
A GUIDE TO INVESTING
IN NEW ZEALAND

PARRY FIELD LAWYERS



ParryField
Lawyers

To the heart of what matters.

About Parry Field Lawyers

We are a New Zealand owned company that has been serving our clients since 1948. Our aim is not only to provide sound legal advice, but to also find solutions which deliver the best practical outcome for those we represent.

Our History

In 2023 we celebrated 75 years in practice. Our founder, Glynn Parry was joined in partnership by Brian Field in the early 1950s. Since the later 1970s, Peter van Rij, Ken Lord and Grant Adams have each led the firm into a new period of growth. Today we have grown to 11 partners, around 100 staff and operate from five locations. Parry Field Lawyers incorporated as a company under the Companies Act 1993 on 1 July 2021.

To The Heart Of What Matters

We see our clients in a rounded way and wanted to help them with 'what really matters', for legal services and beyond, where appropriate. With our growing team, we are excited by what the future holds and look forward to continuing to provide exceptional legal services to our valued clients.

Find out more at parryfield.com

Compiled by the Parry Field Lawyers Immigration Team

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A GUIDE TO INVESTING IN NEW ZEALAND

The Immigration team at Parry Field Lawyers have experience in all aspects of immigration law and offer professional, reliable, and comprehensive legal advice and assistance with your immigration needs.

We understand the confusion that can arise when faced with many different immigration categories and policies. Our goal is to serve you in a professional and efficient way by assessing your immigration status, giving you realistic options and preparing your application, in consultation with you.

New Zealand has become a thriving hub for investors and entrepreneurs, offering a supportive environment and an attractive destination with its natural beauty, high living standards, and welcoming approach to immigrants.

We are here to guide you through the process and offer tips to make your application smoother.



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ACTIVE INVESTOR PLUS (AIP) VISA

What is it and who can apply?

From 1 April 2025, changes to the AIP visa make it simpler and more attractive for high-value investors to choose New Zealand as a destination for their capital, skills, and business ventures. Two simplified categories—Growth and Balanced—has replaced the previous framework.

A partner, and dependent children aged 24 and under, can be included in an AIP application. Newborn children of investors will also qualify for a Dependent Child Resident Visa. They can then be added to their parent's application for a Permanent Resident Visa.

An applicant will have to meet the following requirements:

- **Investment Funds:**

- **Growth Category:** Requires a minimum investment of NZD \$5 million in high-risk, direct investments in New Zealand businesses for at least three years.

- **Balanced Category:** Requires a minimum investment of NZD \$10 million over five years, with a broader range of investment options, including bonds and property developments (new residential, commercial, or industrial projects).

- **Source of Investment Funds:** The applicant must have acquired investment funds lawfully.

- **Health and Character:** All applicants must meet Immigration New Zealand's (INZ) health and character requirements.

What are the key features?

The key features are summarised in the table below (adapted from Immigration New Zealand's factsheet):

Key Features	Growth	Balanced
Minimum Investment Amount	NZD \$5 million	NZD \$10 million
Acceptable Investments	New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) determines investments are acceptable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed funds • Direct investments 	Immigration New Zealand (INZ) determines investments are acceptable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonds (Government, local government, corporate, traded on NZDX) • Listed equities • New property development (residential, rental, social housing; commercial and industrial; investment sensitive land as specified and approved by the Overseas Investment Office (OIO)) • Existing commercial or industrial property developments (including investment in sensitive land as specified and approved by the OIO) • Philanthropy • Direct investments • Managed funds
Investment Period	3 years	5 years
Time to be Spent in NZ	21 days	105 days *unless eligible for a reduction by investing above the minimum investment amount into direct investments or managed funds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$11 million = 14-day reduction • \$12 million = 28-day reduction • \$13 million = 42-day reduction
Time to Transfer and Invest	6 months from the date of Approval in Principle, with the option to apply for a one 6 month extension (12 months total)	
Section 49 Investment Retention Checkpoints	24 months 36 months	24 months 60 months
English Language	No requirement	

How to apply

- **Submit Application:** The application includes detailed supporting documents such as the proof and source of investment funds. Please ensure you upload or attach all necessary documents when submitting your application online.
- **Approval in Principle:** If approved in principle, the applicant will have 6 months to transfer and invest the nominated funds into acceptable investments. If you want to come to New Zealand to arrange the transfer and investment of your funds, you can apply for a Specific Purpose Work Visa to do this.
- **Approval:** Once the applicant has completed the transfer of funds to New Zealand and the funds have been invested into acceptable investments, INZ will grant you a resident visa if there is no further information required.

Tips

- **Keep Copies:** Make sure to keep copies of all documents and forms submitted.
- **Demonstrate Source of Funds:** Provide adequate source of funds documentation. If you do not provide sufficient proof, INZ may request further information (which will delay the processing of your application).
- **Transfer of Funds into New Zealand:** Ensure you will be able to transfer NZ \$5 million or \$10 million into New Zealand within a 6-month period, in particular, from countries with foreign exchange controls, e.g. China.



BUSINESS INVESTOR VISA (BIV)

What is it and who can apply?

INZ closed the Entrepreneur Vvisa in August 2025 and introduced this new BIV category which took effect from 24 November 2025.

There are two pathways to residency:

- Standard pathway of \$1 million investment in an existing business, leading to residency after three years, and
- Fast-track pathway of \$2 million investment with eligibility for residency after just 12 months.

An applicant will have to meet the following requirements:

- Be under 55 years old.
- Meet business experience criteria.
- Be able to make the minimum investment required.
- Spend at least 184 days in New Zealand.
- Meet health and, character requirements,
- Meet English language requirement (IELTS 5.0, or PTE Academic 36, or equivalent).
- Hold at least NZD \$0.5 million in personal funds to support themselves and their families.

What are the key features?

The key features are summarised in the table below (adapted from Immigration New Zealand's factsheet):

Key Features	Growth
Minimum Financial Threshold	<p>Minimum investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard: \$1 million investment in an existing business, leading to residency after three years, or • Fast-track: \$2 million for purchasing an existing business, with eligibility for residency after just 12 months. <p>Settlement funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.5 million.
Business Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in a business that has been operating for at least five years, or acquire at least 25% ownership of the business. • Employ a minimum of five full-time staff. • Create at least one new full-time job for a New Zealand citizen or resident • Prove the business is solvent. • Maintain their investment throughout the required period. • Minimum actively operate the business for at least three years. • Exclusion of property in value of business (e.g. enterprise value only).
Applicant Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be under 55 years old. • Meet business experience criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Minimum of three years of business experience ◦ Paid self-employment with at least five full-time employees OR annual revenue of NZ \$1 million, and/or ◦ Paid senior management level experience for at least 5 full-time employees AND turn-over of at least NZ \$5 million. • Meet health and character requirements for residence. • Meet English language requirement (IELTS 5.0 or equivalent). • Spend at least 184 days for each 12-month period in New Zealand.
Excluded Three Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration advisory services. • Social license: tobacco/nicotine, gambling and, adult entertainment. • Economic benefit: fast food outlets, franchises, convenience and discount stores, drop-shipping, and home-based businesses.
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be granted for up to four years.
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Investor Work Visa: NZD \$12,380. • Business Investor Resident Visa: NZD \$14,890.

How to apply

- **Find a business:** Undertake legal and financial due diligence.
- **Apply for a work visa and purchase the business:** The work visa may be granted for up to four years.
- **Provide evidence and run the business:** You must provide evidence within the first 9 months of running the business.
- **Apply for a resident visa:** After running the business for the required period and meeting the requirements, you can apply for a resident visa.

Tips

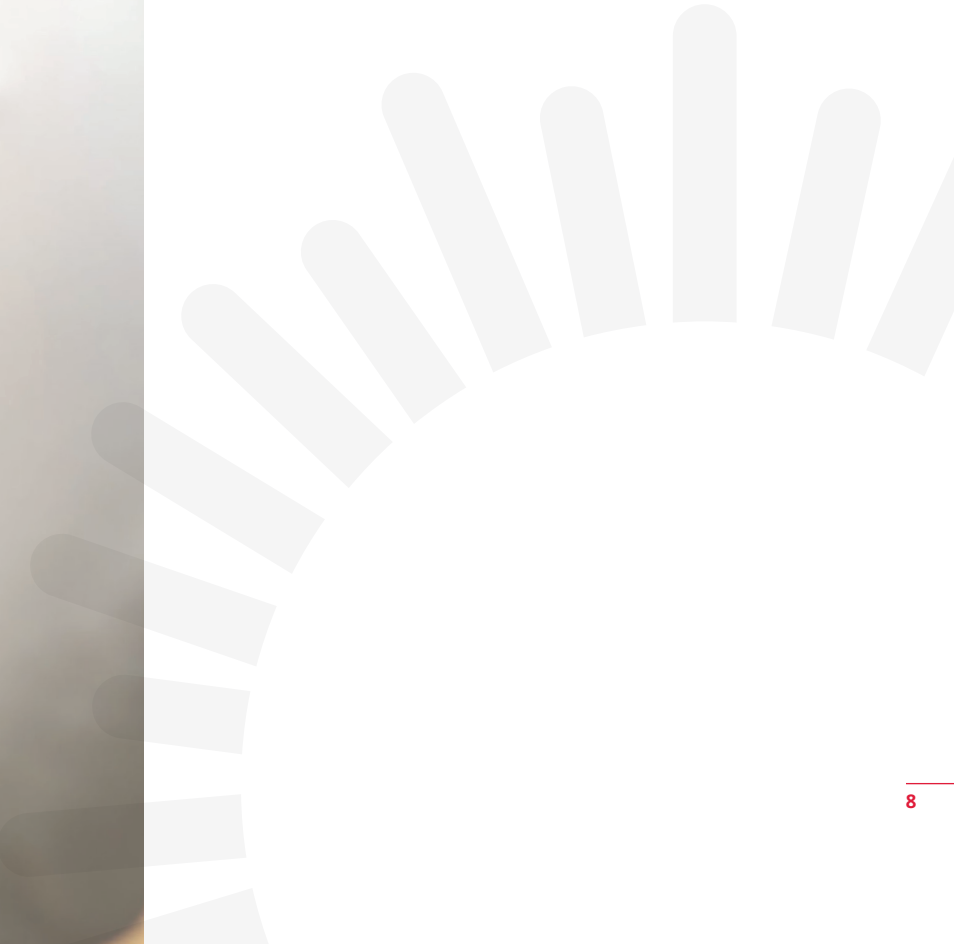
- **Nominated business:** Ensure the purchased business meets all requirements.
- **Ensure you have adequate business experience:** A lack of relevant business experience or industry knowledge can weaken INZ's confidence in your ability to run a successful business.
- **Business operation:** You must provide evidence to demonstrate successful operation and that all requirements have been met.
- **Keep copies:** Make sure to keep copies of all documents and forms submitted.

If you have a child in New Zealand who is a New Zealand citizen or resident, have money to invest and meet INZ's income requirement, you can apply to live in New Zealand permanently. Please refer to our "*A Guide to Reuniting with Your Family*" for further information.



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