children who are entitled to any immunity from jurisdiction by or under the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1968 or the Consular Privileges and Immunities Act 1971);
- armed forces personnel (including their partners and dependent children);
- an Australian citizen.

You may also be considered to be a domestic student for the purpose of fee payment and enrolment, in **primary and secondary state schools only**, if you are:

- a student who is in New Zealand to study under an exchange programme approved by the New Zealand Government;
- a dependent child of a New Zealand citizen and your application for citizenship is under consideration;
- a dependent child of a residence permit holder and your own application for permanent residence is under consideration;
- a dependent child of any person who is in New Zealand to study under an exchange programme approved by the New Zealand Government;
- a dependent child of any person who is the holder of a valid work permit;
- a dependent child of any person who is the holder of a Commonwealth Scholarship;
- a student who has, or a dependent child of any person who has, made a claim to be recognised as a refugee in accordance with Part 6A of the Immigration Act 1987;
- a dependent child of a foreign student enrolled in any Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme in a New Zealand university;

- a dependent child of any person who, during the current calendar year, ceased to be exempt from the requirement to hold a permit under the diplomatic or consular immunity provision of the Immigration Act 1987;
- a student who has entered New Zealand for the purposes of adoption.

You may also be considered to be a domestic student for the purpose of fee payment and enrolment, in **tertiary\* institutions only**, if you are:

- a student enrolled for the first time in any Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme, after 19 April 2005, in any New Zealand university;
- a student who is in New Zealand to study under an exchange programme approved by the New Zealand Government;
- a French or German postgraduate student.

To find out if you meet the criteria to be considered as a domestic student for the purpose of fee payment and enrolment, you will need to contact your educational institute or the Ministry of Education.

For a complete list of people considered to be domestic students or for more information you can also visit the Ministry of Education's website: [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz).

\*Tertiary institutions include Universities, Polytechnics\*\*, Colleges of Education, Wananga.

\*\*Polytechnics also include institutes of technology, technical institutes or community colleges established before 1 January 1991.

## How Do I Apply?

You can apply by completing and submitting the *Application to Study in New Zealand* (NZIS 1012) yourself, or you can ask another person to assist you.

The NZIS has a special arrangement with some education providers to make renewals of visas and permits easy for international students. If you are studying through one of these providers, you will not need to visit an NZIS branch – an application for renewal of your Student Visa or Permit can be completed on campus. For further information and a full list of participating education providers, visit [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

**Online checking of applications.** You can also check the progress of your application online if you apply at one of our NZIS branch offices listed on page 12 of this guide. If you select this option you will be advised of the outcome of your application by email.

The NZIS does not require you to have an agent or representative, but if you decide to use the services of an agent or representative you are free to do so.

- Anyone can act as your agent or representative.
- An agent or representative may be a lawyer, a consultant, or any other person, (including a friend) whom you hire or ask to help you apply.
- The NZIS treats all applicants equally and does not provide a preferential service to applicants with agents or representatives.

The NZIS deals with agents or representatives in the following ways:

- You may give your own address or the address of your agent or representative as the point of contact for the NZIS. If you choose to give your agent's or representative's address, all correspondence from NZIS, including notices for interviews, and the return of original documents, will be sent to your agent or representative.
- If you stop using the services of your agent or representative, you must cancel your authorisation in writing to the NZIS or the NZIS will continue to deal with them. If you hire a new agent or representative, you will need to provide a new authorisation to the NZIS.
- You are responsible for any documents or information that you submit to the NZIS, or that your agent or representative submits on your behalf.
- If you elect an agent to represent you that agent will be provided with the ability to check your application online.

## What Courses May I Study?

Your course of study and educational institute must be approved for foreign students. The educational institute will advise you if the institute and the course are approved. All education providers offering places to foreign students must be signatories to the Ministry of Education's Code of Practice for Pastoral Care of International Students. If you have any queries contact the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), P.O. Box 160, Wellington.

You must show evidence that you are enrolled in the course and have paid the course fees for non New Zealand students.

## What Do I Have to Provide to Get a Student Visa or Permit?

You must provide all the relevant evidence listed on the checklist on the front pages of the *Application to Study in New Zealand* (NZIS 1012). If you do not provide all of the necessary documents, your application may be returned to you.

All applicants under Student policy must be bona fide applicants, be of good character and of an acceptable standard of health.

A bona fide applicant is a person who can show they genuinely intend a temporary stay in New Zealand for a lawful purpose. Evidence of genuine intent and lawful purpose may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- any information or submissions showing you have a legitimate need to spend time in New Zealand for a specific period; and
- any documents or submissions showing you meet the Student policy provisions.

### Health requirements

If you intend to be in New Zealand for more than six months you may need to provide the following:

- A completed *Temporary Entry X-ray Certificate* (NZIS 1096); **or**
- A completed *Medical and X-ray Certificate* (NZIS 1007).

Please read the *Health Requirements Leaflet* (NZIS 1121) for full details of the health information you will need to submit with your application.

### Character requirements

If you are aged 17 years or over and intend being in New Zealand *for 24 months or longer*, or are required by a specific policy or a visa or immigration officer to provide evidence of your character, you must provide the following:

- Police certificates from your country of citizenship (unless you can provide satisfactory evidence that you have never lived there) and from any country in which you have lived for 5 or more years since attaining the age of 17 years.

**Note:** All police certificates must be less than 6 months old when you make your application.

For information on how to obtain a police certificate you can visit our website at: [www.immigration.govt.nz/policecertificate](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/policecertificate).

Accessing the website is the quickest means of obtaining this information, however if you do not have access to the internet you can either:

- call us on 0508 55 88 55 if you are in New Zealand or (09) 914 4100 if you are in Auckland; **or**
- contact your nearest Immigration New Zealand branch.

## As a Student Can I Work?

### Can I work during the academic year?

You may be granted a Variation of Conditions to your Student Permit to allow you to work for up to 20 hours in any given week during the academic year and during any holidays within the academic year (an offer of employment is not required) if you are a student:

- undertaking a full time course of study at a Private Training Establishment or Tertiary Institution, of at least 2 academic years duration; **or**
- undertaking a full time course of study culminating in a New Zealand qualification that would qualify for points under the Skilled Migrant Category of residence policy; **or**
- undertaking a full time, full secondary school year course of study in Years 12 or 13, provided you have written permission from your school and written parental consent; **or**
- engaged in a full time, course of study of at least 6 months duration at a Private Training Establishment or Tertiary Institution, and a visa or immigration officer is satisfied that the primary purpose of the course of study is to develop English language skills, and you have an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) overall band score of 5.0 or above (General Academic Module) at the time of application for a Student Visa or Permit.

**Note:** No person who holds a Student Visa and/or Permit may work in self-employment; or provide commercial sexual services or operate or invest in a business of prostitution.

**Note:** New Zealand Agency of International Development (NZAID) supported students are not permitted to work unless NZAID and the relevant education provider have given their written approval and the work is a compulsory requirement to fulfil practical experience for their course of study, or is related to their postgraduate course of study.

### Can I work during the Christmas and New Year holidays?

If you have a Student Permit you may be granted a Variation of Conditions to allow you to work during the Christmas and New Year holiday period at the end of each academic year, provided you are undertaking a full time course of study of 12 months or more duration. An offer of employment is not required.

**Note:** A fee is payable for a Variation of Conditions, however, if it is sought in conjunction with a visa and/or permit, the application fee may be waived (see *New Zealand Immigration's Guide to Fees* (NZIS 1028) or visit our website at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)).

### Can I work after I have completed my studies, if I have an offer of employment?

If you have:

- successfully completed a course in New Zealand that had a minimum completion time of 3 years; **or**
- successfully completed in New Zealand a qualification that would qualify for points under the Skilled Migrant Category of Residence Policy; **and**
- evidence of an offer of employment relevant to that course or qualification; **and**
- evidence that your Work Permit application is being made no later than 3 months after the end date of your Student Permit for that course or qualification; **or**
- evidence that you are a holder of a Graduate Job Search Work Permit

you may apply for a Work Permit for a maximum of 2 years to obtain practical experience suitable to your qualification (this does not apply to holders of Limited Purpose Permits).

See **Study to Work Policy** in the *Guide for Working in New Zealand* (NZIS 1016) for information on what you will need to provide.

**Note:** You are not eligible for a Graduate Job Search Work Visa or permit if you have previously been issued or granted a Work Visa or Permit under this policy.

### Can I work after I have completed my studies, if I don't have an offer of employment?

If you have:

- successfully completed a qualification in New Zealand that would qualify for points under the Skilled Migrant Category of Residence Policy; **and**
- evidence that you have a minimum of \$2,100 in funds available to maintain yourself; **and**
- evidence that your Work Permit application is being made no later than 3 months after the end date of your Student Permit for that qualification

you may apply for a Graduate Job Search Work Permit for a maximum of 6 months (this does not apply to holders of Limited Purpose Permits).

**Note:** you are not eligible for a Graduate Job Search Work Visa or Permit if you have previously been issued or granted a Work Visa or Permit under this policy.

See **Study to Work Policy** in the *Guide for Working in New Zealand* (NZIS 1016) for information on what you will need to provide.

## Special Categories

### Air New Zealand Trainees

Air Nauru, Malaysian Air Services, Royal Brunei Airlines, Omani Airlines and others have a special arrangement to bring trainees to New Zealand. Applicants must provide a guarantee from Air New Zealand confirming placement, maintenance, and accommodation for the length of the training and repatriation.

### Exchange Schemes

You may apply for a Student Visa to study in New Zealand as part of an approved exchange. These may be Government to Government, established formal exchanges or private exchanges for one off situations only. If you wish to arrange an exchange, the New Zealand education institute should contact the local office of the New Zealand Immigration Service.

### Nautical Students

Manukau Polytechnic have nautical courses that foreign students may attend. You will need to apply for a Student Visa to attend these courses.

### Religious Trainees

Those foreign students accepted for training in New Zealand to prepare them for entry to religious orders or the ministry will need to apply for a Student Visa.

## Can I be Refused a Student Visa or Permit?

Yes,

- if you are not of an acceptable standard of health and/or character; **or**
- if you are unable to satisfy a visa or immigration officer that you are entering New Zealand for a genuine lawful purpose; **or**
- if, in the assessment of the visa or immigration officer, you are likely to remain in New Zealand unlawfully or likely to breach the conditions of your Student Permit; **or**
- if you are a person to whom section 7 of the Immigration Act 1987 applies and you have not been given a special direction authorising entry.

### Section 7 applies to persons who:

- have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 5 years or more (this applies even if any of your offences have later been taken off the record)

- in the past 10 years were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more
- are the subject of a current New Zealand removal order
- have been deported from any country
- are suspected of being likely to constitute a danger to New Zealand's security or public order
- are believed to be associated with an organisation or group with criminal objectives and for that or any other reason considered to be a threat to the public interest or public order
- considered likely to commit an offence against the Crimes Act 1961 or Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

**Note:** Any NZAID supported student, or their partner or dependent children may only be issued with a visa or permit for New Zealand in the 2 year period following completion of the NZAID student's scholarship, with written approval from NZAID (with the exception of a Work Visa or Permit to complete course requirements or a short-term Visitor Visa or Permit).

## Medical Insurance

Residents and people holding Work Permits for a stay of two years or more (and their dependent children) are eligible for publicly funded health and disability services. Other Work Permit holders, students, and Visitor Permit holders generally are not eligible. People covered by New Zealand's Reciprocal Health Agreements with Australia and the United Kingdom are entitled to publicly funded health care for immediately necessary medical treatment only. We therefore strongly recommend that you have comprehensive health insurance for the duration of your visit. For more information visit the Ministry of Health website at [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz).

## More Information and Advice

You can get more information about Student Visas or Permits from:

- New Zealand diplomatic and consular offices.
- Any of our NZIS branch offices overseas. We have overseas offices in Apia, Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Jakarta, London, Moscow, New Delhi, Nuku'alofa, Shanghai, Singapore, Suva, Sydney, Taipei and The Hague.
- Any of our NZIS branch offices in New Zealand, which are located in Auckland, Henderson, Manukau, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.
- All New Zealand Immigration Service forms and leaflets, and fee information, can be downloaded from the internet at: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).



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