

Getting ready for New Zealand – some helpful links

To prepare for your new life in New Zealand, here are some tips to help you find out what you need to do before you arrive and during your first few weeks. Included are some links to English language websites you might find helpful.

Bring enough money

When you first arrive in New Zealand, you will have to pay for many things, including:

- food
- warm clothes, and
- transportation.

Many things cost more in New Zealand than they do in the Pacific Islands. Use the tool on our website to estimate what your expenses in New Zealand may be:

www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/live-in-new-zealand/money-tax/cost-of-living-in-new-zealand

Find a place to live

Unless you are staying with family or your employer has arranged a place for you to stay, you will need to find a place to live. It is a good idea to decide to live close to your place of work, or where you have good access to transport to your new workplace. We also recommend that you live somewhere with internet access.

www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/live-in-new-zealand/housing

Get a tax number

You will need an Inland Revenue (IRD) number before you can start working. You can apply for this from the IRD website.

www.ird.govt.nz/new-arrival

Open a bank account

You can apply online or in person to open a New Zealand bank account. Wages are usually paid directly into a bank account.

Bring a mobile phone

You can use your mobile phone in New Zealand as long as it is unlocked. You just need to buy a prepaid SIM card sold at the airport and retail stores.

If your phone is not unlocked you should contact your mobile phone retailer, or you can buy a new one in New Zealand.



Learn about New Zealand work culture

You and your partner can join Pacific Work Connect. It is a free programme that offers workshops, one-on-one career coaching and other resources, delivered by Pacific career consultants.

www.careers.govt.nz/pacificworkconnect

Learn how to get around

Excellent public transport options exist in most areas. This can often be paid for by cash or by using travel cards bought from many supermarkets. Having your own car may help you move around easier, but these may be expensive to buy and run.

Below you can find some practical guides on:

- driving rules
- buying a car without getting into huge debt
- getting a New Zealand license.

www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/live-in-new-zealand/getting-started/transport

Improve your English

Having good English language skills may improve your chances of getting a job that matches your skills. It's a good idea to practice your English at home to become more fluent. Find some tips, including where you can take English classes on the Immigration New Zealand website:

www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/live-in-new-zealand/english-language

Find a school for your children

If you have children, you should make sure you find them a school and get them settled. In New Zealand, all children aged 6-16 years must go to school. You can learn about your options on the Education.govt.nz website:

<https://parents.education.govt.nz>

Do not hesitate to ask for help

The Citizens Advice Bureau have 30 locations throughout New Zealand that offer face-to-face advice about:

- saving money and writing a budget
- how to go to a doctor or hospital
- problems with your employer or landlord, and more.

www.cab.org.nz

More information

You can find more information about moving to New Zealand from the Pacific on our website:

<https://www.live-work.immigration.govt.nz/pacific>