YoNomad

NZ
AOTEAROA
AEWV · WORK

# New Zealand's Accredited Employer Work Visa, start to finish

Checking the job offer, proving your skills and English, applying, and turning up to five years of work into residence.

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Checked against Immigration New Zealand and Inland Revenue on 11 October 2026
15 pages · printable checklists and tracker · stay planner

# Start here

The Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) is New Zealand's main work visa. It's tied to one job with one accredited employer, and the employer starts the process: you can only apply through the link they send you.

Stay
**Up to 5 years** 3 for most skill level 4–5 jobs

Visa fee
**NZD 1,540** fee + immigration levy

Job
**30+ hours a week** at the market rate

Skills
**2 years or a level 4** qualification, in the same field

English
**Skill levels 3–5** e.g. IELTS 4.0 overall

Residence
**Green List or SMC** page 11

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General information, not immigration or tax advice. YoNomad isn't an immigration adviser and earns nothing from your application. In New Zealand, only licensed immigration advisers and lawyers may give immigration advice for a fee.

# Is the AEWV for you?

Three things have to be true at once: the employer, the job and you.

| Who | What Immigration New Zealand requires |
|---|---|
| **The employer** | Accredited for the AEWV, with an approved job check for your job. They send you the job offer, the employment agreement and a unique link (the "job token") to the application form. |
| **The job** | Full time (at least 30 hours a week), paid at least the market rate, current when you apply. Not self-employed work, horticulture or viticulture crop work, or fishing crew. |
| **You** | 2 years' relevant experience *or* a qualification at NZ level 4 or higher in the same field (any field for a bachelor's or higher); any occupational registration the job needs; English for skill levels 3–5; good health and character; a genuine reason to come. |

## When you don't need to prove the skill requirement

- Your job is on the Green List and you meet its requirements.
- You have NZ occupational registration that required experience or qualifications.
- You're paid at least NZD 67.12 an hour (2 × the 2024 median wage).
- You already proved it on a previous AEWV application.

> **Working remotely for an overseas employer?**
> That isn't what the AEWV is for, and New Zealand has no digital nomad visa. Immigration New Zealand says visitors may work remotely for an employer or client outside New Zealand, within their visitor visa's stay.

# Rules and costs

## How long you can stay

| Your job | Total time on AEWVs |
|---|---|
| ANZSCO skill level 1–3, or a recognised NOL level 1–3 occupation | 5 years |
| Skill level 4–5, but on the Green List, paid NZD 52.50+ an hour, or in certain transport and care jobs | 5 years |
| Other skill level 4–5 jobs | 3 years |

After the total time, you must spend 12 months in a row outside New Zealand before another AEWV. A shorter visa can be followed by another AEWV up to the total. Time on visitor, student, working holiday and most other visas doesn't count.

## Fees

| Item | Paid by | NZD |
|---|---|---|
| AEWV application (480 fee + 1,060 immigration levy) | You | 1,540 |
| Employer accreditation (standard) | Employer | 775 |
| Job check, per job | Employer | 735 |
| Skilled Migrant Category resident visa | You | from 6,450 |

AEWV and SMC fees as shown by INZ in October 2026; employer fees from INZ's 1 October 2024 fee table. Your own costs on top: police certificates, any medical or chest X-ray, an English test and an NZQA qualification assessment if needed, and translations.

> **Never pay for a job**
>
> Employers and their agents can't charge you for a job offer or pass on recruitment costs. INZ declines applications where money was offered for a job offer. Job offer scams are common: check the employer yourself (page 5).