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TURNER HOPKINS IMMIGRATION SPECIALISTS

New Zealand Immigration Guide



2026 EDITION

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Introduction

If you are reading this guide then chances are, you have decided to embark on what will potentially be the biggest journey of your life. Moving permanently from one country to another is a major logistical, emotional, and financial challenge and it requires careful planning and management.

You might already have made it part of the way and be in New Zealand, stuck with the next steps or have found yourself tangled up in the process, needing some help. No matter what your situation, we hope this guide is useful and helps you to determine the best way forward.

Before we dive into the details, just a few disclaimers to mention. This guide is not a definitive set of instructions as to how to navigate the migration system. Every person's situation and application process are unique. This guide provides a general outline of the migration process and if you need specific advice or assistance, an individual discussion with a qualified and licensed adviser is recommended.

This guide is current at the time of writing and because immigration rules do change and can change often, we have avoided providing very specific and technical advice. The aim of this guide is to give you a broad outline as to the overall migration process, and it always pays to check how the relevant (and current) criteria applies to you, at the time you decide to apply.

»»» NZ IMMIGRATION GUIDE

This guide is also not intended to convince you to make the move, as that is a decision you can only make for yourself, but we do hope it provides some useful information as part of that decision making process.

If you decide to begin this journey, or to continue it if you are already here, remember that this is an adventure and even though it is challenging and a lot of hard work, the results are worth it.

We hope you enjoy this guide and take some useful tips and advice from it.

Turner Hopkins Immigration Specialists



Paul Janssen
General Manager
IAA License No. 200800705

About Turner Hopkins Immigration Specialists

Turner Hopkins Immigration Specialists (THiS) is a boutique immigration consultancy focused on providing both individual and corporate clients with a range of immigration advice and visa related services.

Whether it is a family exploring the move to a new life in New Zealand or a business looking to move ahead with an overseas recruitment drive, our team can assist.

We have experience across all forms of Temporary Entry and Resident Class Visas, with a particular focus on Skilled Migrant, Partnership and Investor Visas.

We start with an initial assessment of your options and eligibility, then provide a comprehensive guide and road-map to the process, followed by customised documentation lists to ensure you have everything you need to successfully navigate the process.

What we are best known for however is responding quickly, accurately and with care. We go to great lengths to make sure our clients know that we are with them, every step of the way.

YOUR TEAM



Paul Janssen

Manager

Paul is the Manager of Turner Hopkins Immigration Specialists, with experience across a wide range of Visa categories.

Paul has over twenty years of experience, providing advice to commercial and private clients across a wide array of immigration related matters.

Achieving a successful outcome, whilst ensuring clients feel secure and at ease with the process are Paul's key skills.



Sejoon Han

Licensed Adviser

Originally from Korea, Sejoon has extensive experience in navigating the New Zealand immigration process, having done the application process for himself.

Sejoon holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Auckland, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Asian studies and also speaks Korean, Tagalog (Filipino), adding further language expertise to the team.



Carly Xu

Adviser Support

Carly has inside knowledge of the visa process, having worked with Immigration New Zealand in their Shanghai Branch as a Support Officer.

Carly graduated from the University of Otago with a master's degree in teaching and learning (ECE) with distinction. Carly is fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, English and Japanese.

Outside of the office, Carly enjoys reading and spending time at the beach with friends.

A Successful Move

It would be easy to answer this question by saying that securing Residence is the key to a successful relocation, however your visa approval is only one part of a much bigger and much more complicated process.

For many people, moving to another country involves a whole range of factors – will I find the right job, be able to buy a house, will my children settle, and will I succeed in making the move?

Whether your move has been successful or not is something you can only really determine much later and long after the ink on the Resident Visa has dried. It takes time to settle and establish yourself in a new home and there are plenty of adjustments along the way.

You can however do some work upfront, to help reduce that settling in period and to prepare yourself for the overall move. **Preparation** is something we will refer to often in this guide, because it is absolutely crucial, but here are a few things you can do, to start off with, that will help smooth out the journey ahead.

- **Establish from the very start what your Visa options are.** That might sound obvious, but unfortunately many people leave this step until much later, meaning they have built up their expectations before working out if they can technically achieve the end goal.
- **Work out if you can afford this process.** Migrating is not cheap, and you need to be realistic – can you afford this and how will you fund it. Prepare a budget and plan accordingly.
- **Be clear about your reasons.** People decide to move for all sorts of reasons, some make sense, others don't.

A Successful Move

Be clear on why you want to move and that you will be able to achieve your goals when you do relocate.

- **Be realistic.** When you move to another country, there are things to be gained and sacrifices to make. You will have to adjust and acclimatize and that takes time. Be prepared for things to get bumpy before they get smooth again.
- **Research but don't over-analyze.** Research your destination, potential job opportunities, schooling, healthcare and so on, but also don't over-analyze things. Gather the information you need but appreciate that you won't really know how it all works until you are here.
- **Social media is for cat-videos, not migration.** There are plenty of people out there willing to give you advice, but unless they are licensed, objective and live and work in New Zealand, they are unlikely to be of much help. Be selective over who you take advice from and filter out the noise.

A successful migration is measured by the end result, and you (and your family) being settled, familiar with your surroundings and comfortable with your decision. There will be plenty of times during the process that you question why on earth you decided to take this on – and that's normal. The key is knowing that these ups and downs will come and to appreciate they are all just part of the process.

Securing your Visa is of course a key component but don't let that distract you from making sure all the other factors work. If you are moving with a family, discuss the move with them (particularly your children) because the more prepared everyone is, the easier the process will be.

Visa Terminology

When it comes to terminology, the immigration process is full of long-winded descriptions and confusing terms, which are very easy to become lost in. To help you understand these and to make this guide a little bit easier to follow, we have outlined some of the key items below.

- **Visa** – This is what you are granted after application and can take various forms – Student, Work, Visitor, Residence and so on. These are issued electronically and INZ no longer places any stamps in your passport.
- **INZ** – Immigration New Zealand – the people that process your Visa application.
- **Temporary Visa** – This is a Visa that has fixed end date and is usually granted to undertake a specific activity, e.g., study, work or visit.
- **Resident Visa** – This is a Visa that allows you to live and work in New Zealand indefinitely and usually has no specific limitations (although there may be conditions). These also come with ‘travel conditions’ which allow you to enter and exit for varying periods of time.
- **Travel Conditions** – These are the conditions that relate to your ability to travel in and out of NZ on the Visa you hold. Some conditions are restricted, e.g., single entry or valid for a certain period. Some conditions have no end date or number of uses.
- **Permanent Residence** – This is a Resident Visa that has unlimited travel conditions. The Visa provides the same rights and privileges as a Resident Visa; however it allows you to come and go with no restrictions on travel.

Visa Terminology

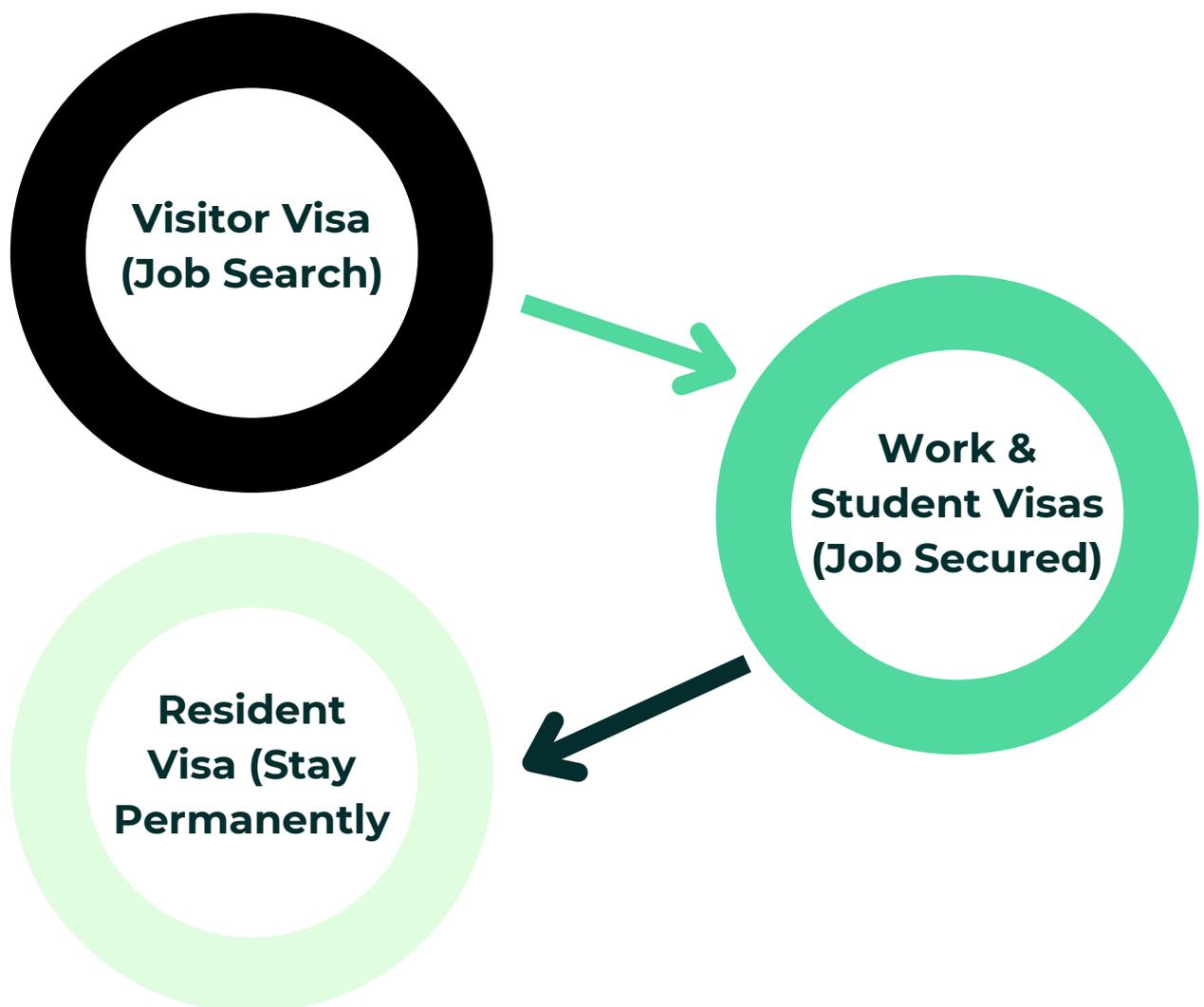
- **Visa Conditions** – These come in various forms and depend on the Visa you hold. Work Visas will have conditions relating to the role, employer and location, Student Visas will have conditions relating to the course of study. Resident Visas may also come with specific conditions.
- **Accredited Employer** – This is an employer who has secured the right (from INZ) to recruit migrant workers. All employers wishing to recruit staff from offshore must be accredited.
- **Sponsorship** – A complicated term and often used incorrectly. There are very limited situations in which a person can be “sponsored” in to New Zealand, including parents and some applicants for a temporary Visa. For example almost all Work Visa applicants are not actually “sponsored”.
- **Principal Applicant** – For Residence applications there is always a ‘principal applicant’ who meets the criteria being applied under and then they can include a partner and dependent children as well (we define this later).
- **Points System** – This refers to the current points criteria for the Skilled Migrant Category, there are also points systems used in other application as well.

There are of course a lot of other terms that INZ uses, and it would take more than a few guides to cover them all, but the above list is a few of the key terms that people refer to (and are often confused with).

We will do our best to explain some of the other terms within this guide as well.

The Visa Process Explained

Each person's process to secure Residence will vary, although for the most part, the journey consists of three steps, which are mapped out below. The key of course being to secure the job offer, which usually (but not always) consists of travelling to New Zealand as a Visitor.



The Visa Process Explained

In some cases, people are able to secure jobs ahead of travelling to New Zealand and might have a pathway available under the **Straight to Residence** option, effectively removing the first two stages (**Visitor** and **Work Visas**).

What is really important to remember is that for most people, who are migrating here under one of the “**skilled**” pathways available, a **job offer** is absolutely crucial.

There are also some other key factors that you need to be aware of, which apply to the different types of Visas (Work and Residence) as part of the above.

Age

Age is not a factor for most temporary Visas, so you can secure a Work Visa regardless of your age. However it is a factor for most Skilled Residence pathways (the cutoff being 56 years).

Health

Immigration New Zealand will assess your health for any Visa where you intend to stay for more than 12 months. However the assessment is different for a Temporary Visa as compared to Residence. Residence health assessments are generally stricter in terms of criteria.

The Visa Process Explained

Character

Character assessments are undertaken for any Visa where you intend to stay for 24 months or more, including Residence. There are also different character requirements for both Temporary and Resident Visas, with different requirements for the Police Clearances you obtain.

It is really important that you disclose any character concerns and depending on the nature of these, they will dictate whether a 'character waiver' might be required.

English

English language tests are not required for most Temporary Visas (including most Work Visas), but they are required for almost all Residence pathways as a Skilled Migrant. It pays to know which options are available, the one that suits you best and the scores required.

Documents

For most applications, INZ will now accept plain colour copies as applications are applied for online. However in some cases, certified copies will be required, depending on the application you are making.

The Visa Process Explained

Accredited Employers

For our main Work Visa option (the Accredited Employer Work Visa) you will need to secure work with an employer that is Accredited with Immigration New Zealand.

The same applies to your Residence application as both Skilled Migration pathways require your employment to be with an Accredited Employer as well.'

Employers can become Accredited relatively quickly so keep your eyes on both Accredited and non-Accredited employers when undertaking your job search.

Qualifications

For the Skilled Migrant and Skilled Residence pathways, your qualifications (if you are claiming them for eligibility) need to be 'recognised' by Immigration New Zealand. You might think they are, but in reality, only a small number are accepted without needing to be assessed by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) first.

Green List

The Green List, provides a pathway for certain people to secure Work Visas or Residence in a faster (potentially easier) way.

The Visa Process Explained

Green List (continued)

However it is really important to understand that your job (the one you secure in New Zealand) does not have to be on the Green List for you to potentially qualify for Residence.

Family Temporary Visas

Once you have secured a job and then a Work Visa, your family will be able to apply for associated Temporary Visas (Work, Student or Visitor) for the same duration.

There are however some limits and conditions that apply to these Visas, particularly the work rights for your partner. Your children will be able to study at local, public schools for free. It is very important that you understand what each family member will be entitled to, as you might be on these Visas for several years, before securing Residence.

But Wait There Is More...

There is a lot more to consider as part of the overall Visa process, much of which will depend on your personal circumstances. However the above are some of the more common questions we are asked by clients on a daily basis.

The Job Search

For most applicants, securing skilled employment in New Zealand is one of the most important parts of the process and so, to help you along that path, we have curated some valuable tips, advice and tools to help you land the right job.

CV's and Cover Letters

Your CV and Cover Letter are often the first thing that employers will see when you display interest in a role. They can be the difference between an interview or a rejection but in the same breath will never be the thing that decides on whether you get the job or not. CV's and Cover Letters are designed to get you an interview, but it is the interview that will determine whether you are successfully hired.

For that reason, CV's and Cover Letters need to do a very specific job and be carefully prepared. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your CV and Cover Letter:

- Keep them **short and concise**. Most CV's should be 1 to 2 pages in length (3 if you absolutely have to).
- Order them properly to **highlight your most recent experience** and relevant qualifications.
- Your first page should be able to convey **who you are, how to reach you, your key (relevant) qualifications and most recent work experience**. If it takes an employer until the end of page 2 to discover this, you might have lost them.
- **Avoid general language** such as “dedicated team player that works well individually”. Be specific and clear as to who you are and how you work.

The Job Search

- Don't fill your CV with lists of tasks that you complete on a daily basis. **List five of your key duties** and then a couple of significant achievements. Most employers will know what your previous roles involved, what they want to know is whether you excelled in those roles or not.
- **Highlight relevant skills** by expanding them or reordering them. The key here is to make your CV match the requirements of the role you are applying for.
- When writing a Cover Letter, **write it to that specific employer**, using language that mirrors the job posting. Each Cover Letter should be slightly different and be addressed to that company specifically.

We have a **sample CV** that you can use, which provides for a nice, simple and clean look. Remember to use this as a starting point and to adjust and adapt the CV for each role that you apply for. You should also send a draft of your CV to your Consultant who will be able to give you some constructive feedback (sometimes brutal but necessary).

Interview Techniques

Unlike many countries, in New Zealand the interview is potentially the more important part of the job search process. We tend to place a much greater weighting on the interview process than we do the CV or Cover letter and so it pays to know how this might all work. It also never hurts (particularly if you have been out of the job search for a while) to do some practice runs with a friend or relative.

The Job Search

Depending on the role and level of skill or technical requirements, you may have one, two or even more interviews - each focusing on something different. It is common for most employers to have an initial discussion to simply get to know you and gauge whether you are right for the role, followed by a second more in-depth discussion about your skills and experience. If you are then asked to come and meet the team, you know you are pretty much on board.

To help you become familiar and comfortable with the process consider these points:

- **Prepare well** - do some research on the company and also prepare some questions that you want answered. Interviews should be an opportunity for both the employer and candidate to find out about each other and asking questions show you are interested and engaged.
- **Dress well (even online)** - you can never be over-dressed but you can easily be under-dressed. Before the interview ask what the dress code is and then dress accordingly but if in doubt dress up not down.
- **Be punctual** - arrive early but not too early. Generally it is wise to be 10 to 15 minutes early and this also gives you some wiggle room to find the location and deal with traffic. Make sure you research the location in advance so you know exactly where to go on the day.
- **Don't be afraid of silence** - if you are asked a question and provide an answer, don't worry if there is a period of silence. Many people tend to want to fill that void with more discussion which often doesn't help and can make you more uncomfortable.

The Job Search

- **It's okay to be nervous** - nerves are all part of the process and most employers (good ones) will know that you are likely to be a little nervous. Find some common ground early on in the interview and ask questions as well - this gives you a chance to relax as the employer does the talking.
- **Take it seriously but don't be rigid** - interviews are a formal process but they don't need to be awkward or stiff.

Treat the interview process with respect and do your research, dress well, prepare and be on time - however enjoy the process as well. It is a great opportunity to network, meet new people and talk about your achievements.

Job Search Sites

There are two main job search websites that cover roughly 85% of the New Zealand market place, these are:

- [Seek](#)
- [Trademe](#)

Whilst both sites are very useful in terms of scouting the market for available positions, they may not offer an immediate pathway to landing the right role.

In many cases positions are listed without the employer name and through a recruitment agency, making it difficult to apply if you do not hold a Visa already.

The Job Search

Whilst we still encourage you to apply for any roles you can find on these sites, it is also a good idea to use both Seek and Trademe as a source for jobs that you then try and contact directly.

If you can secure the company name, head to their website and try and make direct contact. Alternatively do some scouting through LinkedIn to try and make contact that way. You need to be clever in your search and don't simply rely on job boards to provide the answer.

LinkedIn and Networking

In many cases securing a job in New Zealand comes down to talking to the right person, in the right place at the right time. Networking is crucial and there are lots of ways you can do this. Start by having an active and accessible LinkedIn profile. You don't need to be posting every day but keep your page updated with topics relevant to your line of work. You can also use LinkedIn to research potential employers, make contact and message hiring managers.

More and more employers are using LinkedIn to do some background research on applicants so make sure your work history and qualification descriptions are current and complete.

You can also attend a number of onshore networking events relevant to your industry. A little bit of internet scouting will find any that are open to you and it is a good place to meet hiring managers or people who may be interested in your skills.

The Job Search

Talk to friends or family who are already here. New Zealand is a small place and often you will know someone who knows someone...the more contacts you make and networks you build the better your chances of securing a potential interview.

Employment Agreements

For the most part employment agreements in New Zealand are very standard and contain much of the same content. However when you have never seen them before, it pays to know what to look out for.

The following list includes some key items that an agreement must contain and are things we would be checking for you when you do secure a job offer:

- The names of the employer and the employee (to make clear who are the parties to the agreement)
- A description of the work to be performed (to make clear what the employee is expected to do)
- An indication of the place of work
- The agreed hours or an indication of the hours that the employee will work, this includes agreement on any or all of the following:
 - the number of hours
 - the start and finish times
 - or the days of the week the employee will work.
- The wage rate or salary payable (must be equal or greater than the relevant minimum wage) and how it will be paid (if the employee won't be paid in cash, this should be in the employment agreement or must be agreed in writing somewhere else)

The Job Search

- A plain explanation of how to help resolve employment relationship problems including advice that personal grievances must be raised within 90 days
- A statement that the employee will get (at least) time-and-a-half payment for working on a public holiday
- For relevant employees, an employment protection provision to apply if the employer's business is sold or transferred, or if the employee's work is contracted out
- Any other matters agreed on, such as trial periods, probationary arrangements, or availability provisions
- The nature of the employment if the employment is fixed-term.

We always check these details before any application for a Visa is filed because we obviously need to make sure everything is correct, however the above list will give you an idea as to what is required and what is important in terms of your legal relationship with an employer.

In some cases you will also be given an "Offer Letter" which may cover salaries, position, start dates and so forth (if they are not covered in the agreement). Offer letters are not mandatory however, so if you only receive the agreement, don't be alarmed.

Temporary Visas

Temporary Visas are often the starting point for most migrants and they often make the journey to a Residence outcome possible. They are however numerous and varied, and can become complicated enough to work out, before you even start considering the pathways to Residence.

We have outlined below some of the key Temporary Visas, what you can do with them and how long they last.

Visitor Visas

Visitor Visas are issued to people for a fixed period of time, usually to allow a stay in New Zealand for a period of **three** or **six months**. This can be extended (in both cases) to a total of nine months in an 18 month period or 12 months in a 24 month period.

Visitor Visas **do not allow you to work**, but you are entitled to seek employment or work remotely for your home country employer. However it is important that “visiting” remains your main purpose and that you adequately declare your intention to also seek employment when you apply for this Visa.

You are entitled to change from a General Visitor Visa to a Work Visa onshore, without having to leave New Zealand.

There are other forms of Visitor Visa for specific situations that come with different conditions attached.

Temporary Visas

Student Visas

There are two main types of Student Visa, the first being a Visa for an **international, full-fee paying student** and the other being a **dependent Student Visa**, for the child of someone here on a Work Visa.

The international Student Visa requires the applicant to have an offer of place, to study in New Zealand, evidence of funds to support themselves as well as meeting a range of other criteria.

The dependent child Student Visa, enables the dependent child of a Work Visa holder to study at public school (up to the end of high-school) as a domestic student (fee free). This does not extend to tertiary (beyond high-school) studies.

Work Visas

Work Visas, like most other Temporary Visas, come in a variety of different types, however our main Work Visa is the **Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)**. This Visa entitles the holder to work for an Accredited employer, in a specific role, with a specific minimum salary and in a specified location

Temporary Visas

Work Visas (continued)

Work Visas, like most other Temporary Visas, come in a variety of different types, however our main Work Visa is the **Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)**. This Visa entitles the holder to work for an Accredited employer, in a specific role, with a specific minimum salary and in a specified location.

Most AEWV's are based on the applicant securing a job offer, then the employer submitting a Job Check for that role, and once that is approved the applicant being invited to apply for the Work Visa itself (their family can apply at the same time). Applicant's **must be paid at least the median wage**, unless an exemption applies.

Some of these Visas will lead to Residence, but not all of them do. Work Visas, are separate to the Residence process but for most Residence applicants, they need a Work Visa as a starting point to reach Residence in the future.

Other Work Visas include:

- **Partnership based Work Visas**
- **Specific Purpose Work Visas**
- **Working Holidays**
- **Post-Study Work Visas**

Each of these comes with its own set of conditions and requirements.

Resident Visas

Resident Visas, like their Temporary Visa counterparts are also varied in nature and we have a number of different pathways available. However to simplify the details, for the purposes of this guide, we have outlined below, the three main streams of Visas (Skilled, Family, Business) and listed the main categories in each.

We have provided further details for each category in the pages that follow.



**Straight to
Residence**

**Work to
Residence**

**Skilled Migrant
(Points)
Category**



**Parent
Category**

**Parent
Retirement**

**Partnership &
Dependent
Child**



**Business
Investor
Category
(Work &
Residence)**

**Active Investor
Visa**

Resident Visas

Skilled Migrant - Straight to Residence

The **Straight to Residence** process is relatively new (introduced in September 2022) and works on the basis of the applicant, securing a job offer in a role, on a specific list (the **Green List**).

The Green List contains occupations that are in high demand and if you secure a job here on **Tier 1** of the list and meet the specific requirements for that job (qualifications, registration, salary or a combination of these), then you can apply directly for Residence.

Applicants must be **under 56 years of age, speak English, meet health and character requirements** and **have a job offer in NZ**, being paid median wage or higher, on the Green List, with an Accredited Employer. Your partner and dependent children can be included.

Visas under this category are prioritised and can often be processed in a matter of weeks (depending on other checks that might need to be done).

The most important thing to remember is that on top of having a job, in an occupation, on the Green List, you also have to ensure that you meet the **specific requirements** for that occupation - these are often, not that easy to work out.

The Green List is reviewed annually, with occupations being added or removed, depending on industry demand.

Resident Visas

Skilled Migrant - Work to Residence

Similar to the Straight to Residence pathway, the **Work to Residence** option, utilizes the same **Green List**, however this is for jobs that occupy **Tier 2** of that list. Basically these are jobs in demand, but where that demand may not be critical (as is the case for Tier 1 occupations).

Under this category, there are effectively two steps:

- **Secure a Work Visa** to work in one of the list occupations.
- **Work for two years** in that occupation and then apply for Residence.

The same basic rules apply in terms of age, health and character, however it is important to note that **age is assessed at the time you are able to file for Residence** (e.g. you must be under 56 when you apply for Residence, after having worked in New Zealand for two years).

You still need to meet the specific occupation requirements under the Green List and have a role being paid the median wage or higher, with an Accredited employer, in New Zealand.

The challenge here is making sure that you time this right so you are still under the age requirement to apply for Residence and that you maintain your eligibility over the two years of work that you need to complete in New Zealand first.

Resident Visas

Skilled Migrant - Points Category

Now we get to one of the more “key” policies within the Skilled Migrant bundle. This is the points based system that use a combination of NZ registration, qualifications or income, topped up with NZ work experience. The chart below provides a summary:

NZ Registration	Qualifications	Income (in NZ)	+	Skilled NZ Work Experience	
≥ 6 Years Training (6 Points)	Level 10 (PhD) (6 Points)	3 X Median (6 Points)		3 Years	3
≥ 5 Years Training (5 Points)	Level 9 (Master's) (5 Points)	2 X Median (4 Points)		2 Years	2
≥ 4 Years Training (4 Points)	Level 8 (Honors or Postgraduate Diploma) (4 Points)	1.5 X Median (3 Points)		1 Year	1
≥ 3 Years Training (3 Points)	Level 7 (Bachelor Degree) or Level 8 (Postgraduate Certificate) (3 Points)				

This system doesn't involve the **Green List**, but you do need a job in NZ with an Accredited employer, paying at least the median wage and that is skilled. There are multiple ways that “skilled jobs” are assessed.

Note: significant changes are being introduced in August 2026 which will make this pathway quicker and available to a wider number of skills/candidates.

Resident Visas

Skilled Migrant - Points Category

The key difference between this **points-based category** and the other two categories (**Straight to Residence** and **Work to Residence - Green List**) is that there is a much wider selection of jobs that can apply and the system uses points to determine whether someone is eligible.

Under this pathway, it is absolutely crucial to ensure you have a well mapped out plan in place, to both secure the job in NZ, but then also to time the Work Visas right and to ensure you maintain your eligibility over the number of years you need to work here, before applying for Residence (unless you can apply directly).

The other two Skilled Migrant pathways have very simple and very clear requirements for the type of job and qualifications etc., you need to hold. With this pathway there is still potential for INZ to challenge whether your role is skilled, whether you have the right skills to undertake the role and your overall claim to points.

It is however a very good category for those in registered occupations, those with higher level qualifications or the ability to earn a good income in New Zealand.

Resident Visas

Family - Parent & Parent Retirement

We have two separate pathways for parents, which are both reliant on the applicants having adult children living in New Zealand. Both can take quite a while to process but for very different reasons. Here are some of the key facts and differences:

Parent Category

- Adult children acting as sponsors must have been Resident in NZ for three years.
- Sponsors must earn a specific NZ income, depending on the number of sponsors and number of parents being sponsored.
- English language requirement.
- Health & character assessments.
- Operates under a ballot system, where applicants submit an expression of interest.

Parent Retirement Category

- Adult children do not have to act as sponsors.
- Adult children just have to be Resident in NZ, but no requirement to have lived here for three years.
- Requires an investment in to NZ of NZD\$1.0 million.
- An additional NZD\$500K in settlement funds and an annual income of NZD\$60K per couple
- English requirements.
- Health & character assessments.
- No ballot system, applications are made directly to INZ.

Resident Visas

Family - Partner & Dependent Child

If you are lucky enough to be in a relationship with a New Zealand citizen or Resident, then there is a pathway for you. If you are the dependent child of the same (citizen or Resident) then equally you can apply under this stream of Visas.

For partners, the key is in being able to demonstrate (and prove beyond any doubt) that your relationship is real, you have been living together for 12 months or more and you intend to carry on in the relationship.

However the test of 12-months applies to Residence and there are temporary Visa options available for partners, where the relationship has existed for less than 12 months. All relationships are different and so each case needs a unique approach in terms of potentially combining different Visas together to reach the final (Residence) goal.

You do not need to be married and although that can help your case, it isn't a requirement. INZ considers the living together aspect above all else - but the onus on proving that, falls on you as the applicant.

Dependent children can also apply, if they are dependent on their NZ based parent, whether living with them or not. The tricky part here is proving that dependence, which isn't always as easy as it might sound.

Resident Visas

Business - Business Investor & Investor

For those interested in pursuing business or investment opportunities in New Zealand, we have two potential pathways - the Entrepreneur Category and the Active Investor (Plus) pathway.

Business Investor

The Business Investor Category consists of two steps - an initial Work Visa to invest in an established business and then after successfully operating that business for a period of time, a subsequent Residence application.

This category is based on the applicant investing a set level of funding (one or two million dollars) in to a qualifying NZ business.

These are notoriously difficult applications to have approved and given the very prescriptive requirements for the business you plan to invest in.

A good plan, strong due diligence and good forward planning are the key to this Visa.

Resident Visas

Active Investor (Plus)

For those looking to invest in New Zealand (and invest a significant sum), the Active Investor (Plus) Category could be an option, although with an investment of either NZD\$5.0 million (**Growth Pathway**) or NZD\$10 million (**Balanced Pathway**), it is not for the faint of heart.

Each pathway offers a different investment timeframe as well as a separate requirement for the time you have to spend here, as well as giving you different investment options.

The Growth category requires Direct Investments or Managed funds, three year investment period and 21 days spent in NZ over that three years.

The Balanced category offers a much wider scope of investments (including bonds and equities), a five year investment timeframe and 105 days spent in NZ over that five year period.

This category requires some very careful planning and preparation in terms of the mix of investments and the timeframe to transfer funds. INZ also places a significant amount of weight on confirming the funds are owned by the applicant and that they were legally earned or acquired.

Other Visas

There are of course many more Visas that you can apply for, some are different types of the ones we have discussed, others are entirely different Visas altogether.

We have listed below, a few of the Visa types that people refer to and you are likely to hear about as you start this process.

- **Tourist Visa** - This is the same as a General Visitor Visa, allowing someone to visit New Zealand for a variety of reasons.
- **Open Visa** - The only “open” Visa is the one granted to the partner of a NZ citizen, Resident or Work Visa holder.
- **Specific Purpose Work Visa** - These are Work Visas granted to someone undertaking a specific project or event or who has a very particular reason to come to NZ to work.
- **Guardian Visa** - This is a Visitor Visa, issued to the parent of a child who is in NZ on an international Student Visa.
- **NZETA** - This is not actually a Visa. This is a “travel authority” issued to people who can enter NZ Visa free. If you hold a Visa, you don’t need an ETA and you can get an ETA, but still need a Visa.
- **Dependent Visa** - This describes a range of Visas issued to partners or dependent children, such as a Student Visa or Work Visa (for a partner).
- **Visa Waiver** - For certain countries, we have agreements in place where citizens of those countries can visit here for up to 90 days (UK is six months) without securing a Visa before arrival (they do need an ETA though).

Final Thoughts...

As you might be starting to realise, the process of moving abroad is a very complex thing with a lot of moving parts. While we have covered a lot of them so far, there are a few other useful tips we have to offer, some of which are easy to forget but can be very important.

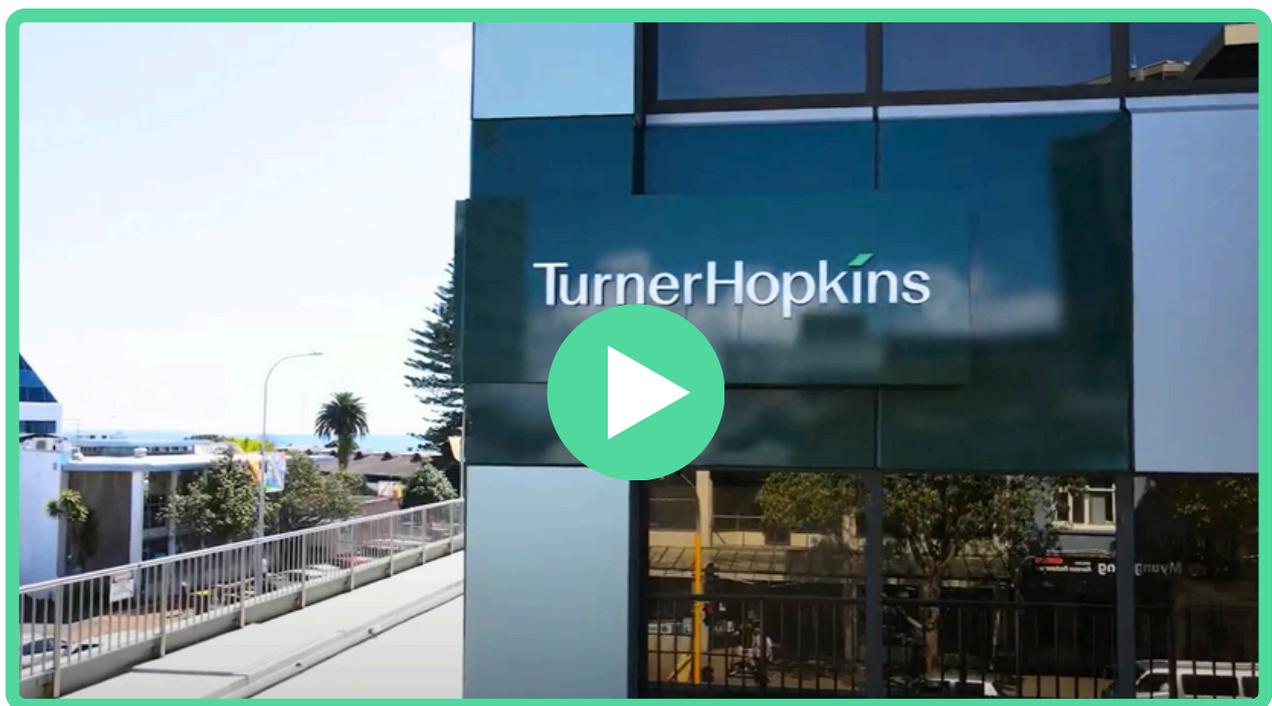
- **Don't forget the pets** - if you are moving your pets across, start this process early and find out the best options, process and costs involved.
- **Get references** - not just employment references, but credit and rental references - these can be useful when setting up here.
- **Set up a bank account** - we can assist people to do this in NZ, usually before they arrive, giving them banking facilities on arrival.
- **Sort our local phone and internet access** - when you arrive you can secure a local sim-card at the airport and that will usually give you access to data right away.
- **Prescriptions** - if you need to take medication, secure a supply before you leave to arrive here and ensure you have a letter confirming the medication you take to show at customs.
- **Make copies** - of everything, and store these online where you can access them no matter where you end up.
- **Have a contact** - someone back home who has access to documents or can assist you in securing documents that you might need when you are in NZ.

There are lots of things to plan for and think about, but above all else make sure you remember to have some fun along the way. This is after all the biggest adventure you and your family will embark on.

Final Thoughts...

With our experience, we have learned a few things along the way to help our clients achieve the Visa result they are striving for but to also enjoy the process along the way.

Below is a short introduction video giving you some background as to how we view the process and the level of value we bring to our clients as they embark on a new life in New Zealand.

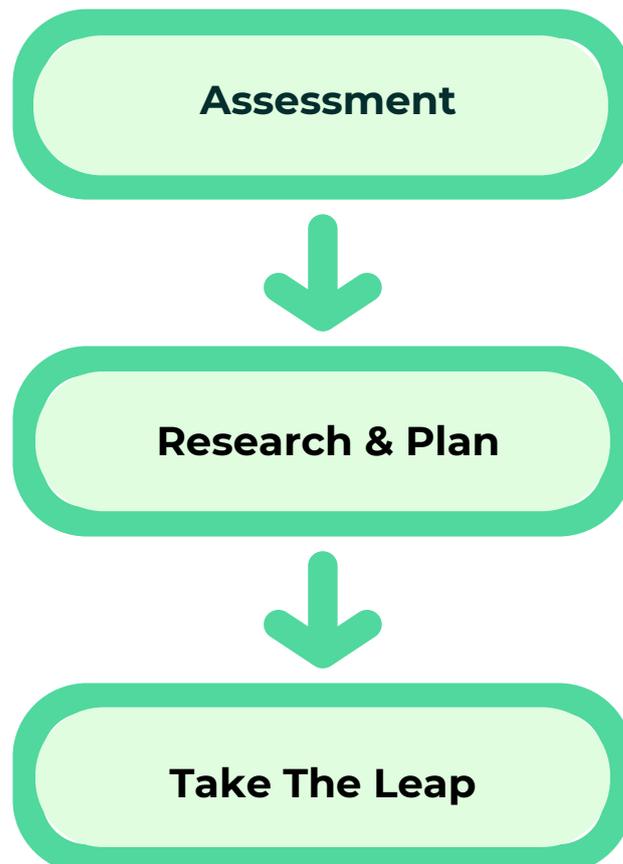


We have additional video resources available on our website and for all of our clients, we offer a comprehensive relocation guide, expanding on many of the details in this document, as well as information on housing, healthcare, education and much more.

Next Steps

Hopefully this guide, has given you the basic foundation for which to plan your move, or at least to make the decision on whether the move is right for you or not.

In terms of what you do next, this really depends on you, but for our part, we would encourage you to follow these steps:



Next Steps

1. Assessment

This is your first key step, because until you know what you qualify for, what the process will look like and any obstacles you need to overcome, nothing much more can happen.

Undertaking a detailed assessment of your Visa options, will allow you to plan more effectively and more efficient.

2. Research and Plan

Once you have a clear outline of the Visa options available and what you will need to do to achieve the end result, you should start to research and plan.

A good adviser will help you with this, but setting out your Visa strategy in simple terms, as well as encouraging you to start researching different aspects (job search, housing, education and so on).

3. Take the Leap

Finally (and assuming you are eligible, and are ready to go), there is nothing left to do, but take the leap of faith and embrace the process head on. It will be one of the biggest things you do in your life, but one well worth doing.

Come join us...

THIS

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