PROGRAMME BROCHURE

SKILLED MIGRATION | NEW ZEALAND

Green List - Tier 2

Work to Residence pathway for applicants who complete qualifying New Zealand work in a Tier 2 Green List role.

TIMELINE

2 years

JOB OFFER

Required

XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC
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At a glance

COUNTRY **New Zealand**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Employer**
TIMELINE **2 years**	LANGUAGE **Must speak and understand English**
JOB OFFER **Required**	LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**

The Skilled Migrant Category was rewritten again on 24 August 2026

New Zealand moved to a **six-point system** in October 2023, and then materially rewrote how the points are earned with effect from **24 August 2026**:

- **New Zealand qualifications now score one point more** than the overseas equivalent
- **Level 8 and 9 points now require a bachelor's degree**
- The **Trades** experience requirement was reduced
- The wage threshold is now tested **as at the date your experience began**, not the date you apply
- English-test validity extended to **five years** for registered occupations

The **SMC wage threshold is NZ$35.00 an hour** from 9 March 2026, so the points multiples work out at **NZ$52.50, NZ$70.00 and NZ$105.00** an hour.

The Red and Amber lists now gate the skilled work experience pathway

This is new and it disqualifies people who would previously have been fine:

- **Amber list** occupations need **1.2× the wage threshold plus three years of New Zealand experience**
- **Red list** occupations are **not eligible for this pathway** — including beauty therapists, hairdressers and retail managers

If your occupation is on either list, the arithmetic changes completely. Check both lists before you apply.

Green List additions

Ten trades occupations were added to the **Work to Residence** pathway on **18 August 2025** — welders, fitters, metal fabricators, panel beaters, vehicle painters and paving plant operators — at NZ$43.63 or NZ$38.59 an hour, each requiring **24 months of New Zealand experience**.

Work to Residence: fee and eligibility

Immigration New Zealand lists the Work to Residence Visa fee from **NZ$6,450**. You must be 55 or younger when you apply and, for at least 24 months before applying, have held a work visa or a Critical Purpose Visitor Visa that allows you to work.

New Zealand citizenship and your Indian passport

New Zealand **does** permit dual citizenship. **India does not.** So the constraint here is entirely on the Indian side.

New Zealand citizenship becomes possible after **1,350 days over five years**, with at least 240 days in each of those years. Taking it would end your Indian citizenship automatically under Section 9(1) of the Citizenship Act 1955, regardless of New Zealand's own generosity on the point.

Residence and permanent residence carry no such consequence. Most Indian families stop at permanent residence for exactly that reason, and there is nothing wrong with doing so.

Key benefits

- Live, work and study in New Zealand indefinitely after residence is granted.
- Apply for residence after working for 24 months in an eligible Tier 2 Green List job.
- Include a partner and dependent children aged 24 or younger, where eligible.
- Apply for a Permanent Resident Visa after holding residence for 2 years in a row, where requirements are met.

Skills, language and points

ACCEPTED TESTS	MINIMUM LEVEL
English language evidence accepted by Immigration New Zealand	**Must speak and understand English**

Job offer: You must have current employment or a job offer in a Tier 2 Green List role with an accredited employer, plus qualifying New Zealand work experience.

Green List Tier 2

- Use Immigration New Zealand's live Green List to confirm the applicant's exact Tier 2 role and role-specific requirements.

How the process works

1. **Confirm Tier 2 Green List role**
   Check Immigration New Zealand's live Green List to confirm that the occupation is listed as a Tier 2 role.

2. **Complete qualifying New Zealand work**
   Complete 24 months of qualifying full-time New Zealand work in a Tier 2 Green List role within the relevant period.

3. **Confirm current accredited employer job**
   Make sure the applicant has current employment or a job offer with an accredited New Zealand employer.

4. **Prepare work evidence**
   Collect employment agreements, job descriptions, payslips, Inland Revenue records, and role-specific Green List evidence.

5. **Submit residence application**
   Apply online and provide identity, health, police, English, job, and work experience documents.

6. **Wait for decision**
   Immigration New Zealand may request additional evidence before issuing a decision.

Document checklist

Identity

- Passport copy
- Acceptable visa photograph

Health and Character

- Chest X-ray evidence, where required
- Medical examination evidence, where required
- Police certificates

English

- Evidence of English language ability
- English evidence or English lesson evidence for family members aged 16 or older, where required

Current Tier 2 Job or Job Offer

- Employment agreement
- Fixed-term contract
- Job offer letter
- Evidence of job title, hours, length of employment, and pay
- Evidence employer is accredited

24-Month Work Experience

- Previous and current employment agreements
- Job descriptions
- Payslips
- Letters from employers
- Inland Revenue summary of earnings or tax statements

- Evidence that the work was full-time and met pay requirements

Green List Role Requirements

- Qualification certificate and transcripts
- International Qualification Assessment, if required
- Occupational registration evidence, where required
- Professional membership evidence, where required
- Pay evidence for the Green List role

Family

- Relationship documents for partner and dependent children
- Identity documents and photos for included family members
- Health, police, and English evidence for family members, where required

Questions clients ask

Who is Green List - Tier 2 for?

It is for applicants who have worked in New Zealand for 24 months in a Tier 2 Green List role and have current employment or a job offer with an accredited employer.

Is this the same as Green List - Tier 1?

No. Tier 1 is linked to Straight to Residence. Tier 2 is linked to Work to Residence after qualifying New Zealand work experience.

How much New Zealand work experience is required?

Applicants generally need 24 months of qualifying full-time New Zealand work in a Tier 2 Green List role.

Can family members be included?

Eligible partners and dependent children aged 24 or younger may be included, subject to Immigration New Zealand requirements.

What is the official fee?

Immigration New Zealand lists the fee from NZD $6,450.

Important notes

- The Skilled Migrant Category points rules changed on 24 August 2026. Material written before that date describes a different scoring basis.
- The Red and Amber occupation lists now gate the skilled work experience pathway. Red list occupations — including beauty therapists, hairdressers and retail managers — are not eligible for the Skilled Work Experience pathway. Amber list occupations need 1.2 times the wage threshold plus three years of New Zealand experience.
- The SMC wage threshold is NZ$35.00 an hour from 9 March 2026. Any older figure changes every points calculation.
- New Zealand permits dual citizenship; India does not. Naturalising would end your Indian citizenship. Residence would not.

Compliance

- Six-point Skilled Migrant Category, introduced October 2023 and materially amended with effect from 24 August 2026.
- SMC wage threshold NZ$35.00 an hour from 9 March 2026; points multiples NZ$52.50, NZ$70.00 and NZ$105.00.
- Green List: ten trades occupations added to Work to Residence on 18 August 2025 at NZ$43.63 or NZ$38.59 an hour, each requiring 24 months of New Zealand experience.
- New Zealand citizenship requires 1,350 days over five years, with at least 240 days in each year.

Official sources: Immigration New Zealand; Immigration New Zealand — Active Investor Plus visa; Immigration New Zealand — Skilled Migrant Category; Immigration New Zealand — Green List.

NEXT STEP

Plan your New Zealand application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **Green List - Tier 2** fits, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

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