

IMMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND SPECIFIC PURPOSE WORK VISA

VISA OVERVIEW

To apply for a SPWV, the visa applicant will need to have skills related to their specific purpose or event; **and** be able to define the time he or she will need to complete their specific purpose or event in New Zealand.

Examples of people who may be able to apply include business people on secondments, sports players, professional coaches, specialist installers or services, and Philippines nurses seeking occupational registration.

This visa can be applied for online and an electronic visa is granted.

The time the visa applicant can stay in New Zealand to complete their specific purpose or event is also restricted depending on the class of specific purpose or event. See below. It is therefore not suitable for someone wishing to stay in New Zealand long-term or apply for Skilled Migrant Residence in the future. However, it can be a useful way to transfer an employee to a particular post in an organisation without having to advertise for local workers.

Once granted, this visa will allow the applicant to work for the specific employer for the time allowed to complete the specific purpose or event.

THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE WORK VISA HAS THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

To be granted a SPWV, Immigration New Zealand (“INZ”) must be satisfied that:

1. the applicant will be in New Zealand to complete a specific purpose or event; and
2. the applicant has demonstrated that they meet the work visa requirements for that specific purpose or event; and
3. the work is time-bound (it is not open ended or permanent); and
4. the applicant is suitably qualified to undertake the work; and
5. the applicant meets health and character requirements.

The duration of the Visa is tied to the time required for the holder to complete the specific purpose or event and up to the maximum duration and total stay indicated for the class of specific purpose or event.

KEY CLASSES OF SPECIFIC PURPOSES OR EVENTS

Specific purpose or event	Initial visa duration that may be granted	Further visa duration that may be granted
Senior or specialist business people on short-term secondments who have a job offer either with a substantial New Zealand company or a New Zealand subsidiary of an overseas company	Up to 12 months	Further SPWV may be granted allowing a total stay of up to 24 months (inclusive of the duration of the initial SPWV granted)
A business person seconded to New Zealand as an intra-corporate transferee to take up a position in a multinational company as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive¹; or • a senior manager¹; or • specialist personnel² 	Up to 36 months	Further SPWV may be granted allowing a total stay of up to 72 months (inclusive of the duration of the initial SPWV granted)
Other - People who need to come to New Zealand for any other specific purpose or event where they meet the objective of these instructions ³ and the circumstances justify the grant of a work visa.	For the period of their engagement	Further SPWV may be granted for the period required if the engagement is extended.

¹ An executive or a senior manager is a senior employee of an organisation, has been employed by that organisation for at least 12 months, and is responsible for all or most of the organisation's operations in New Zealand, while receiving general supervision or direction principally from higher level executives, the board of directors or stockholders of the business.

² Senior personnel is someone who is being transferred to undertake a specific or specialist task at a senior level within the company and possesses knowledge of the organisation's service, research equipment, techniques or management.

³ The applicant has skills, expertise or attributes that are likely to benefit individuals and/or New Zealand, and where there is no risk of a negative impact on opportunities for New Zealand citizens or residents.

PARTNERS AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Partners and dependent children cannot be included in the SPWV application, but they can seek a visa based on the applicant's SPWV.

If partners and dependent children wish to apply for visas, they must submit their own applications. All applications can now be filed online as a Group Application.

Their applications will only be decided if the applicant obtains a SPWV. The duration of their s will depend on the applicant's SPWV.

OUR SERVICE

As your professional immigration advisers, our role is to ensure that all criteria are met and that all documentation provided in support of your application is in the form required by INZ, and that it assists your application and does not create confusion or difficulties.

We keep in contact with INZ to ensure that each application is processed promptly and in a manner that is "fair and in accord with natural justice".