

New Zealand citizenship

Obtaining New Zealand citizenship by grant is often the final step for those who have been granted New Zealand residence. However, it is not the only type of citizenship that a person may be eligible to apply for.

What are the main types of New Zealand citizenship?

The three types of New Zealand citizenship are:

- 1) Citizenship by birth: By being born in New Zealand to a New Zealand citizen or resident.
- 2) Citizenship by descent – By being born overseas to a parent who holds citizenship by birth or grant.
- 3) Citizenship by grant: By being granted citizenship, usually where the applicant has held New Zealand residence for close to five years and meets minimum presence and other requirements.

What are the main requirements for citizenship by grant?

- An entitlement to live in New Zealand indefinitely (a residence visa);
- Presence in New Zealand for a minimum of 1,350 days during the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application;
- Presence in New Zealand for at least 240 days in each of 12 months within the 5-year period;
- Good character;
- Sufficient knowledge of the English language; and
- An intention to continue to reside in New Zealand.

Can I apply for New Zealand citizenship if I do not meet all the requirements?

It may be possible for you to make a request to the Minister of Internal Affairs that you be granted citizenship if you can demonstrate you have exceptional circumstances. The success of such a request will be dependent on each person's particular circumstances.

How Duncan Cotterill can assist

Duncan Cotterill's immigration team can assist by firstly assessing your eligibility for citizenship and then preparing and submitting your application. Our immigration team provides tailored support to help you navigate the process.

Contact our immigration team today for expert advice tailored to your situation.

Contact us



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