



**VISAS FOR NZ**

WWW.VISASFORNZ.COM

**7 Keys**  
**to**  
**Immigration Success**

One of the things we know about immigration is that it can be very stressful to relocate to a new country. We have seen this from both sides of the immigration fence and use our own experiences to help guide you.

Here at Visas for NZ Limited we believe that for every immigration problem there is a simple solution that we can help our clients find.

In this current environment where you may not be able to enter New Zealand for some time, now is the best time to start preparing your documentation and understand your options and what is required. Due to immigration policy changes happening without much notice it is so important that you keep up to date with the current policies and be aware of any potential policy changes and understand how this could affect you.

The 7 Keys for Success is a general guide for people considering relocating to New Zealand. Information in this brochure may be changed with time – please do not treat it as immigration advice and always contact us directly for specific information and step by step plan for you and your family.



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# Key One

## HAVE A GOOD PLAN



In the immigration process we usually talk with two main groups of people – those who want a Work Visa and those who want Residence. Regardless of which group we are working with, the first key to success in your immigration journey in New Zealand is to have a solid plan.

You will need to decide early on in your visa application process whether you are comfortable doing it yourself or would prefer to pay for the services of an Immigration Adviser. If you want to ensure that you have the best chances of being successful, consider using a specialist. It pays to get it right from the beginning rather than risking your time, money and livelihood and making mistakes on your own.

As there are many different visa categories and you will need to do your homework to figure out which ones suit your situation best. Apart from this guide, there is plenty of good information on the internet about all aspects of New Zealand immigration and this is constantly being updated, so make sure to never stop researching.

You may find that there are some strange and unfamiliar cultural aspects and legal formalities in the New Zealand system. Remember that you are being evaluated by New Zealand and the way you present yourself and your information is key to successfully applying.

Make sure you have the latest information on the fees, charges and document requirements for your application. If you don't send enough documentation or the wrong payment your application will be returned to you and you will need to start all over again. Make sure to check carefully with up to date information. Find the Immigration New Zealand official website <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/> and save it to your internet bookmarks. Immigration conditions change constantly and you will need to always be prepared.

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# Key Two

## GET THE TIMING RIGHT



Immigration is complex and processing can take months. You will need to allow a reasonable timeframe for each part of the immigration process. Many migrants make the mistake of getting a short term visa, then trying to sort employment and a work visa out afterwards. Work visas can take 12 months if you are unlucky so it is absolutely crucial to apply ahead of time.

With immigration it often takes longer than you think so and you should have this in mind. We normally give our clients a 3-step immigration plan:

- Step one is to get your initial visa offshore (overseas).
- The second step is for you to find a good job and get a skilled Work Visa.
- Step three is Residence.

Each step can take a long time and you need to be patient. If you try and do all the steps yourself, a slight error could cost you not just your current visa application, but your chance at residency. A good immigration consultant can help you save time and make your application process stress-free.

Another key part of timing is making sure all your documents are ready in advance. For example, a Police Clearance Certificate may take up to 6 months from certain countries. If you don't prepare your documents in advance, you may need to wait for months or even a year longer than required.

Lastly, keep an eye on the expiration date of your documents. Normally your Medical Certificate is only valid for three months before you send it to Immigration New Zealand. Police Certificates typically have 6 months. You will need to make sure these and your other documents are all valid before you can lodge a successful application.

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# Key Three

## SET A BUDGET



It is vital you have a budget for whatever you are trying to achieve. The immigration process and immigration consulting fees both cost money and you need to be financially prepared to meet unexpected costs as well.

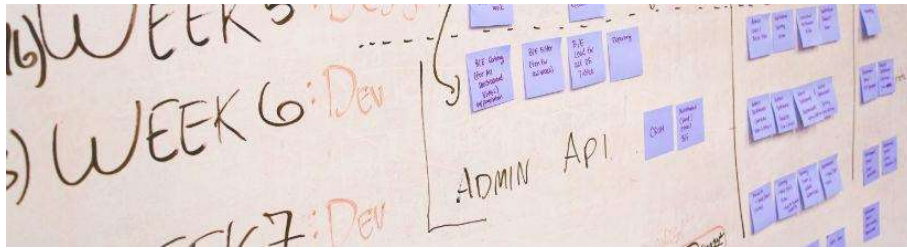
When you are relocating to New Zealand from overseas you are going to have to set up a new foundation and establish yourself here. This means you've got to have sufficient funds so you are not struggling and can have some piece of mind. We have seen many cases of people getting desperate and anxious when things don't go smoothly and they are tight on money. That tends to be when people make their biggest mistakes. For example, if you are on a work visa and you are applying to work somewhere else – always be prepared to go weeks or even months without work if there is an issue with your visa. You should always have enough money so that you don't need to work because there are many things beyond your control which could stop you from working.

To set yourself up properly you should reserve at least 3 months living expenses which would cover accommodation, food and other costs. Please remember that on most Work Visas you can only work for one employer, so calculate how much money you require based on your needs and always have some spare funds.

New Zealand offers the same sort of consumer goods you're used to, at competitive prices. Costs for imported items like cars, electrical and computer equipment are similar to what you'd find in Australia or other countries. Equally the living costs such as accommodation and food are similar to what you would expect in Australia or the United Kingdom. However it is useful to check costs and compare when you are thinking of moving to New Zealand because things can change quickly from region to region.

# Key Four

## HAVE A “PLAN B”



We believe a really important key with immigration is to always have a 'Plan B'. You are spending lots of money, time and energy to get to New Zealand and it's hard. Once you are here, it can be easy to get complacent. It might seem like the hardest part is over, but you still have a long way to go and if your specific chosen path to residency doesn't turn out, you will need other options.

Lots of migrants basically get stuck at this point as they have never considered any other option. Having a single focus might help you achieve goals, but it's also good to always consider the other options and know what your fallback position is going to be if something doesn't work out:

- *Is there another category you can apply for?*
- *Should you explore work opportunities in different areas to get your next visa?*
- *What will you do if the Immigration rules change?*

Typically, New Zealand jobs need to be offered to New Zealanders first before any migrant. It does not matter if you are already employed, if your visa is expiring, your employer will usually need to try replace you with a New Zealander if they can. If your boss says 'sorry, there is a New Zealander available, we are not going to continue employing you', what will you do then?

Well, you could go back to your home country. You could find a new job. You could find something that is in a skills shortage list or you could study. There are so many different options for navigating the New Zealand immigration system. **Here at Visas for NZ Limited we have the full alphabet of options and skilled advisers ready and available for our clients!**

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# Key Five

## BE COMPETITIVE AND CREATIVE



*“Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell ‘em, ‘Certainly I can!’ Then get busy and find out how to do it”.* This Theodore Roosevelt quote captures the enthusiasm and creativity of New Zealand’s migrant populations. A lot of immigration policies are based on your job in New Zealand but it can be tough to find the right jobs that meet the requirements. You will need to be creative when it comes to the hiring process and go above and beyond your competition.

A common problem with finding a job in New Zealand is that many employers now ask if you have a visa *before* you can apply for a job. But immigration requirements say you need to be offered a job *before* you apply for a visa. So what can you do here?

Our recommendation is to be proactive and find companies that understand the immigration process, then go and approach them. Call them, speak to managers and see what you can do. A lot of migrants email out hundreds of CVs which are never looked at. Instead, we recommend actually going and seeing an employer personally, even if you just have to show up at their door. This will show that you are determined and will make you stand out from other candidates. It is hard to get a job as a migrant in New Zealand, so you will need to do all you can to make yourself more employable than your competition. It is also very helpful to give your time to the community for by volunteering. People admire others who give back to their community and there are influential people involved with charities that can help you along the way if you show them how committed you are.

It is also helpful to get out of your comfort zone and what we call ‘ethnic silos.’ Many migrants work, socialise and live with people from their home country. Getting yourself involved, getting out of your comfort zone, meeting diverse people and doing different, maybe unusual, is another great way to maximise your opportunities.



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# Key Six

## AVOID MISTAKES



A very common immigration mistake is filling out the wrong form or applying under the wrong visa category. There are so many different temporary and resident visa types that it can be hard to make sure you have everything right.

Another popular mistake is accidentally giving false or misleading information to INZ. This can be a very big problem. Please remember - everything you have said from the start of your first visa application is recorded permanently on your files and must be consistent with everything else you provide. If you said one thing when you were offshore in 2009 and then said something else in 2020 – you may jeopardise your future visa chances.

Another mistake is following bad immigration advice. People often listen to what their friends tell them about Immigration. But just because your friend got a visa, it doesn't mean the same thing would work in your situation. Immigration is complex and the rules are constantly changing. If you are looking for help, it is always best to get professional help. Every case is unique and depends on evidence you present with your application.

It is important to have proper structured documentation and everything should be well prepared. If your documentation is unclear or hard to understand, it will be a lot harder to get a visa. A good application is clear, well-presented and is based on professional advice. This can save you money, time and a lot of stress.

Statistical research tells us that each year there are thousands of hopeful immigrants who have their application rejected because of errors and mistakes made in their forms. Immigration New Zealand will not compromise and only 100% correctly completed forms will be accepted. If you have any doubts at all, contact the experts.



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# Key Seven

## GET EXPERT IMMIGRATION HELP



An expert in immigration will not only make your life a lot easier – they can also save you a huge amount of time and money.

A visa application is like a long car drive. You can choose to take the wheel and drive the whole way yourself. You may get tired or stressed, you might have distractions or make mistakes along the way. You may even crash. The cost of doing everything yourself might be cheaper at the start, but if you make a mistake it can be very costly for you in the future. Alternatively you can get someone to drive you to your destination. Think of an Immigration adviser as your driver. You just focus on the horizon, and the adviser makes sure you stay on track and reach your destination on time. Sometimes you will be able to drive yourself, but other times your life may be too busy or you might not know the way. Much like Immigration policy, the path to your destination could change and you will need to find a new course. Immigration Advisers are experts who know all the pathways and no matter how complex your situation is, they will give you the best chance of getting your next visa.

We at Visas for NZ Limited are the top in our field and can help take away the pressure of your visa application. Let's face it - you need to work, support your family and be ready to bounce out of bed every morning ready to go. Keeping your visa status up to date is just another thing that you need to worry about. We can remove this worry from you and make sure your application 100% complete and every detail is double-checked before lodgement.

Furthermore, we will also take time to explain to you how the immigration process works, what your step by step process is, and can even turn an 'impossible' situation into a new visa. Achieving your immigration goals is our career and we are very good at what we do.

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# Testimonials

"After I have contacted Sharon Gibson for my transfer visa processing, never felt so confident about NZ visa processing. I have got my visa in less than a week!!!! Very trustworthy and quick. I highly recommend".

- Susan

I utilised the services of the Sharon in late 2020. My circumstances were unusual in that my Kiwi partner had already returned to New Zealand in July 2020. I paid for an initial consultation to suss out my options. From an initial consultation Sharon alleviated my fears without over promising. As soon as I signed the agreement the process was clear and templated in respect to what information I needed to provide to proceed with the application. I was advised of the timeframe to submit my data so that my application could be submitted in advance of Christmas. I gathered the relevant data and forwarded onto Jan and Sharon. Any questions I had were clearly answered in respect to the medical and police certificates. During the Christmas period, although the organisation was on annual leave, I continued to receive weekly updates. I couldn't fault the service in any way. In early January 2021 I was granted my visa to allow me to be reunited with my partner and work in the country for 12 months. Having been separated for over 8.5 months I arrived on the 4 March 2021 and we are so happy to be reunited.

I am so happy that I engaged the services of the Sharon when I did and am 100% sure that reverting via such a professional agency assisted massively in having my VISA granted. I would not hesitate to recommend the service the Company provide: friendly, clear, efficient, professional. Thank you Sharon and Jan for easing my mind and making the process so simple for me I really appreciate it. I will certainly be back for future advice.  
Kelly, Ireland

Sharon assisted us in obtaining the necessary visas and exemptions during a difficult time and unique circumstances. She is very easy to work with and makes sure you are well informed both before and during the application process. I would highly recommend Sharon. D&I, USA