

## Skilled Migrant Category – Expression of Interest

If you want to move to New Zealand and live here permanently, you will need to apply for residency.

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) assesses residency applications in four main categories:

1. Skilled Migrant
2. Business
3. Family
4. Work to Residence.

In this infosheet, we will explain Expressions of Interest, the first step towards an application under the Skilled Migrant category.

If you are coming to work in New Zealand for an employer or to work for shorter periods of time, a work visa and permit may be more appropriate. **Queen City Law** can advise you on work permit and visa applications if required.

All INZ forms are available from **Queen City Law** and can also be downloaded from the INZ website.

**IMPORTANT:** New Zealand's immigration legislation allows the Minister of Immigration to make and implement immigration policy as and when required, and this includes the processes and criteria described in this infosheet. As a result, immigration policy and criteria can – and do – change without warning, so it is essential that you check the details in this newsletter against the most current INZ information (available online at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)) before making an application.

### The Skilled Migrant Category

To apply for residency under this category, you must first complete an **Expression of Interest**.

These Expressions of Interest are ranked, allowing INZ to extend invitations to apply for residence to those who have the most to offer New Zealand.

Your spouse and dependent children can also be included in your **Expression of Interest**.

The fee for the application is NZ\$1550.00 if filed in New Zealand. The fee is \$1350.00 if the application is filed in the Pacific or Sydney and is \$2050.00 if filed in any other location. The fee is payable to New Zealand Immigration and is subject to change.

To have an Expression of Interest accepted, you will need to:

- be of good health and character;
- have a reasonable standard of English;
- be under 56 years of age; and
- meet the current threshold of 140 points for employability and capacity building factors.

(if the total points is over 100 but less than 140 but includes points for a skilled job offer, then you may also be selected (according to its points ranking) to meet the required number of the government's annual immigration target at the time of that selection)

The Skilled Migrant Category is designed to minimise the risk of a mismatch between the skills that migrants possess and the skills that New Zealand needs. The highest points will be awarded to qualified and skilled migrants who are already working in skilled

#### Advice and information

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employment in New Zealand (although a skilled job offer is not a prerequisite). More details of the points system that INZ uses to assess and rank Expressions of Interest, can be found at the end of this fact sheet.

If you meet the criteria above, you can then complete the following steps in order to apply under the Skilled Migrant category:

- Submit an Expression of Interest form. You will need to supply details of your health, character, age, English language ability and the factors that will earn you points. Once this is completed, submit it to INZ with the correct application fee. INZ will check that all relevant information has been supplied and that your Expression of Interest meets the requirements to be admitted for ranking.
- INZ ranks Expressions of Interest and puts them in a “pool”. It then invites those with the top points to apply for residence. Expressions of Interest are prioritised in terms of the number of points, not on a first in, first served basis.
- If your Expression of Interest is selected, it will undergo a preliminary checking and verification process to determine whether the claims made in your Expression of Interest appear credible and legitimate. As part of this process, the Service may contact the people and organizations that you listed. You may be contacted and asked to provide additional information or documents during this period.
- If your Expression of Interest is not selected from the pool during the first selection, it remains in the pool for six (6) months. If it is still unsuccessful, the INZ will withdraw your Expression of Interest from the pool and advise you of this withdrawal. You can lodge another Expression of Interest if you wish. If no pool selection occurs within the six-month period that your Expression of Interest is in the pool, it will remain there until a selection is made.
- If your Expression of Interest is successful, INZ will send you an official Invitation to Apply for Residence. The Invitation allows you four months within which you can lodge an application. It will list the documents that you will need to provide (e.g. passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, police, medical and x-rays, etc) and the application fees.
- INZ will assess your full application for residence and judge your ability to settle successfully and make a real contribution to New Zealand’s social and economic development.

#### Advice and information

**Queen City Law’s** Immigration Team can advise on all aspects of Skilled Migrant applications – please contact **Marcus Beveridge** or **Bradley So** or **Rita Worner** for further information or assistance.

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Factors		Points	Points Claimed
<b>A6</b>	<b>Age</b> ○ 20-29 ○ 30-39 ○ 40-44 ○ 45-49 ○ 50-55	<b>SM18</b> 30 25 20 10 5	
<b>E1</b>	<b>Skilled Employment</b> ○ Current skilled employment in NZ for 12 months or more ○ Offer of Skilled employment in New Zealand or skilled employment in NZ for less 12 months	<b>SM7</b> 60 50	
<b>E7</b> <b>E8</b> <b>E12</b>	<b>Skilled Employment Bonus points</b> ○ Region outside Auckland ○ Identified future growth area ○ Area of absolute skills shortage	<b>SM8 &amp; 9</b> 10 10 10	
<b>F1</b> <b>F2</b>	<b>Qualifications</b> ○ Recognised basic qualification ○ Recognised post-graduate qualification	<b>SM14</b> 50 60	
<b>F7</b> <b>F9</b> <b>F11</b> <b>F13</b>	<b>Qualifications Bonus Points</b> ○ Recognised basic New Zealand qualification ○ 2 years study in NZ towards recognised qual ○ Identified Growth Area ○ Absolute skills shortage ○ Post-graduate NZ qual (Masters/Doctorate)	<b>SM15&amp;16</b> 5 5 10 10 10,15	
<b>G1</b>	<b>Work Experience (in comparable labour market)</b> ○ 2 years ○ 4 years ○ 6 years ○ 8 years ○ 10 years	<b>SM11</b> 10 15 20 25 30	
<b>G3</b> <b>G4</b> <b>G5</b> <b>G6</b>	<b>Work Experience Bonus Points</b> ○ Number of years in NZ (1,2, 3 years or more) ○ Identified Growth Area (2-5 years, 6 years or more) ○ Absolute skills shortage (2-5 years, 6 years or more)	<b>SM12&amp;13</b> 5,10,15 10,15 10,15	
<b>L1</b> <b>M1</b>	<b>Partner Bonus Points</b> ○ job / job offer ○ Recognised qualification.	<b>SM10&amp;17</b> 20 20	
<b>T2</b>	<b>Close Family Support</b> ○ Close family support in New Zealand	<b>SM17.5</b> 10	
		<b>Total Points</b>	

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