

Immigration

Immigrating to New Zealand

Are you looking to move to New Zealand? Already here and looking to stay permanently? Seeking to buy a property, start a business, or invest in New Zealand?

Figuring out what immigration pathway is best for you can be confusing, especially as there have been many changes to the requirements over the past few months. We are here to assist and can provide advice and recommendations tailored to your circumstances. We can also assist with the practicalities of making your and your family's visa applications.

Duncan Cotterill has a team of experts to assist you in all areas of immigration.

We have offices in Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, and Queenstown. Therefore, we are perfectly placed to provide the practical assistance you need, help you understand the local labour market and business environment, and explain the specific requirements of where you wish to be, in New Zealand.

Our team has significant experience working with Immigration New Zealand and the related government agencies, such as the Immigration & Protection Tribunal and the Department of Internal Affairs. We have the knowledge and deep understanding to help you successfully navigate the immigration and, once eligible, citizenship pathways.

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Invest

To obtain residence through investment, you must invest between NZ\$5million and NZ\$15million, depending on what approved investments you choose, as each type of investment is given a different weighting towards a value of NZ\$15million.

The types of investment that you can choose from include approved Direct Investments; approved Managed Funds; Listed Equities; and Philanthropic investments. You can invest in a combination of any or all of these. For example, if you choose to invest solely in approved Direct Investments, the investment only needs to be NZ\$5million, as Direct Investments are given a weighting of three-times their value for the purposes of the Investor Visa application.

A portion of the funds must be invested within the first six months. Thereafter, you must invest the balance of the funds at the 18-month and 36-month points, retaining the full investment for the final 12 months of an overall 48-month period.

To progress to a resident visa without any conditions, you must spend at least 117 days inside New Zealand within the 48-month period.

You will also need to meet minimum English language requirements, as well as health and good character requirements, including a Fit and Proper Person requirement.

If investment is a viable pathway for you, we can assist you in determining and structuring your investments to suit your needs and the visa requirements.

Business

Alternatively, you may be seeking the opportunity to establish a business in New Zealand or to buy an existing business. If so, there is a potential pathway to doing this, under the Entrepreneur visa category.

To apply under this category you will need to be an experienced business person who wants to be self-employed. Also, you will need to be able to demonstrate that your proposed business or purchase of an existing business will either bring high growth, innovation, or export potential.

As well as the above, to obtain an Entrepreneur Work Visa, you are likely to need to make a minimum capital investment of NZ\$100,000 and have a detailed business plan that explains how the business will achieve high growth, innovation, or export potential.

You may be eligible to apply for residence after you have successfully operated the business for between six months and two years, depending on a number of factors.

Skilled employment

New Zealand's immigration system is very welcoming to applicants with an offer of skilled employment.

If you already have (or have been offered) full time permanent employment in New Zealand in a skilled

occupation, then you may be eligible for residence under the Green List pathway, through the Skilled Migrant Category, or by way of residence opportunities for people in certain industries.

The Green List pathway is based on a list of occupations. If you are offered employment in one of the occupations included in the Green List, and can demonstrate you meet the specific requirements for your chosen occupation, this will enable you to either immediately qualify for residence or to qualify after two years.

The Skilled Migrant Category, which has recently been revised, enables applicants who have an offer of employment with an accredited employer to obtain residence. Eligibility depends on the level of remuneration, or qualification, or professional registration, along with the number of years of working in New Zealand. For example, if you are offered employment paying at least three-times New Zealand's median wage, then you may be eligible to immediately apply for residence.

There is also a two-year pathway to residence for individuals who have been offered certain occupations in the care or public transport sectors.

Temporary retirement category

If you are aged 66 years or over and have a minimum of \$750,000 to invest in New Zealand for two years, can demonstrate ownership of NZ\$500,000 of maintenance funds, have an annual income of NZ\$60,000, and have comprehensive travel/health insurance, you may be eligible for a two-year temporary retirement visa, which you may then be able to renew.

Family categories

If you have a family member, such as a partner or child who is already a New Zealand citizen or resident, then they may be able to assist you with migrating to New Zealand.

There are various options available, depending on your circumstances and, of course, we are happy to navigate these with you.

Additional services

Moving to New Zealand is not simply about obtaining the appropriate visa. There are other issues that need to be considered, such as tax and how this may affect overseas income.

New Zealand also has strict rules on who it permits to buy residential property, which we can assist you to navigate. We can also provide advice in respect of the establishment of trusts or transfer of foreign trusts, and also in preparing New Zealand wills and Powers of Attorney.

As a full service law firm, Duncan Cotterill has specialists and expertise in all of these areas and we will work together to ensure that our immigration clients are provided with comprehensive advice.