

SPOTLIGHT ON:

› Final details about changes to the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) Visa and Work to Residence Visas

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) announced the final details on changes to SMC ahead of these taking effect from 24 August 2026. In addition, INZ also announced changes to the wage rate rules for Work to Residence Visas. More information is available on [the INZ website](#).

KEY UPDATES

Here is a summary of recent key operational and policy updates about the immigration system. Please note this is not an exhaustive list of updates. For more information about any of the updates below, please visit the relevant page on INZ's website.

You can also check out our announcements, media releases, stories, and common topics on our [News Centre](#).

Check out our [Common Topics articles](#) on our website, for information about a number of topics including fees and levies, the Parent Resident Visa, and Investigations and Compliance.

1 JUNE 2026

› A temporary reduction in [visitor visa fees](#) for Pacific nationals has taken effect from 1 June 2026 for 12 months. The total cost will be reduced to NZD \$161 from NZD \$216 (this includes the standard immigration levy of NZD \$41).

29 MAY 2026

› We are introducing a new Short-term Graduate Work Visa and extending Post Study Work Visa eligibility to better align graduate pathways with New Zealand's skills needs. Further information is available on the [INZ website](#).

25 MAY 2026

› From 1 June 2026, Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) minimum English language requirements are being applied to ANZSCO and NOL Skill Level 3 occupations. More information is available on [the INZ website](#).

KEY STATISTICS

Statistics about visa application processing and decisions for some of INZ's key visa categories can be found on the INZ website: [Research and statistics :: Immigration New Zealand](#)

USEFUL LINKS

New links are added to the end of this section as they become available – see the end of this section for the latest links. **The latest links have a star* next to the bullet list.**

Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) Scheme:

- › Our [Accredited Employer Work Visa resources web page](#) contains helpful information and other resources, including our [Job Advertisement Guide](#). An [accreditation checklist](#) is now available to help you include everything required for when applying for or renewing a client's employer accreditation. We have also improved the [Accredited Employer Work Visa](#) page to make it easier for customers to understand what they need to apply.
- › [Our web page about AEWV post-accreditation checks](#) has some useful tips on the kind of things we might ask employers to show us, and definitions of some of our common terms (like 'key people' or 'triangular employers').
- › We have launched a [series of short, practical videos](#) designed to support employers with the AEWV system. They address common challenges and questions to help understand immigration requirements and submit complete applications that can be processed efficiently.

Visitor Visa:

- › We have updated our [webpage](#) to provide guidance for people with transliterated names on their passports, along with guidance on English translations of supporting documents.
- › The guide to applying for a visitor visa online in eight languages, as well as English, has been updated to include guidance on mandatory translations. [Hindi](#), [Tongan](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Fijian Hindi](#), [Tuvaluan](#), [Samoan](#), [Kiribati](#), [Fijian](#), and [English](#).

Skilled Residence:

- › Our [Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa application guide](#) is a useful guide to help applicants plan and submit their SMC application on time.

Other/general:

- › Use [this form](#) to sign up to receive INZ's email updates.
- › Our [YouTube channel](#) contains educational short videos for employers. *
- › Watch our recent Employer webinar on [New Skilled Migrant Category \(SMC\) pathways from 24th August 2026](#). *
- › The latest version of our Enhancements to Immigration Online User Guide, which is updated regularly, can be found on our [Enhancements to Immigration Online web page](#).
- › Learn about your visa status by visiting our [check your visa application status web page](#).
- › Our [immigration scams page](#) includes information in other languages.
- › We have a [centralised process](#) to request priority allocation for urgent applications. This includes a web tool to [check if you can make an escalation request](#).
- › You can now check whether you need a transit visa or an NZeTA if you are transiting through Auckland International Airport on [the INZ website](#).
- › Please refer to [INZ's acceptable forms list](#) for a list of forms that are currently accepted by Immigration New Zealand offices. This list contains the date of the current version of each form.
- › Our [webpage](#) containing the list of employers who have not complied with immigration law and who are stood down from supporting visas for migrants has been updated.
- › Our website has now been updated with [information that allows people to verify](#) the authenticity of a visa given to them without calling the Customer Service Centre. This is in light of the proliferation of fake visas being offered by offshore agents and advisers.
- › We have an [updated guide](#) for foreign fishing crews working in New Zealand fisheries translated into 11 languages.