



This small and exclusive circle can expect extraordinary service and attention from our side and can profit from our extensive contacts to the New Zealand business world. Legal advice can also be provided upon request.

There are four different categories in this field:

1. Investor Category (Residence Visa/Permit)

This category was radically changed in July 2005. The previously attractive category has been replaced by a rather unflexible system with strict conditions. The new minimum requirements are now as follows:

- Maximum age: 54 years
- Minimum 5 years of work experience as owner/operator or in a leading management position
- Minimum investment NZ\$ 2.0 million
- Investment form is determined by the NZ government, interest is based on inflation
- English knowledge: an IELTS-test with an average score of 5.0 (out of 9.0)

2. Long-term Business Visa (Temporary Entry)

In general this is a special type of work visa/permit, considered as a first step to fulfill the conditions of the entrepreneur category. It is also an interesting category for people aiming to establish a business in New Zealand in the longer term without themselves living here permanently. The conditions are for example the presentation of a business plan, sufficient financial assets, proof of experience as a general manager and/or company owner. Proof of English is obligatory.

3. Entrepreneur Category (Residence Visa/Permit)

An application under this category can only succeed if evidence can be provided that a business has been established successfully (and operating for a duration of 24 months) with the aim to profit New Zealand's economy. This can be for example the introduction of new products or the establishment of new export markets. The applicant can also buy shares of a company (min. 25%) and can employ himself in this company. Proof of English is obligatory.

4. Employees of Relocating Business Category (Residence

Visa/Permit)

This category applies to management personnel who cannot apply for permanent residence under any other category and have to supervise or participate in the foundation and establishment of a company in New Zealand. Evidence has to be provided regarding the purpose of relocating the business to New Zealand and also the reason why only supervisory staff from abroad can be employed.

All applications in any of the above categories will be processed by the NZIS Wellington Business Migration Unit. The average processing time is between 6 and 12 months.

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