

## Introducing New Zealand's Residency Categories

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

If you are coming to work in New Zealand for an employer or to work for a specific purpose or event (like business secondment), a work visa and permit may be more appropriate.

The New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) assesses residency applications in four main categories:

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

This information sheet will give you a very brief summary of each of the above categories.

### 1. Skilled Migrant Category (SMC)

This category requires you to first submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), and then be invited to apply for residence if your EOI scores over the passmark (currently set at 140).

If you:

- have a recognised qualification (e.g. trade qualification, diploma, bachelor degree);
- are under the age of 56 years;
- are already employed or have an offer of employment in New Zealand;
- have competent English ability (eg: IELTS average 6.5 or have English speaking background)

then, you should consider this category. Please ask us for a more detailed infosheet for this category.

### 2. Business Categories

You can apply for residency under **the investor, Entrepreneur, or Employees of Relocating Business Categories.**

Another business category is **the Long Term Business Visa (LTBV) Category** which first grants you a temporary work permit (for 3 years) and leads to residence under the Entrepreneur Category.

#### Business Investor Category

You will need to meet the following minimum criteria:

- have at least NZD \$2 million (approx USD 1.4 – 1.6m) to invest in New Zealand for five years;
- are able to show at least five years' business experience;
- are 54 years or younger;
- are able to meet a minimum standard of English (eg: IELTS 5.0)

#### Entrepreneur

To apply under the Entrepreneur Category, you need to have successfully established a business in New Zealand that is benefiting New Zealand. A business would be considered to be benefiting New Zealand if it:

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- introduced new or enhancing existing technology, management or technical skills; or
- introduced new or enhancing existing products, services or export markets; or
- created new job opportunities; or
- revitalised an existing business.

#### Long-term Business Visa/Permit (LTBV)

Successful LTBV holders may apply for residence under the Entrepreneur category after two years of successfully operating their business.

### 3. Family

You may apply to come to New Zealand to live if you are sponsored by a family member who is already a New Zealand citizen or resident. You must be in one of the groups shown below:

- **Partner** – you and your partner (sponsor) need to prove that you are living together (and have been for a minimum 12 months) in a genuine and stable relationship.
- **Parent** - you want to come and join your adult child who is a New Zealand citizen or resident. You will need to prove that an equal or greater number of adult children are living (as a citizen or resident) in New Zealand than in any other single country, including your home country.
- **Brother, sister or adult child** – A New Zealand citizen or resident parent, brother or sister who is living in New Zealand is able to sponsor you **if** there are no other siblings or parents living in the same country in which you are living and **if** you receive an acceptable job offer in New Zealand.
- **Dependent Child Policy** – **if** you are younger than the age of 24 and are single and have no children of your own, you may apply as a dependent child to join your parent(s) who must be living lawfully and permanently in New Zealand.

### 4. Work to Residence

#### Talent (Accredited Employers) Residence Policy

If you receive a job offer from an accredited employer in New Zealand and receive a base salary of at least NZ\$45,000 per year, then you would be eligible to apply for residency after working for that employer for 2 years.

#### Talent (Arts, Culture and Sports) Residence Policy

If you have an exceptional talent in a field of art, culture or sport that were sponsored by a nationally recognised organisation in New Zealand, then you would be eligible to apply for residency after having actively engaged in your field in New Zealand for 2 years.

#### Long Term Skill Shortage List Residence Policy

If you have held a work visa or permit and have been employed in New Zealand in an occupation which is included on the **Long Term Shortage List** for at least 2 years, are currently receiving a base salary of NZ\$45,000 per year; and are aged 55 or younger, then you may be eligible to apply for residence under this policy.

#### Advice and information

**Queen City Law** is a leading immigration law specialist in New Zealand. For a further information or discussion please contact **Marcus Beveridge** or **Bradley So** or **Rita Worner**.

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