



NEWSLETTER

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2021 ONE-OFF RESIDENCE VISA

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

On 30 September 2021, the Government announced a new one-off residence visa pathway for some temporary work visa holders currently in New Zealand.

- Some critical purpose visa holders arriving in New Zealand between 30 September 2021 and 31 July 2022 on long-term visas may also be eligible for this new visa.
- Partners and dependents can be included as part of these residence applications.
- Applications will be open in two phases from 1 December 2021 for some eligible applicants and from 1 March 2022 for remaining eligible applicants.
- All applications must be submitted by 31 July 2022.

Partners and dependents can be included whether they are in New Zealand or offshore.

To be eligible you must:

- have been in New Zealand on 29 September 2021, and
- hold an eligible visa, or
- have applied for an eligible visa on or before 29 September 2021 that is later granted.

These are the pre-requisites and Immigration have made it clear in subsequent discussions that no exceptions will be allowed. It is accepted that some people will miss out but it appears there is little likelihood that there will be any changes to these criteria.

You must also meet one of the three criteria:

- have lived in New Zealand for three or more years, or
- earn at or above the median wage (\$27 per hour), or
- work in a role on a scarce list.

Again it seems clear that these criteria will not be changed and all apply as at 29 September 2021.

Eligible visas

On 29 September all applicants must have been on (or have applied for and later granted) one of the following visas:

- Post Study Work Visa • Talent (Accredited Employer) Work Visa
- Essential Skills Work Visa • Religious Worker Work Visa
- Talent (Arts, Culture, Sports) Work Visa • Long Term Skill Shortage List Work Visa • Silver Fern Practical Experience Work Visa
- Trafficking Victim Work Visa • Migrant Exploitation Protection Work Visa • Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Work Visa
- Victims of Family Violence Work Visa • South Island Contribution Work Visa • Work Visa granted under Section 61 (provided the applicant held another eligible visa type within 6 months before being granted a Section 61 visa) • Some Critical Purpose Visitor Visas

The list of eligible visas is unlikely to change. Immigration accept that there are some notable exceptions but Immigration feel that they have been generous enough and appear unlikely to make any further concessions.

Short-term visa holders are not eligible, such as visitors, students, working holiday makers, and seasonal workers like those on the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme or those who enter as short-term critical workers.

All applicants must meet the health and character requirements for the 2021 Resident Visa. Overseas police certificates will not be required unless specifically requested by an Immigration Officer. Limited medical certificates and chest x-ray certificates may be required for some people.

Critical Purpose visitor holders

Two groups of Critical Purpose visitor visa holders will be eligible, as long as you arrive in New Zealand and apply before 31 July 2022.

- Critical health workers for longer term roles (6 months or longer), and
- Other critical workers for long term roles (more than 6 months).

Applicants who have lived in New Zealand for three or more years

To be eligible under this criteria:

- you must have lived in New Zealand for the past three or more years and
- have arrived in New Zealand on or before 29 September 2018, and
- have spent a minimum of 821 days in New Zealand between 29 September 2018 and 29 September 2021 (inclusive).
- The time spent in New Zealand does not need to be consecutive. There is no minimum amount within a calendar year.

Applicants earning at or above the median wage

To be eligible under this criteria:

- you must be paid the median wage of NZD \$27 per hour or above on 29 September 2021.

Applicants working in a job on a scarce list

To be eligible under this criteria:

- on 29 September 2021 you must work in a job that is on a scarce list. These are:
- [Jobs on the Long Term Skill Shortage List](#)
- [Jobs requiring occupational registration in the health or education sector](#)
- [Personal carer and other critical health workers](#)
- [Specified primary sector jobs](#)

Application process

From 1 December 2021 you can apply if:

- you have already applied for residence under the Skilled Migrant and Residence from Work categories before 29 September 2021, or
- you have submitted a Skilled Migrant Category Expression of Interest **and have included a dependent child in the Expression of Interest who is aged 17 years or older on 29 September 2021.**

From 1 March 2022 all other eligible applicants can apply, including

- all others who have submitted a Skilled Migrant Category Expression of Interest.

Applications will be submitted online but so far there is no indication of the form or documentation requirements.

Information about fees and the application process will be available by the end of October.

Those who are eligible to apply from 1 December 2021 will receive an email from Immigration New Zealand by the end of October with further information.

The category of having lived in NZ for more than 3 years appears to have the least requirements and would be the best option to choose if you qualify under other criteria as well.

It is expected that 80% of applications will be processed within 12 months, with most being processed much faster.

There are no age limits!

There is no English Language requirement!

I am already accepting instructions to apply under this new Residence category. My fee will be between \$1,500 and \$1,800 plus GST. The application fee is likely to be similar to other residence application fees – around \$2,000.

Contact me now to register with me, complete a free assessment and you can pay your fees at \$50 per week with no up-front deduction, your instalments will be held in my trust account until the process begins. In the meantime, we can start to gather the necessary documentation.

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