



**NEW ZEALAND  
IMMIGRATION**

November 2020

# Information for temporary visa holders

## Help in your own language

**InfoNOW** is a free service providing information to migrants in New Zealand in 17 different languages.

Tel: 0800 4636 669 | Email: [info@infonow.nz](mailto:info@infonow.nz)

Most government helplines use the **Telephone Interpreting Service**. When you call a helpline, ask for an interpreter in your language.

## If you are unemployed, working reduced hours, or have changed employer

If your visa conditions no longer match your circumstances, you may apply to change your visa conditions. This is called a variation of conditions.

For more information, visit: [www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/general-information/variation-of-conditions-temporary-visas/varying-a-work-visa](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/general-information/variation-of-conditions-temporary-visas/varying-a-work-visa)

If you have an Essential Skills Work Visa, and your job was not on a skill shortage list, you can only apply to change your employer.

You will need a new Essential Skills Work Visa if you want to change your hours of work, your job or your location.

## Make a plan

It is your responsibility to make sure you hold a valid visa. If your temporary visa will expire soon, you need to apply for another visa or make a plan to depart New Zealand if you can no longer remain lawfully. The Government does not plan to provide any more extensions to temporary visa holders.

## Getting home from New Zealand

If you are unemployed or in difficulty and want to return home, talk to your Consulate or Embassy. Your Consulate or Embassy should be able to offer you advice about assistance and the availability of flights to your country of origin. Contact details are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/)

## Emergency assistance

Red Cross and the Department of Internal Affairs are addressing the urgent needs of temporary visa holders in New Zealand experiencing serious hardship due to COVID-19. The Foreign Nationals Support Programme is helping eligible visa holders meet basic needs, such as food and accommodation, and, in special circumstances, repatriation.

Visitor Care Manaaki Manuhiri is currently running until the end of November 2020. For more information, visit: [foreignnationals.services.govt.nz](http://foreignnationals.services.govt.nz)

## Self-isolation

If you have to self-isolate and you are in difficulty, contact your Embassy or Consulate for assistance. Contact details are available on the MFAT website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/)

Temporary accommodation is available to people required to self-isolate who are unable to do so in their own homes. For more information, visit: [www.temporaryaccommodation.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.temporaryaccommodation.mbie.govt.nz)

*The information presented here was accurate at date of publication. For up-to-date information, visit: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)*

## Immigration Contact Centre

You can call the Contact Centre to ask about visa processing or policy or to let Immigration New Zealand know if your circumstances have changed. The centre answers calls from 6:00am Monday to midnight on Saturday (NZT). If you have already applied for a visa, make sure you know your client number, application number and passport number.

Toll-free calls from New Zealand landlines:  
0508 558 855

## Applying for an Essential Skills work visa

Before you can be considered for an Essential Skills work visa, your employer must establish that there are no suitable New Zealanders available for the job. This includes advertising the vacancy and assessing applicants.

### Where do you fit?

- 1** I will be paid at **or above the median income (currently \$25.50 per hour)**  
If you will be paid at or above the median income, you may be eligible to be considered for an Essential Skills work visa.  
**Visa duration: up to 3 years**
- 2** I will be paid **below the median income** and **my occupation is on the undersupply list**  
If your occupation pays below the median income and your occupation is on the undersupply list, you may be eligible to be considered for an Essential Skills work visa.  
**Visa duration: up to 6 months, with a multi-visa maximum of a 3-year stay in New Zealand.**
- 3** I will be paid **below the median income** and **my occupation is not on the undersupply or oversupply list**  
If your occupation pays below the median income and is not listed on the undersupply or oversupply list you may be eligible to be considered for an Essential Skills work visa, however **the process your employer must follow to establish that there are no suitable New Zealanders available is more thorough** (refer to flow diagram on opposite page) .  
**Visa duration: up to 6 months, with a multi-visa maximum of a 3-year stay in New Zealand.**
- 4** I will be paid **below the median income** and **my occupation is on the oversupply list**  
If your occupation pays below the median income and is on the oversupply list, either nationally or in the region where the job is located, the Essential Skills work visa application is **unlikely to be successful**.

### Oversupply and undersupply lists

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has created lists of occupations and regions where there is a clear over or undersupply of New Zealanders on Job Seeker Support.

There is an oversupply of New Zealand job seekers on Job Seeker Support in all regions for some occupations in the following sectors:

- > retail and hospitality
- > construction
- > administration and call centre workers
- > manufacturing and warehousing
- > transport.

In the hospitality sector, the oversupply of New Zealand job seekers in all regions includes:

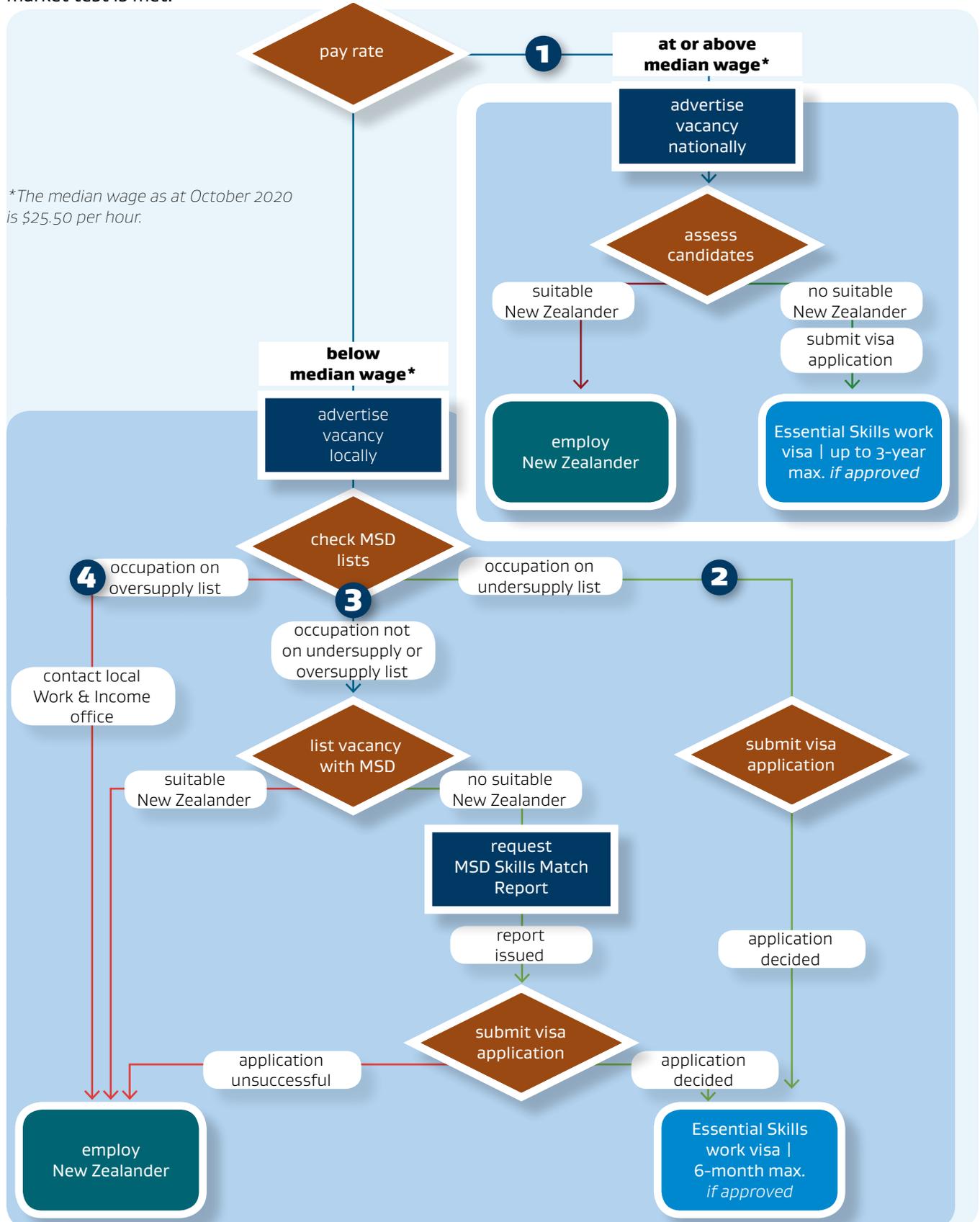
- > café workers
- > cooks
- > commercial housekeepers
- > domestic housekeepers
- > fast food cooks
- > kitchenhands
- > waiters.

If your role is not oversupplied or undersupplied in your region, your employer will need to request a Skills Match Report.

To check if a role is on the oversupply list or the undersupply list in your region, visit: [workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2020/skills-match-report-changes.html](https://workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2020/skills-match-report-changes.html)

## The Essential Skills work visa application process

This flow chart is a high-level simplification of the work visa application process. Before a work visa can be approved, immigration officers must be satisfied that all requirements for the granting of the visa are met. This includes a labour market test, establishing that no New Zealand citizens or residents are available to do the work offered. An immigration officer may consider a number of factors when determining whether the labour market test is met.



## Supplementary Seasonal Employer work visa for 2020-21 season

If you are in New Zealand on a student visa or a visitor visa, or you hold or have held a work visa (including a Supplementary Seasonal Employer work visa), you can make a one-off application for a work visa to do seasonal work in the horticulture or viticulture industries if there are not enough New Zealanders available to do the work. **These conditions apply only to the 2020-21 season.**

### Overview

**LENGTH OF STAY:** 6 months or until 30 June 2021

**AGE RANGE:** 18 and over

### Things to note

- › People who have previously held a Transitioning to Recognised Seasonal Employer or SSE visa or a work visa since their most recent arrival into NZ are only eligible for an SSE visa until 30 June 2021, whereas other eligible applicants will get either six months or a visa until 30 June 2021, whichever is longer.
- › You cannot include a partner or dependent children in your visa application.

### Conditions

These are the conditions that you must meet once you have your visa.

#### Work

You can only do work planting, maintaining, harvesting or packing crops in the horticulture or viticulture industries for:

- › an SSE approved employer
- › a Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) with an approved Agreement to Recruit where places have been unable to be filled by RSE workers
- › any employer in a role, region and during a period of time that's specified by the Ministry of Social Development (and published on the Work and Income website).

**Supplementary Seasonal Employer (SSE) list:**  
[www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/work-and-employment/supplementary-seasonal-employers-list](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/work-and-employment/supplementary-seasonal-employers-list)

**Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) with an approved Agreement to Recruit where places have been unable to be filled by RSE workers:**  
[www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/tools/recognised-seasonal-employers-list](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/tools/recognised-seasonal-employers-list)

**Work and Income employment list:**  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz/employers/help-with-recruitment/hiring-someone-on-a-sse-visa.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/employers/help-with-recruitment/hiring-someone-on-a-sse-visa.html)

#### Study

You can do any study or training that's authorised by your SSE approved employer as part of your employment.

You can do other study as long as you won't be studying for more than 3 months in any 12-month period.

#### Onward travel

You must have the means to leave New Zealand at all times during your stay.

#### Visa expiry

You must leave New Zealand before your visa expires. Visa expiry dates are printed on a visa label or included in a visa letter.

#### How to apply

Visit the Immigration website to see if you meet the criteria and to download the application form. A non-refundable application processing fee of \$495 applies.

**Visit:** [www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/supplementary-seasonal-employment-sse-work-visa](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/supplementary-seasonal-employment-sse-work-visa)