
A GUIDE TO STUDYING IN
NEW ZEALAND

PARRY FIELD LAWYERS



ParryField
Lawyers

To the heart of what matters.



We are absolutely thrilled to have received the visa!

Words cannot express how grateful we are for your team's unwavering support throughout this journey.

We truly admire your outstanding professionalism and expertise, which made all the difference."



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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

parryfield.com

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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.

New Zealand is internationally recognised as providing a high-quality educational system making it a popular choice for students worldwide.

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.

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WHO AND WHEN?

You will need a student visa if you plan to study for more than three months in New Zealand (NZ).

You can apply for the following types of student visas depending on your study purpose:

Fee Paying Student Visa

Apply if you:

- Want to study full-time in NZ;
- Are enrolled with an approved education provider; and
- Are paying the full course fees as an international student.

Pathway Student Visa

Apply if you:

- Intend to study up to three consecutive courses on a single student visa; and
- Have an offer of place from a Pathway education provider.

Guardian of a Student Visitor Visa

Apply if you:

- Wish to live with and care for your child in NZ; or
- Have a child who is an international, fee-paying student, and aged 17 or younger.

If you want to work after completing your studies, you may be eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa, provided you meet the relevant requirements.


If you wish to:

- Reunite with a partner who holds a work or student visa; or

- Study as a dependent child of a work or student visa holder, please refer to our *"A Guide to Reuniting With Your Family"* for more details.

When you need to apply

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) recommends applying at least three months before your intended travel date. During peak periods, such as October to February, processing times may be longer, so apply as soon as your study plans are finalised.

To the heart of what matters. 



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO PREPARE?

For a Fee Paying Student Visa

- **Valid Passport:** Your passport must be valid for at least three months after your planned departure date from NZ.
- **Chest X-Ray/Medical Examination:** May be required depending on the duration of your stay.
- **Police Certificate:** May be required depending on the length of your stay.
- **Evidence of Genuine Intentions:** Provide proof of your study intentions, such as:
 - a study plan;
 - previous student visa history; and
 - personal circumstance.
- **Offer of Place:** Must be provided unless you are a returning student.
- **Tuition fees:** Evidence of tuition fee payment, unless applying overseas or if exempt.
- **Sufficient funds:** You must show proof of funds for living expenses and a travel ticket to leave NZ. Alternatively, a [Sponsorship for Temporary Entry](#) form or a [Financial Undertaking for a Student](#) form can be completed by an acceptable sponsor.
- **Medical and Travel Insurance:** You must have full insurance coverage for your stay.
- **Academic/Attendance Requirements:** Returning students must show evidence of their academic progress and attendance.
- **Permission to Work:** If you are aged 16 or 17 years and wish to work part-time, you need written permission from your school and parent/guardian.
- **Parent or Legal Guardian:** Students aged nine or younger must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian unless they will live in an NZQA-approved school hostel.

For a Pathway Student Visa

A valid study pathway offer or a letter(s) of support from Pathway Education Providers.

For a Guardian of a Student Visitor Visa

Besides the requirements for passport, health, character, and genuine intent, you will need:

- Proof your child is 17 years or younger and enrolled in school years 1-13. Your child's current student visa.
- Legal documents (e.g. birth certificate, adoption papers) proving you are the child's parent or guardian.
- Sufficient funds to support your living expenses and a travel ticket to leave NZ.
- **Medical Costs:** You must agree to cover your healthcare costs, with full medical insurance recommended.

For a Post-Study Work Visa

Besides the requirements for passport, health, character, and genuine intent, you will need:

- Proof of an eligible qualification in NZ:
 - A copy of your qualification or a confirmation letter from your education provider.
 - For degree level 7 or above, you must have studied full-time for at least 30 weeks in NZ.
 - For non-degree level 7 or below, the qualification must be on the list eligible for a Post-Study Work Visa.
- **Application timing:** Apply within three months of your student visa expiry, or within six months if granted a visa for doctoral studies.
- Doctoral students may apply after submitting their thesis.
- **Sufficient Funds:** You must show evidence of sufficient funds to support your living expenses.

HOW TO APPLY

Online: The quickest and easiest way to apply is online via the INZ's website. We highly recommend applying online.

Paper Application: You can also submit a paper application at a NZ Visa Application Centre. The details of receiving centre are based on the country you live.

Please ensure you upload or attach all necessary documents when submitting your application. You must also provide English translations for any evidence that is not in English.

Tips

- **Study Plan:** A clear study plan can strengthen your visa application and help with future applications.
- **Attendance and Progress:** Student visa holders must maintain satisfactory attendance and academic progress. If facing difficulties, contact your education provider or us for advice.
- **Changes to Course/Programme:** You may change your course or programme with a valid reason. Contact us if you are uncertain about the impact of these changes.
- **Student's Work Rights:** Typically, student visa holders may work up to 20 hours per week during term time and full-time during school holidays, but not all student visa holders are allowed to work, so it is important to check your visa conditions.
- **Guardian's Work Rights:** Guardians on a student visitor visa cannot work in NZ unless they apply for a variation. Contact us if you would like assistance with a variation application or advice on other visa options.
- **Employment Conditions on Post-Study Work Visas:** If you completed a non-degree qualification, ensure you understand any employment restrictions associated with your visa.

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parryfield.com/publications include:**





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