



**NEW ZEALAND  
IMMIGRATION**

# International Students

## Post-study work visas are changing

The New Zealand Government is making changes to post-study work rights for international students. These changes will come into effect in late November 2018. These changes ensure post-study pathways benefit international students and employers by contributing skills and qualifications that New Zealand needs. It is important to understand how this impacts you.

### NEW VISA APPLICANTS

This table applies if, on 8 August 2018, you did not hold a student visa and you did not have a student visa application accepted for processing by Immigration New Zealand.

If you're planning to study towards the following qualification(s):	And:	Then on successful completion of your qualification(s) you may be eligible for a:
Level 7 Bachelor's degree qualification or higher	You study that qualification for at least 30 weeks in New Zealand	Three-year open post-study work visa
Level 7 Graduate Diploma	You study that qualification for at least 30 weeks in New Zealand	One-year open post-study work visa, if you study in Auckland, and one additional year if you are working towards registration with a professional or trade body  Two-year open post-study work visa, if you study outside Auckland (excluding distance learning)*
Other non-degree Level 7 qualification	You study that qualification for at least 30 weeks in New Zealand	One-year open post-study work visa, if you study in Auckland  Two-year open post-study work visa, if you study outside Auckland (excluding distance learning)*
One qualification at Level 4-6 of a two-year duration	You study that qualification for at least 60 weeks in New Zealand	One-year open post-study work visa, if you study in Auckland  Two-year open post-study work visa, if you study outside Auckland (excluding distance learning)*
Two qualifications at Levels 4-6	You study each qualification for 30 weeks in New Zealand (60 weeks in total) and the second qualification is at a higher level than the first	One-year open post-study work visa, if you study in Auckland  Two-year open post-study work visa, if you study outside Auckland (excluding distance learning)*

\*To qualify for this, you must have successfully completed your qualification(s) by 31 December 2021. If you complete your qualification(s) after that date, you may be eligible for a one-year open post-study work visa, and one additional year if you are a Graduate Diploma graduate and you are working towards registration with a professional or trade body.

From 2022, international students who complete qualifications at Levels 4 to 6, after two years' study, or non-degree Level 7 qualifications will be eligible for a one-year post-study work visa, and if they have completed a Graduate Diploma that is used for registration with a professional or trade body, an additional one-year post-study work visa.

Students completing Level 7 degree qualifications or above will continue to be eligible for three-year post study work visas.

### EXISTING STUDENT VISA HOLDERS

This table applies if, on 8 August 2018, you held a student visa or your student visa application had been accepted for processing by Immigration New Zealand

If you're currently studying in New Zealand towards a:	And:	Then on successful completion of your qualification(s) from 26 November 2018 you may be eligible for a:
Level 7 Bachelor's degree or above	You study that qualification for at least 30 weeks in New Zealand	Three-year open work visa
Non-degree Level 7 qualification	You study that qualification for at least 30 weeks in New Zealand	Three-year open work visa
One qualification at Level 4-6	You study that qualification for at least 60 weeks in New Zealand	Three-year open work visa
Two qualifications at Levels 4-6	You study each qualification for 30 weeks in New Zealand (60 weeks in total) and the second qualification is at a higher level than the first	Three-year open work visa

If you are granted a post-study work visa before 26 November 2018, you will be eligible for: either a one-year open work visa, or a two-year employer-assisted work visa. After 26 November 2018, you may be eligible to have the job and employer stated on your work visa removed, so you do not have to contact Immigration New Zealand if you change jobs or employers in the future.

### EXISTING POST-STUDY WORK VISA HOLDERS

The following table applies if you hold a post-study work visa on 8 August 2018, or are granted a post-study work visa when these changes come into effect on 26 November 2018.

If you hold a:	Then from 26 November 2018, you may be eligible:
One-year open post-study work visa	For a further two-year open work visa
Two-year employer-assisted post-study work visa	To have the job and employer stated on your work visa removed, so you do not have to contact Immigration New Zealand if you change jobs or employers in the future. If you prefer, you can choose to keep your visa as it is.

**For more information:**

Visit [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz) or call 0508 558 855



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