



Immigration

New Zealand's immigration process is straight-forward.

SHORT VISITS

Visits to New Zealand for location scouting and preliminary meetings require only a visitor visa. Many countries have visa waiver agreements for visits of up to three months. British visitors can visit for up to 6 months without a visitor visa and Australians do not require a work visa or visitor visa.

LONGER VISITS

Entertainers, performing artists, screen production crew and associated support personnel intending to work on any screen production in New Zealand need to apply for a work visa.

All applicants need to meet **one** of the following criteria:

1. Applicants must be of international distinction or merit or of an ethnicity significant to the work or otherwise essential to the event.
2. Applicants' employment must not put at risk the employment of New Zealanders in equivalent work, unless the wider benefits to New Zealand of employing the applicant outweigh the loss of job opportunities.
3. Applicants' employers must have considered employing appropriately qualified or experienced New Zealanders.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The process is simple. Applications should be submitted at the nearest Immigration New Zealand branch or Visa Application Centre. [The Performing Artists, Entertainers and Entertainment Industry Personnel Work Visa Application form](#) contains two parts, one for the applicant to complete and one for their employer, as well as detailed instructions for each about what needs to be provided.

There is a streamlined process, without any guild or union referral for applicants:

- whose engagement in New Zealand is for 14 days or less or
- who will be working on an official co-production or
- who will be working with an [accredited company](#).

If an applicant does not fall into any of these categories then a copy of the employer supplementary form must be sent to the relevant union or guild. Once they receive it, the relevant guild or union has three working days to object to the application.

If a letter of support from the relevant guild or union is submitted with your application, it will be assumed that there is no objection and the application will be processed immediately.

- Crew can apply for a Letter of Support from the New Zealand Film and Video Technicians' Guild.
- Actors, presenters, performing artists and contestants can apply for a Letter of Support from Actors' Equity.
- Directors can apply for a Letter of Support from the Screen Directors' Guild of New Zealand.
- Producers can apply for a Letter of Support from the Screen Production and Development Association.

Contact us or Immigration New Zealand can provide more information and application forms.

ACCREDITED COMPANIES

Accredited entertainment industry companies may engage workers without the need to seek case-by-case agreement of the relevant New Zealand entertainment union, guild, or professional association.

Once accredited:

- you may offer jobs to the people you would like to recruit.
- check your employee/contractor has a valid work visa which allows them to work for you before they start work.
- you must apply to renew your accreditation.

Accreditation will be granted where Immigration New Zealand is satisfied that an employer or contractor:

- is in a sound financial position
- has a sound industry track record including a demonstrable knowledge of the New Zealand industry sector in which they operate
- has a demonstrable commitment to training and engaging New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders
- has good workplace practices, including a history of compliance with all immigration and employment laws

Accreditation for the Screen Sector is for a one year term and Accredited Companies can/may be audited. Applications are handled centrally through Immigration New Zealand and may take up to six weeks to process. A Labour Market Test is required from the relevant guild or association for the proposed positions to be filled.