



TOGETHER, FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

NEW ZEALAND GUIDEBOOK 2020



KIA ORA! WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND!

Your guide to New Zealand

People decide to immigrate to New Zealand to work, study or to live in a peaceful community with their respective families.

Some of the important things to consider when planning to immigrate to New Zealand are:

1. The cost of living.
2. Cost of renting a home.
3. Transportation options to be able to get to and from work or school.
4. Salary expectations to afford a comfortable life.
5. Education for your child.



1. Cost of living

Depending on which city you decide to move to, living in New Zealand is generally cheaper than many countries.

Of course, this is all relative to your lifestyle and way of living. You might find certain things that are more affordable or more expensive here compared to where you are coming from.

There are many options to choose from when it comes to purchasing essentials such as food and clothing so one can always save on essential costs depending on where one shops.



2. Cost of renting a home

As in every country, rents depends on the quality, location and size of the property.

The price range for a house can be anywhere from NZ\$350 - NZ\$600 per week depending on the size and number of bedrooms available.

This is why sharing a home, or Flatting, is quite common in New Zealand. This costs from NZ\$150 per week. Other costs such as utilities are shared between the renters. Work out agreements about payments, food and bills before you move in.



2. Cost of renting a home - Where to look

You can find rental properties through letting agents such as real estate agents, or by contacting landlords directly. A popular privately operated website where you'll find lots of rental properties advertised is TradeMe Property.

[\(<https://www.trademe.co.nz>\)](https://www.trademe.co.nz)

Browsing around this website will give you an excellent overview of rents and the types of property available in the area you're considering. There's high demand for good places, so it pays to make contact quickly.



2. Cost of renting a home - Bonds

You'll also need to put up a bond, usually equivalent of up to two - four weeks' rent. Most often landlords do not put up a bond. Just to be sure, you need to be prepared to have to pay up to two or four weeks upfront.

Do not worry you'll get the bond payment refunded at the end of your tenancy, provided you leave the place in good condition.

To help avoid hassles at the end of a tenancy, bonds are held by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), not the landlord.



2. Cost of renting a home - Rates

To get a feel for what renters have been paying in the specific areas you're looking at check the Building and Housing website.

Find out what the weekly rent is for properties in your area -

[\(https://www.tenancy.govt.nz/rent-bond-and-bills/market-rent/\)](https://www.tenancy.govt.nz/rent-bond-and-bills/market-rent/)

There are also a Facebook Page where you might find good places to rent.



3. Transportation

Most people in New Zealand find driving easier and more convenient for much of their getting around.

Public transport

All New Zealand cities and most towns have buses, while Auckland and Wellington both have city-suburban rail services.

Check out the Regions (or cities) section for more details.



3. Transportation - Buying a car

There are several ways. You can:

Buy privately, dealing direct with advertisers in car sale magazines or on websites like Trade Me Motors.

Buy from an 'LMVDs' (Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers).

Larger centres also have car fairs and auctions that are advertised in car magazines and newspapers.



3. Transportation - Buying a car (cont.)

Any car you buy: Must have a WoF (Warrant of Fitness, the Government's safety check). You should insist on the WoF being less than one month old. A vehicle may be sold 'as is, where is' - its WoF is more than a month old and any risk of not getting a new one is your problem.

It should be currently registered with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). No matter how long the registration has to run, once you buy, you must re-register the vehicle in your name.



3. Transportation - Insurance

Vehicle insurance is not compulsory in New Zealand.

However 'third party insurance', which insures you against having to personally pay the cost of damage to someone else's vehicle, is recommended as a minimum.

Find out more about your vehicle insurance options from the Insurance Council of New Zealand (ICNZ).



3. Transportation - Driving in New Zealand

This link tells you who can drive on New Zealand roads, and what you need to have while driving.

[\(http://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/new-residents-and-visitors/driving-on-nz-roads/\)](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/new-residents-and-visitors/driving-on-nz-roads/)



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Working in New Zealand

There are jobs but you will need to be determined to get one. Rejections are normal on the initial stage but some also get good jobs right away. We cannot say it is easy or difficult. It is indeed challenging and take a lot of patience and determination.

If your long-term plan is to work here and become a New Zealand resident, then you'll need to know about our requirements to work after study. It's good to have these in mind when deciding what course to enrol in so you gain a qualification that's needed and valued by New Zealand employers.



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Working while studying.

If your study programme is longer than two years or having a post graduate program, you can work full time during the summer holidays and up to 20 hours a week during the academic year. Doctoral and research masters students are able to work full time, and English language students studying at certain providers can work part-time during their study.

Minimum employment rights

Phone the Employment New Zealand Service Centre for help on 0800 20 90 20 if you believe you may not have received your minimum employment rights. Or visit <http://www.employment.govt.nz/er/minimumrights/index.asp>



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Working after studying

If you wish to stay in New Zealand and work after you have finished your studies, you will need the right visa. International students who have achieved a New Zealand qualification may be allowed to gain experience in work related to their studies.

Depending on what you study, you may be able to work in New Zealand for up to four years, and possibly even gain residence.

First you need to apply for a visa and have it approved. The study to work pathway has two steps:



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Working after studying (cont.)

- **Post-study work visa (open).** This visa gives you up to 12 months to get a job in a field related to your studies. While you are looking for a job in your field you are allowed to work in any job to support yourself.

- **Post-study work visa (employer assisted).** This visa lets you stay in New Zealand to gain work experience for a further two years (or three years if work experience is required as part of a professional registration). This visa relates to a specific job with a specific employer.



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Working after studying (cont.)

After your post-study work visa (employer assisted) you may qualify for a New Zealand resident visa under the Skilled Migrant Category.

If your work is in an occupation that has skill shortages, this improves your chances of being allowed to stay, either with work visas or residence.

Whatever visa you apply for, you will need to pass health and character checks.



4. Finding & applying for jobs - General

The two most popular websites for job seekers in New Zealand are called **TradeMe** and **Seek**. These sites list a lot of vacancies, but if you're searching from overseas you may find some employers aren't always open to hiring.

Here are some popular job hunting websites:

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs>

<http://www.seek.co.nz/>

<http://www.careers.govt.nz/job-hunting/>

<https://www.sjs.co.nz/>



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Specific

There are a number of industry specific websites that list many of the jobs available within an industry.

Healthcare jobs

<http://www.kiwihealthjobs.com/home>

Dairy farming jobs

<https://nzfarmsource.co.nz/jobs/>

Education jobs

<http://www.edgazette.govt.nz/Vacancies/>

Engineering jobs

<https://www.jobhunt.co.nz/>

Crown Research Institute jobs

<https://careers.sciencenewzealand.org/home>



4. Finding & applying for jobs - New Kiwis Employment Service

New Kiwis is a free service for immigrants.

When you register on their database, one of their team will guide you through the process of finding work in your industry.

They can also help you format your CV and prepare for interviews.



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Recruitment Companies

New Zealand employers often use recruitment companies or agents to find employees for specialist and high-level jobs.

The Careers New Zealand website has a comprehensive list of recruitment companies and specialist job vacancy websites. You can register with more than one recruitment agent, but don't overdo it.

The New Zealand employment market is small, so it's important to keep track of who you've contacted about jobs.



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Direct Contacts

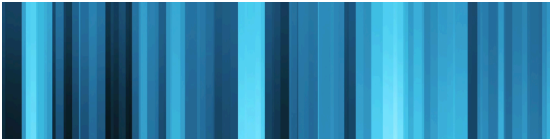
Some jobs aren't advertised and contacting employers or professional or employer organisations directly can be a good strategy. Showing initiative always impresses Kiwi employers. So, don't be afraid to call or email a company you're interested in working for.

Many employers prefer face-to-face meetings, so visiting New Zealand and organising in-person interviews may increase your chances of getting a job.



4. Finding & applying for jobs - Current
Minimum Wage Rates (as of 19 March 2020)

Type of minimum wage	Per hour NZ\$	8 hour day NZ\$	40 hour week NZ\$	80 hour fortnight NZ\$
Adult (16 years or older)	18.90	151.20	756	1,512.00
Starting-out	14.16	113.28	566.40	1,132.80
Training	14.16	113.28	566.40	1,132.80



5. Education - Child Care, Pre-School, Tertiary.

In New Zealand, Early Childhood Education (ECE) refers to the range of facilities available for children under five.

There are over 4,000 childcare and pre-school facilities around the country. They fall into two main groups, namely the Teacher-led Services and the Parent-led Services.

As the names suggest, these pre-school facilities must be licensed but may or may not be government certified.



5. Education - Choosing Pre-School

The government body responsible for overseeing quality in early childhood centres (as well as primary and secondary schools) is the Education Review Office (ERO).

<http://www.ero.govt.nz>

Their guide looks at:

- a. What types of early childhood education services are available.
- b. How to choose one for your child.
- c. What to look for in an early childhood education.
- d. Key questions to ask when you visit a service.
- e. How to help your child settle into pre-school.
- f. How early childhood education is regulated.



5. Education - ECE Centres

Most ECE centres have digital cameras and web cams. Children can choose what to take pictures of and parents can see what has been happening throughout the day. All ECE services collect examples of children's work and play and write regular summaries about what each child has been learning.

Parents see and talk about their child's progress with teachers regularly. When your child finishes their pre-school education you will receive a record of their learning that you can share with their teachers in the next level, primary school.



5. Education - Cost of ECE

The first 20 hours per week of ECE is government funded and largely free for children from age three until they start school (after they turn five). This applies to all children in New Zealand, regardless of their visa situation. The program is called 20 ECE hours.

Charges vary after 20 hours, but as an indication, in 2015 most kindergartens charged between \$5-6 per hour, Play centres charged up to \$50 for a ten week term and home based care costs were around \$4-6 an hour.



5. Education - The School System

Children's schooling begins at primary school. If it's a 'full' primary school, they stay there from 5-12 years old. If it's a 'contributing' primary school they will move onto to an 'intermediate' school for their last two primary school years, from 11-12 years old.

Intermediate schools provide a bridge to the next step of secondary school (which is also sometimes called college, high school or grammar school).

For more information check Education New Zealand's website.

[\(http://parents.education.govt.nz/\)](http://parents.education.govt.nz/)



Other useful information - Applying for an Inland Revenue (IRD) number.

It is important to get an IRD number as all your tax, entitlements (like Working for Families Tax Credits) and personal details are linked to this. If you have resident, student or work visa, you can apply online or complete a paper application at any NZ Post Office. Present the following:

1. Original Passport.
2. Visa
3. Most recent overseas tax number
4. Bank statement with financial activities.

For more information visit (<https://www.ird.govt.nz/managing-my-tax/ird-numbers/ird-numbers-for-individuals/apply-for-an-ird-number-if-you-are-a-new-arrival-to-nz>)



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake



Other useful information - Opening a bank account.

Requirements:

1. Identification - Passport
2. Proof of address - letters or bills addressed to your residence.
3. Minimum balance - some banks may or may not require a minimum deposit but be ready to make a small deposit just in case.
4. IRD number - this isn't an essential requirement however, it is in your best interest to submit this information to the bank as soon as you receive your IRD number.



Other useful information - Kiwi Access card

A Kiwi Access Card is great for:

- a. Anybody 18 years or older who wants a proof of age verification.
- b. Photo ID if you don't have a drivers license or passport.
- c. An alternative form of ID.

Submit your requirements to any NZ Post:

- 1. Identification - Passport
- 2. Most recent passport picture
- 3. Completed application form

For more information visit <https://www.nzpost.co.nz/personal/realme-id-apply/kiwi-access-card>



Other useful information - AT HOP card (Auckland only)

The Public Transportation services is managed by Auckland Transport (AT) in Auckland.

AT services the city of Auckland with the AT Train, Bus, and Ferry.

You can apply for an AT Hop card to use every time you travel around the city and its immediate suburbs. Special rates and discounts are available for students.

<https://at.govt.nz/buyathop>



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