

Pathways to Residence

Obtaining residence

These are the common pathways to obtain residence in New Zealand

Employment-based categories

- **Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa:** This may be available if you have skilled employment, at least a degree level qualification (or 5/4 years of skilled work experience for applications in 2026) or a specified professional registration, and are earning at least the median wage.
- **Straight to Residence Visa:** This is an option if you have employment in an occupation that is listed on Tier One of the Green List. [Green List.](#)
- **Work to Residence Visa:** This is an option if you have employment in an occupation that is listed on Tier Two of the Green List and you have held that employment for two years. [Green List.](#)

All the above employment-based categories have age, English language, health and good character requirements.

Active Investor Plus

- ☐ This requires an investment of at least NZ\$5million into approved investments. You will need to prove how you lawfully acquired the funds.
- ☐ You will need to meet the health and good character requirements but will not need to meet English language requirements.

Family visas

- **Partnership-based Resident Visa:** If you have been living with a New Zealand partner for at least 12 months, you may be eligible for residence.
- **Parent Resident Visa:** If you have a child who is a New Zealand citizen or resident, they may be able to support you to apply for residence. Applicants are selected from a pool.
- **Dependent child:** A dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or resident may be able to apply for New Zealand residence.

- **Parent Retirement Resident Visa:** A parent of a New Zealand citizen or resident may be able to apply for residence under this category if they have at least NZ\$1million to invest, plus a minimum level of maintenance funds and income.

All applicants applying under any of the above family-based categories will need to meet the applicable health and good character requirements. In some circumstances, an applicant applying for a partnership residence visa may also need to meet English language requirements.

Business Investor Residence Visa

- Under this category, a Business Investor Work Visa holder may be able to apply for residence after three years, where they have invested NZ\$1million into an existing business, or after 12 months by investing NZ\$2million into an existing business.

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

Contact us



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