NEW ZEALAND IMMIGRATION

Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Guide

A guide to applying for a partnership-based temporary visa

Information about this guide

This guide will help you to complete the form *Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Application (INZ 1198)*. It will also help your partner complete the *Form for Partners Supporting Partnership-Based Temporary Entry Applications (INZ 1146)*.

It will give you information about applying for a visa on the basis of:

- a partnership with a New Zealand citizen or resident, or
- a partnership with a person who holds (or is applying for) a New Zealand work or student visa.

You should read this guide before completing the application form. The guide gives you information about:

- what evidence you need to provide with your application form, and
- how to complete your application form.

Do you need a visa to come to New Zealand?

You do not need a visa to come to New Zealand if:

- you are a New Zealand citizen, or
- you hold a New Zealand residence class visa.

If you are an Australian citizen or you are the holder of a current Australian permanent residence visa or a current resident return visa, you do not need a visa to travel to New Zealand. You must apply for a resident visa on arrival. You will do this by completing an arrival card on the aircraft/ship on your way to New Zealand.

Where do you send your application and documents?

Send your completed application form and documents to your nearest Immigration New Zealand office or visa application centre.

See **www.immigration.govt.nz/fees** to see where to send your application and for the fee and immigration levy in your local currency.

PARTNERSHIP

What is partnership?

Immigration New Zealand defines partnership as two people who are living together in a genuine and stable relationship within:

- a legal marriage; or
- a civil union (whether opposite or same sex); or
- a de facto relationship (whether opposite or same sex).

The relationship must have been entered into with the intention of being maintained on a long-term and exclusive basis and be likely to endure.

You and your partner must both be aged 18 years or older when the application is made.

What type of visa can you apply for on the basis of partnership?

If you are a partner of a New Zealand citizen, resident or work visa holder, you may be eligible for a work visa or visitor visa based on partnership, depending on what you want to do in New Zealand. Partners of some student visa holders can apply for work visas, others can only apply for visitor visas. For more details, see 'Partners of holders of student visas'.

Most visas which are granted based on partnership are 'open'. This means that partnership work visas allow work in any employment. Additionally, partnership visas allow multiple entries to New Zealand.

Partners of New Zealand citizens and residence class visa holders

If you are the partner of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, and you don't wish to apply for a residence class visa you may be eligible for a work or visitor visa for a maximum stay of three years. If you wish to study in New Zealand, you will need to apply using the *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* form and meet immigration requirements under student visa instructions.

To support your temporary visa application, your partner must be considered eligible to support you under the Residence Partnership Category. See 'What requirements does your partner have to meet?'.

Partners of holders of work visas

If you are the partner of a person holding a work visa, you may be eligible for a work visa or visitor visa for the same period as your partner.

People holding some types of work visas are not eligible to support a visa application for their partner. If your partner holds one of the following types of visa, you are not eligible for a visa based on partnership:

- Foreign Crew of Fishing Vessels Instructions
- Working holiday schemes
- Pacific Quotas Residual Places Work Visa Instructions
- Recognised Seasonal Employer Work Instructions
- Supplementary Seasonal Employer (SSE) Instructions
- Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Instructions

If you are the partner of the holder of an Accredited Employer Work Visa, Essential Skills Work Visa, or Specific Purpose or Event Work Visa (SPEV) granted under the short-term National Occupation List (NOL) subcategory, you may be eligible for an open work visa depending on your partner's role and pay. The wage rate used by Immigration New Zealand is the standard median wage rate used for skilled resident visas. For further info:
www. immigration.govt.nz/bringing-family-with-work

If you are the partner of the holder of an AEWV or SPEV granted under the short-term NOL subcategory who meets any of the following requirements, you are eligible for a work visa with open work rights:

- is paid at least 150 percent of the median wage
- is paid at least 80 percent of the median wage in an ANZSCO skill level 1-3 (or NOL skill level 1-3, if you hold a SPEV granted under the short-term NOL subcategory)
- is paid at least 80 percent of the median wage in an ANZSCO skill level 4-5 role that will qualify for residence as part of the Transport sector or Care Workforce sector
- is paid at least the median wage in an ANZSCO skill level 4-5 role that will qualify for residence based on the Green List
- is paid at least 80 percent of the median wage in a role at ANZSCO level 4-5, and on 26 June 2024 was already supporting you for a relationship-based visa.

If you are the partner of an Essential Skills work visa holder paid at least 80 per cent of the median wage, you are eligible for a work visa with open work rights.

If you are the partner of the holder of an AEWV, Essential Skills work visa, or SPEV under the short-term NOL subcategory paid less than 80 per cent of the median wage in an ANZSCO level 1-3 role, you may still be eligible for a visitor visa.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you may still be eligible for a visitor visa based on your relationship.

Find out more information regarding whether your partner is eligible to support your visa at **www.immigration.govt.nz/work-support-partner**

Partners of holders of student visas

You may be eligible for a work visa for the same period as the student visa held by your partner, if your partner holds a student visa to study:

- a level seven or eight qualification on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework that is specified either in the Eligible Qualifications for a Post-Study Work Visa list or the Green List, or
- a level seven or eight qualification on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework as specified in the previous Long Term Skill Shortage List if they started studying before 7 September 2022, or
- a level nine or ten qualification on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework, or
- as an MFAT funded New Zealand scholarship student.

If your partner holds any other type of student visa, you may only apply for a visitor visa based on partnership.

What requirements does your partner have to meet?

Requirements for all partners

Your partner must complete the *Form for Partners Supporting Partnership-Based Temporary Entry Applications (INZ 1146)*.

Your partner must hold (or have applied for) a visa that is eligible to support your application.

Your partner must meet our character requirements for partners. If your partner has been convicted at anytime before the application is made of any offence involving domestic violence (see section 3 of the Domestic Violence Act 1995, available on the internet at **www.legislation.govt.nz**) or of a sexual nature, they will not meet the character requirement, unless granted a character waiver.

Additional requirements for partners who are New Zealand citizens or residents

If your partner is a New Zealand citizen or resident and you wish to apply for a work visa, your partner must be eligible to support a future Partnership Category residence application.

To be eligible to support an application for a residence class visa under the Partnership Category, the New Zealand partner must:

- meet the character requirement for partners supporting applications made under the Partnership Category, and
- have not previously supported more than one other successful principal applicant under the Partnership Category, and
- have not supported any other successful principal applicant under Partnership Category in the five years immediately preceding the current application, and
- not have included any other successful secondary applicant partner in a residence class visa application in the five years immediately preceding the current application, and
- not have been the perpetrator of an incident of domestic violence which has resulted in the grant of a resident visa to a person under the category for victims of domestic violence.

If the New Zealand partner was previously a successful principal applicant under Partnership Category then they will be considered to be eligible only if:

- at least five years have elapsed since they were granted residence under the Partnership Category at the time the current application is made, and
- they have not supported any other successful principal applicant under the Partnership Category.

If the New Zealand partner was granted residence as a secondary applicant partner in a residence class visa application then they will be considered to be eligible only if:

- at least five years have elapsed since they were granted residence as a secondary applicant partner, and
- they have not supported any other successful principal applicant under the Partnership Category.

What evidence of relationship is acceptable?

We will only recognise evidence of your partnership from when you and your partner were both aged 18 or older. We will not use earlier evidence to assess whether you meet the partnership requirements.

Every relationship is different so every visa application based on partnership will contain different evidence. However, regardless of what you provide, you and your partner must show sufficient convincing evidence to satisfy an immigration officer that you are living together in a genuine and stable relationship.

Factors that have a bearing on the assessment of whether you and your partner are living together in a partnership that is genuine and stable include, but are not limited to:

- the duration of your relationship
- how long you have been living together as a couple
- the degree of financial dependence or interdependence, and any arrangements for financial support between you and your partner
- the common ownership, use, and acquisition of property by you and your partner
- your degree of commitment to a shared life
- children of the partnership, including the common care and support of such children
- the performance of common household duties by the partners, and
- the reputation and public aspects of the relationship.

You should include any evidence that helps show the factors in the list above in your visa application. The *Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Application (INZ 1198)* form contains some suggestions of the documentation you can provide.

Evidence or documentation from official sources is more useful and reliable than that from unofficial sources. For example, a joint tenancy agreement showing the date that you and your partner rented a property together is better than a letter from a friend stating the amount of time you have been living together.

Applying for residence as a partner of a New Zealand citizen or resident

If your partner is a New Zealand citizen or resident, you could be eligible for residence under the Partnership Category. To apply:

- you must have been living with your partner in a genuine and stable relationship for at least 12 months, established using evidence of the partnership from when both partners were aged 18 or older
- you must meet health and character requirements for residence
- your partner must be eligible to support your application (see 'Additional requirements for partners who are New Zealand citizens or residents')

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

About the application form

To apply for a partnership-based temporary visa you must complete and sign the *Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Application (INZ 1198)* form. Send it to us with:

- the application fee and immigration levy, and
- all the documents we need to assess your application. You may provide copies of the documents unless otherwise specified to provide original or certified copies.

If you do not include everything we need, we will not process your application and will return it to you.

Translations of documents

For all visitor visa applications, English language translations must be provided for any documents not already in English.

If you provide a translation, it must:

- not be prepared by an applicant, any member of their family or an immigration adviser assisting with the application; and
- be accompanied by the original documents or certified copies, unless legible copies are acceptable; and
- be in English; and
- include the following information in English of the person preparing the translation:
  - their full name; and
  - address and telephone number; and
  - their qualifications and experience that make them proficient in English and the translated language.

New Zealand Business Number

Where you enter the details of an organisation or business, the form will have a field for a New Zealand Business Number (NZBN). The NZBN should have 13 numbers and always begins with 94. An NZBN is a unique identifier for all organisations operating in New Zealand. You do not have to fill in the NZBN if you do not know what it is or if the organisation you are providing details about is based outside New Zealand. You can find more information about the NZBN, including finding an NZBN for a specific organisation, by going to **www.nzbn.govt.nz**.

Completing Section A Personal details

Passport photographs

You must attach two colour photographs of each person included in the application. The photographs must be original, and taken within the last six months. The size of the photographs should be about 45 mm by 35 mm. The photographs should be in good quality colour (not black and white).

A3 **Other names you are known by or have ever been known by**

This includes your birth name, your name from marriage or from adoption, or your English name.

A7 **Passport details**

The passport details must be those of the passport or travel document you will use to travel to and from New Zealand. You must send the passport or travel document with your application. It must be valid to at least three months past the date you plan to leave New Zealand.

A9 **Partnership status**

You have the following options for your partnership status:

- Married/civil union (a civil union is a legally recognised union of a couple of the same or opposite sex, with rights similar to those of marriage)
- Never married/never in civil union
- Partner/De facto
- Separated (this includes being separated from a civil union)
- Engaged
- Widowed
- Divorced (this includes having a dissolved civil union).

You must choose the option that describes the partnership which is the basis of your partnership-based application.

Completing Section B Contact details

B6 An agent or adviser can be any person who assists you with your application. It could be a lawyer, immigration adviser, translator, friend or family member.

Completing Section C Your health

C5 **Do you intend to give birth in New Zealand?**

If you are pregnant and intending to give birth in New Zealand we need to be sure that you have a bona fide reason for being in New Zealand. We also need to ensure that you are either eligible for publicly-funded maternity health services or able to meet the costs of maternity health services (evidence of at least NZ$9,000 is required) through personal funds or sponsorship.

You may check your eligibility for maternity health services through the Ministry of Health at **www.health.govt.nz** which provides comprehensive information on eligibility for publicly-funded health and disability services. Alternatively you may be able to establish whether you are eligible by checking our leaflet *Health Requirements (INZ 1121)*.

You should attach evidence that you meet the criteria to be eligible for publicly-funded maternity services if the evidence is not already available to us (for example – evidence of your partner's eligibility for publicly-funded health services).

If you are not eligible for publicly-funded maternity health services you will need to provide evidence that you have sufficient funds to pay for the cost of maternity health services. Acceptable evidence of your funds includes:

- bank statements in your name
- bank drafts
- recognised credit cards with sufficient credit available, and
- travellers' cheques.

You must not send cash or original evidence of funds. Alternatively you may provide evidence of sponsorship which meets our sponsorship requirements. Your sponsor must complete the *Sponsorship Form for Temporary Entry (INZ 1025)*.

Medical certificates

You may need to provide us with medical certificates to show that you meet our acceptable standard of health. What you must provide depends on:

- whether you have sent medical certificates with another application
- how long you intend to spend in New Zealand, and
- what countries you have previously lived in or visited.

If you are already in New Zealand, and you are applying for a further visa, you need to include the time you have already spent in New Zealand, as well as the extra time you intend to be here, to decide whether or not you need to complete a medical certificate.

Example *You have been in New Zealand on a visitor or student or work visa or other temporary visa for five months, and you want to stay for another two months. This will mean a stay in New Zealand of more than six months in total.*

C8 You are **not** required to provide a medical certificate or chest X-ray certificate if:

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- you will be in New Zealand for **less than six months**; or

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- you will be in New Zealand for **between six and 12 months**, but are **not** from and have **not** visited for more than three months a place outside the list of countries, areas and territories with a low incidence of tuberculosis (TB) (see the table below); or
- the exception rules apply to you (see notes below).

You must provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)* less than three months old, unless the exception rules apply to you (see notes below), if including any time you have already spent in New Zealand:

- you will be in New Zealand for between six and 12 months, and you are either from, or have spent more than three months visiting, a place that is outside the list below of countries, areas and territories with a low incidence of TB (see the table below); or
- you will be in New Zealand for more than 12 months, in which case you must also provide a medical certificate (see notes below).

Countries, areas and territories with a low incidence of tuberculosis (TB)

Aland Islands	Germany	Oman
Albania	Gibraltar	Panama
American Samoa	Greece	Pitcairn Islands
Andorra	Grenada	Poland
Anguilla	Guadeloupe	Portugal
Antarctica	Guam	Puerto Rico
Antigua and Barbuda	Guatemala	Qatar
Argentina	Guernsey	Reunion
Armenia	Heard and McDonald Islands	Saint Barthelemy
Aruba	Honduras	Saint Eustatius & Saba
Australia	Hungary	Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
Austria	Iceland	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bahamas	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Saint Lucia
Bahrain	Iraq	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Barbados	Ireland	Samoa
Belarus	Isle of Man	San Marino
Belgium	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Belize	Italy	Serbia
Bermuda	Jamaica	Seychelles
Bonaire	Japan	Sint Maarten
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Jersey	Slovakia
Bouvet Island	Jordan	Slovenia
British Indian Ocean Territory	Kuwait	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
British Virgin Islands	Latvia	Spain
Bulgaria	Lebanon	Suriname
Cabo Verde	Liechtenstein	Svalbard and Jan Mayen
Canada	Lithuania	Sweden
Cayman Islands	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Chile	Maldives	Syrian Arab Republic
Christmas Island	Malta	Togo
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Martinique	Tonga
Colombia	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Comoros	Mayotte	Tunisia
Cook Islands	Mexico	Turkey
Costa Rica	Monaco	Turks and Caicos
Croatia	Montenegro	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Montserrat	United Kingdom
Curacao	Netherlands	United States of America
Cyprus	New Caledonia	Uruguay
Czech Republic	(New Zealand)	United States Virgin Islands
Denmark	Norfolk Island	Vanuatu
Egypt	North Macedonia	Vatican City
Estonia	Norway	Wallis and Futuna Islands
Falkland Islands	Occupied Palestinian Territory	
Faroe Islands		
Finland		
France		
French Guiana		
French Polynesia		

Example 1 *You hold a Chinese passport and you live in China, which is not on the list above. This means that you must complete a* Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096).

Example 2 *You hold a French passport and you live in France, which is on the list above. You have not spent more than three months in a place that is not on the list. You do not need to provide a medical certificate.*

Example 3 *You hold a British passport and you live in the United Kingdom, which is on the list above. However, in the last five years, you spent five weeks in Thailand and eight weeks in Fiji. Thailand and Fiji are not on the list above, and you have spent a total of at least three months in a place which is not on the list above. You must complete a* Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*.*

Notes:

Which medical certificate should be provided?

There are two medical certificates, the *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)* and the *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)*. The Limited Medical Certificate must only be provided by partners of New Zealand citizens and residents, who meet the requirements to be granted residence under the Partnership Category, which includes living together in a stable and genuine partnership for at least 12 months. You can find out further information about the Partnership Category from the *Residence Guide (INZ 1002)*. All other applicants must provide the *General Medical Certificate*.

If you are applying for a visa as the partner of a New Zealand citizen or resident and you were eligible for inclusion, but were not included in, or were withdrawn from, your partner's residence application, you must provide a *General Medical Certificate*.

Exception rules for a medical certificate

If you are a person who is required to provide a medical certificate, you do not need to provide one if you have provided a medical certificate which was issued less than 36 months ago with a previous visa application; and

- your health has not deteriorated since then; and
- you have not been requested in writing by an immigration officer to provide a new certificate.

If you are a person applying for a visa on the basis of your relationship to an Essential Skills visa holder and you have provided a medical certificate with a previous visa application, you do not need to provide one.

Exception rules for a chest X-ray certificate

If you are a person who is required to provide a chest X-ray certificate, you do not need to provide one if you have provided a Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096) which was issued less than 36 months ago with a previous visa application; and

- your health has not deteriorated since then; and
- you have not been requested in writing by an immigration officer to provide a certificate; and
- you have not spent six consecutive months since your last certificate was issued, in a country, area or territory not listed as having a low incidence of TB.

If you are a person applying for a visa on the basis of your relationship to an Essential Skills visa holder and you have provided a chest x-ray certificate with a previous visa application, you do not need to provide one.

Chest X-ray certificate for pregnant applicants

If you are pregnant you do not need to provide a chest X-ray certificate. If you are a person who would ordinarily be required to provide one, you will only be granted a visa valid for three months after the date that you are due to give birth, unless you have provided a chest X-ray certificate issued within the last 36 months with a previous application. Where a visa is only granted for three months after the date you are due to give birth, you will need to provide a chest X-ray certificate with an application for a further visa if you wish to remain in New Zealand.

Completing medical and chest X-ray certificates

In most countries we require the medical examinations to be carried out by one of a selected panel of medical practitioners or institutions. The details of these countries and the names and addresses of the approved panels are listed on our website **www.immigration.govt.nz/paneldoctors**.

Submitting your medical and chest X-ray certificates

Refer to the leaflet 'Health Requirements Guide' for further information.

Completing Section D Your character

D3 If you have been removed, deported or excluded from any country, then you may not meet character requirements and may not be eligible to be granted a visa. You must declare if you have been removed, deported or excluded from any country, excluding New Zealand.

Police certificates

You may need to provide us with police certificates to show that you are of good character and do not pose a potential security risk. At the time of lodgement your police certificate must not be more than six months old from date of issue. Police certificates that are older than six months from the date of issue at lodgement of any application **will not** be accepted.

D8 If you intend to stay in New Zealand for 24 months or longer, you must provide a police certificate from your country of citizenship and any country you have lived in for five years or more since you turned 17.

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D9

Exemptions from providing a police certificate

If you are a person who is otherwise required to provide a police certificate, you do not need to provide one if:

- you have provided a police certificate with a previous application, and that certificate was issued less than 24 months go when you lodge your current visa application, or
- if you are younger than 17 (If you are under 17 you do not need to provide police certificate, or
- if you are a person applying for a visa on the basis of your relationship to an Essential Skills visa holder and you have provided one with a previous visa application.

Despite any exemptions, you must provide a police certificate for your application if an immigration officer requests one from you.

Completing Section F English language translations (For visitor visa applicants only)

All supporting documents must be uploaded in English or include English language translations for non-English documents.

If you do not provide translations for your supporting documents, not already in English, your application may be declined. You must tick the check box.

See translation guidelines on page 5.

Assessing your application: bona fides

When we assess your application and the information you provide, we ensure that it meets all the requirements of the visa you are applying for. This includes the requirement to be 'bona fide', which means you intend a genuine temporary stay.

When we assess if you are a bona fide applicant, we consider all of the information that we have. For example, we will consider:

- your personal circumstances, such as:
  - your family ties in your home country and New Zealand
  - personal, financial, employment or other commitments in your home country and New Zealand
  - any circumstances that might mean you may not want to return to your home country when any visa expires,
- information that we have about previous applications, such as whether you have previously overstayed or breached visa conditions
- whether you have dependants who are unlawfully in New Zealand, and
- your ability to leave or be deported from New Zealand to your country of citizenship.

INZ will consider all of the information you provide in support of your application but is not obliged to ask you for more. So, with evidence that you meet the particular requirements for the type of visa you are applying for, you should provide any evidence that you think demonstrates that you are a bona fide applicant.

Tax obligations while working in New Zealand

If you are planning to work or open a bank account in New Zealand, you will need an IRD number. All your tax, entitlement and personal details are linked to this number, which is unique to you. This is administered by Inland Revenue, New Zealand's tax service.

Go to **www.ird.govt.nz/irdnum-individuals** to find out what supporting information you will need to include in your IRD number application and how to apply for an IRD number online.

For more information

If you have questions about any of the information in this guide:

- see our website **www.immigration.govt.nz/contactus**
- telephone our call centre on 0508 558 855 (within New Zealand).



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa