

Information on  
Limited Purpose Visas and Permits



New Zealand  
*the right choice*

Limited Purpose

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

## KIA ORA - Welcome

New Zealand welcomes many thousands of visitors 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 it when completing the *Application for Visiting New Zealand* (NZIS 1017) or, if you are intending to travel to New Zealand for the purpose of study, the *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 are in New Zealand and applying for a further Limited Purpose Permit, you need to allow sufficient time for a decision to be made on your application before your current Limited Purpose Permit expires.

If your Limited Purpose Permit does expire, your application for a further Limited Purpose 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 travelling to and from New Zealand

New Zealand has implemented a system designed to enhance the security of New Zealand's borders. You may be refused permission to board your flight to travel to New Zealand if you or your family members:

- do not have appropriate visas or permits to enter New Zealand; or
- visas or permits have expired; or
- visas or permits have not been transferred to current/new passport or the passport being used to enter 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 visas and permits. If you have any questions check out [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

## Objective of the Limited Purpose Policy

The objective of New Zealand's limited purpose entry policy is to facilitate the entry of visitors and students who choose to enter New Zealand for an "express purpose" only, and:

- who would not otherwise be accepted for temporary entry because of a risk that they might remain in New Zealand after their temporary permit expires; or
- who choose the Limited Purpose Visa as their preferred method of entry.

## What is an "Express Purpose"?

An "express purpose" includes the following:

- study as a full paying student (generally only for short courses); or
- attending an event such as a wedding, funeral, conference, seminar, graduation, sports tournament, match, religious event or other significant ceremony; or
- medical treatment in New Zealand; or
- family emergencies such as illness or accident affecting a family member or relative of the applicant in New Zealand; or
- a "milestone" event such as an anniversary or reunion; or
- any other specific purpose other than employment where the circumstances justify issuing a Limited Purpose Visa.

## Are there any restrictions on a Limited Purpose Permit holder?

Yes, the holder of a Limited Purpose Permit is subject to the following restrictions:

- you must leave New Zealand no later than the date that your permit expires; and
- while in New Zealand, whether before or after the expiry of your permit, you may not apply for a permit of a different kind; and

- while in New Zealand, whether before or after the expiry of your permit, you may not request a special direction or a permit under section 35A of the Immigration Act 1987; and
- you may not, whether before or after the expiry of your permit, appeal to:
  - The Removal Review Authority; or
  - The Residence Review Board; or
  - The Deportation Review Tribunal; or
  - The High Court.

**YOU ARE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWING THE EXPIRY OF YOUR PERMIT.**

## Who does not need a Limited Purpose Visa or Permit to enter New Zealand?

You do not need a Limited Purpose Visa or Permit to visit New Zealand if you are:

- a New Zealand citizen or residence permit holder; or
- an Australian citizen or resident who holds a current Australian resident return visa; or
- exempt from having to hold a permit to be in New Zealand; or
- the holder of a temporary visa or permit; or
- you are a citizen of one of the following countries which have a visitor visa waiver agreement with New Zealand;

Andorra	Iceland	Qatar
Argentina	Ireland	San Marino
Austria	Israel****	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Italy	Singapore
Belgium	Japan	Slovenia
Brazil	Korea (South)	South Africa
Brunei	Kuwait	Spain
Canada	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Chile	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Malaysia	United States of America**
Denmark	Malta	United Arab Emirates
Finland	Mexico	Uruguay
France	Monaco	Vatican City
Germany	Netherlands	
Greece	Norway	
Hong Kong***	Oman	
Hungary	Portugal*	

- \* *Portuguese passport holders must have the right to live permanently in Portugal*
- \*\* *including nationals of the USA*
- \*\*\* *residents of Hong Kong travelling on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or British National (Overseas) passports*
- \*\*\*\* *other than persons travelling to New Zealand in an official Israeli government capacity.*

If you are a British citizen or British passport holder who has evidence of the right to live permanently in the United Kingdom, you may be granted a visitor's permit valid for six months on arrival.

## When do I apply for a Limited Purpose Visa?

- if you are outside New Zealand and need a Limited Purpose Visa to travel to New Zealand for an “express purpose”; and
- you understand the restrictions on your immigration rights once in New Zealand that holding a Limited Purpose Permit involves.

## How do I apply for a Limited Purpose Permit?

- you may apply for a Limited Purpose Permit if you are travelling to New Zealand on a Limited Purpose Visa for an “express purpose”; or
- if your existing Limited Purpose Permit will not last long enough for you to achieve your “express purpose” and you require further time to achieve the purpose for which that permit was granted.

The arrival card you complete as you enter New Zealand is an application for a Limited Purpose Permit, providing you have been issued with a Limited Purpose Visa and arrive in New Zealand within that visa's validity date.

## What do I have to provide to get a Limited Purpose Visa or a Limited Purpose Permit?

Limited Purpose Permit and Limited Purpose Visa requirements are found on the form *Application for Visiting New Zealand* (NZIS 1017). If your “express purpose” is to study in New Zealand, please refer instead to the form *Application to Study in New Zealand* (NZIS 1012)

If your stay in New Zealand is longer than 6 months you may need to complete a *Temporary Entry Chest X-ray Certificate* (NZIS 1096) or a *Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate* (NZIS 1007). You must read the *Health Requirements Leaflet* (NZIS 1121) for details of whether or not you need to provide health information with your application.

## How long can I stay?

Your stay in New Zealand will depend on the period of time required for you to achieve the “express purpose” for which you are travelling to New Zealand. The period of time required to achieve an “express purpose” will vary according to the particular circumstance of the “express purpose”. For this reason there is no defined maximum period for the currency of Limited Purpose Permits.

The currency of a Limited Purpose Permit will relate directly to the time required to achieve the “express purpose”.

## Can I be refused a Visa or Permit?

Yes,

- if you are not of an acceptable standard of health and character; or
- if, in the opinion of the visa or immigration officer, you are likely to remain in New Zealand unlawfully or likely to breach the conditions of your permit; or
- if you are a person to whom section 7 of the Immigration Act 1987 applies and you do not have an exemption.

### Section 7 applies to people who:

- have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for five years or more (this applies even if any of your offences have later been taken off the record); or
- in the past ten years were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months or more; or
- are the subject of a current New Zealand removal order; or
- have been deported from any country; or
- are suspected of being likely to constitute a danger to New Zealand’s security or public order; or

- 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.

## 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).

## Where can I get more advice?

You can get more information about Limited Purpose 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).