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# Overseas Teacher Journey

The process of moving to New Zealand to teach

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Get your teaching qualification recognised

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Get registered and certificated

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Apply for a visa

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Actions for when you arrive



**Te Tāhuhu o  
te Mātauranga**  
Ministry of Education



**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

# Moving to New Zealand to Teach

New Zealand is an unbeatable place to live and work.

If you are thinking about making the move, there are four key steps in the process to move to New Zealand to teach:

- 1** Get your overseas teaching qualification recognised
- 2** Get registered and certificated
- 3** Apply for a visa
- 4** Actions for when you arrive.

It can take six months to get ready to teach.

Before you start, get familiar with the entire process.

Consider:

- » **Timing:** Start the process as early as possible.
- » **Documentation:** Get all documentation organised to save time.
- » **Funding:** Teachers can apply for an Overseas Relocation Grant of up to NZD \$10,000.



Use the link below or the QR code to visit our **Education Workforce** website for more information about becoming a teacher in New Zealand.

<https://workforce.education.govt.nz/becoming-teacher-new-zealand/overseas-trained-teachers/get-ready-move-new-zealand>

If you have any questions, our navigator team are here to help.

Email: [teacher.supply@education.govt.nz](mailto:teacher.supply@education.govt.nz)

Freephone: 0800 165 225

# 1

## Get your teaching qualification recognised

Your overseas teaching qualification needs to be evaluated by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

You will need to apply for a Teaching International Qualification Assessment (Teaching IQA) to demonstrate your qualification is comparable to a New Zealand Initial Teacher Education qualification.

Your qualification will be evaluated faster if you provide all the required documents when you submit your application. Please read and follow all instructions carefully.



Use the link below or the QR code to find more information about the teacher registration process and required evidence.

<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/international/recognise-overseas-qual/apply-iqa/>

*Tip:* Step 2 on the page link below covers NZQA requirements for all documents that need to be submitted for an IQA.

Contact **NZQA** if you have questions about the IQA process at [qrsteaching@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:qrsteaching@nzqa.govt.nz)

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## 2

# Get registered and certificated

## Register to teach in New Zealand

To teach in New Zealand, you need to register as a teacher and apply for a practising certificate with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.

If you have received an employment offer to teach at a New Zealand school, kura or early childhood centre, let NZQA and the Teaching Council know so your application can be fast tracked. It is a priority to get teachers registered and certified when they have a definite job offer.

To apply, you will need the following evidence:

- » proof of identity if currently living overseas (Teaching Council's POI-OS form) that is completed within three months of submitting the application
- » overseas police vetting certificates that are dated within six months of submitting the application
- » teaching qualification and any other relevant qualification/s (if applicable)
- » IQA outcome report from NZQA, if applicable
- » language competency evidence, such as language test results or other applicable language evidence
- » teaching experience evidence such as testimonial/reference letters, recent evaluation/appraisal, recent professional development list, overseas registration details, or CV | resumé
- » name change document if applicable.



Use the link below or the QR code to find more information about registration process and required evidence.

[https://teachingcouncil.nz/getting-certificated/  
for-overseas-trained-teachers/  
applying-for-teacher-registration/#howtoapply](https://teachingcouncil.nz/getting-certificated/for-overseas-trained-teachers/applying-for-teacher-registration/#howtoapply)

## Apply for a teaching job

The Education Gazette advertises all teaching positions in New Zealand. You can use filters to find teaching positions that suit your skills and experience in the vacancies section.



Use the link to search New Zealand teacher vacancies

<https://gazette.education.govt.nz/vacancies/>

Contact the Teaching Council if you have questions about registration at [enquiries@teachingcouncil.nz](mailto:enquiries@teachingcouncil.nz)

If you have any questions, our navigator team are here to help.

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# 3

## Apply for a visa

### Visa options to teach in New Zealand

Once you have a Teaching IQA and are registered to teach in New Zealand, you may apply for a valid work visa.

You must apply for your visa through Immigration New Zealand. Common visas include:

#### **Straight to Residence Visa**

Primary, intermediate, and secondary school teachers from overseas are eligible for the Straight to Residence Visa to help address the pressure on teacher supply in primary, intermediate and secondary schools.

#### **Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)**

An eligible accredited employer can invite an overseas teacher to apply for an AEWV using Immigration Online. Overseas teachers must show their skills and experience match those the employer told us were required as part of their job check application.

#### **Work to Residence Visa**

Early childhood and primary school teachers from overseas are eligible for the Work to Residence Visa.

#### **Working Holiday Visa**

Working holiday visas are mostly available to young people aged 18 to 30. They allow you to travel and work in New Zealand for up to 12 months for most countries.

Before you start your application for a visa, check:

- » your school is an accredited employer or is looking to become an accredited employer
- » the position you are applying for pays above median wage
- » you have a preliminary salary assessment and a letter offering you a job from the school, to avoid Immigration Officers having to send a request for evidence of your salary level.

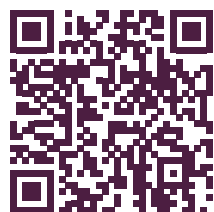


Use the link below or the QR code to explore and select a visa type.

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/explore-visa-options>

## Using an immigration advisor

Only licensed immigration advisers (or those who have exemptions) can provide immigration advice. Learn more about who can give immigration advice at **Immigration Advisers Authority**.



Use the link below or the QR code to learn more about immigration advisers.

<https://www.iaa.govt.nz/for-migrants/who-can-give-advice/>

Visit **Immigration New Zealand** for more information about moving to New Zealand.

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/>

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# 4

## Actions for when you arrive

There are actions you will need to take and there are supports available to help you start your teaching career in New Zealand.

### Request a salary assessment

When you are appointed to a primary or secondary teaching position, you and your school must complete a salary assessment with Education Payroll to ensure you get paid at the correct level. You can start this process with Education Payroll as soon as you get a job offer – you don't always need to wait until you arrive.

You must provide recognition of relevant work from your previous educational employers.



Use the link below or the QR code to find more information about the teacher registration process and required evidence.

[https://www.edpay.govt.nz/Site/Tools\\_to\\_help\\_you/A-Z-of-Payroll/S/salary-assessment/salary-assessment/default.aspx](https://www.edpay.govt.nz/Site/Tools_to_help_you/A-Z-of-Payroll/S/salary-assessment/salary-assessment/default.aspx)

### Apply for financial support

As an overseas-trained teacher coming to New Zealand, you may be eligible for an Overseas Relocation Grant. This grant covers certain relocation costs of up NZD\$10,000.



Use the link below or the QR code to find more information about the teacher registration process and required evidence.

<https://workforce.education.govt.nz/becoming-teacher-new-zealand/overseas-trained-teachers/overseas-relocation-grant>

## Explore professional learning and development

We can help smooth the transition to teaching in New Zealand. New Zealand has a student-centred curriculum. There will also be cultural differences to understand, such as Māori practices and language that we use in schools and early learning centres.

Tātai Aho Rau Core Education has introductory webinars and programmes to support your future PLD in New Zealand.

This also includes a Mentor Support Programme to help start your teaching career in New Zealand successfully.



Use the link below or the QR code below for information on professional learning and development for overseas trained teachers.

[https://pld.education.govt.nz/  
provisionally-trained-and-overseas-trained-  
teachers-support/support-for-pcts-and-otts/](https://pld.education.govt.nz/provisionally-trained-and-overseas-trained-teachers-support/support-for-pcts-and-otts/)

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## Contact us

Remember, it can take six months to get ready to teach in New Zealand.

Before you start, familiarise yourself with the process, and:

- » Start the process as early as possible.
- » Get all documentation organised to save time.
- » Remember, teachers may be able to apply for an Overseas Relocation Grant of up to NZD \$10,000.

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Nau mai, hāere mai. (welcome, come in)  
We look forward to seeing you.



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