

International Students Working in New Zealand

WORKING RIGHTS

As an international student studying in New Zealand you may be granted work rights. To confirm this, check your eVisa or visa label in your passport.

Work rights allow most international students to work up to 20 hours per week and full time during scheduled holidays (subject to visa conditions). You can be deported if you are found working more than your approved hours.

Your employer may ask you to provide a letter confirming the scheduled holiday dates. Your International Student Advisor will provide this for you at your request.

A guide to working while studying in NZ can be found here: <http://nzstudywork.immigration.govt.nz/>

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS/MINIMUM WAGES/ LABOUR CONDITIONS

All workers in New Zealand have rights as employees. For more information on employee's minimum wages and rights click on the link <http://www.employment.govt.nz/er/minimumrights/>

IRD NUMBER

If you are permitted to work in New Zealand while studying, you must apply for an IRD number here: <http://www.ird.govt.nz/how-to/irdnumbers/>. An IRD number is an eight or nine digit number unique to you - it's important because all your tax, entitlement and personal details are linked to this number. If you don't have an IRD number, your employer will deduct income tax at the highest "non-declaration" tax rate of 45%.

ARA CAREERS TEAM

We can help you with your CV, cover letter and interview process, through drop-in, job search, workshops, handouts and online resources. See website: <http://www.ara.ac.nz/services-and-support/career-centre>

ARA STUDENT JOB SITES

Register on Ara CareerHub: <https://careerhub.ara.ac.nz/> and Student Job Search: www.sjs.co.nz

OTHER KEY EMPLOYMENT SITES

www.trademe.co.nz/jobs
www.seek.co.nz

WORK READINESS/JOBSEARCH PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Completed

Understand minimum wages and labour conditions in New Zealand	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understand maximum hours of work permitted under visa conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
ID number applied for	<input type="checkbox"/>
CV (Curriculum Vitae) written and checked by Ara Careers team	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover letter personalised to the job advert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Registered on CareerHub and Student Job Search	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend Ara events, join clubs and made new connections	<input type="checkbox"/>

JOB INTERVIEW PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Completed

Dressing professionally is always your safest approach, wear clothes that are freshly washed and clean shoes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure you are freshly bathed/showered and use deodorant.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research the location of where your interview will take place, allow for travel time and the possibility of parking difficulties. Arrive 10 minutes early for your interview.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research the company, products and services it offers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare a short introduction about yourself, for example qualifications, work experience and personal values.	<input type="checkbox"/>
From the job description identify the skills, experience and personal qualities that you can bring to the job.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be prepared to give examples that illustrate your skills and experience by providing well-structured answers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare a short list of your own questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assistance is available from the Ara Careers Team.

View resources online, attend drop-ins, phone 940 8720 or email careers@ara.ac.nz



WHAT DO NEW ZEALAND EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR?

There are many factors employers look for that are important. These depend on the organisation and the job. Employers make up their minds about the entire “package” (which is you!) as a whole - these include the following:

English

Create opportunities to practice your English with native speakers. Relevant work experience is an excellent way to pick up language that is more career-focused and to get exposure to the New Zealand workplace and culture. Work Talk will help you gain an understanding of the communication used in Kiwi workplaces that may be different to other cultures:

<http://worktalk.immigration.govt.nz/>

Knowledge

You should be able to describe and talk about the knowledge you gained during your studies. Show how it is relevant to the job and how it will add value to the organisation. Good grades also help! Overseas qualifications are not automatically equivalent to New Zealand qualifications. If you have overseas qualifications you can apply to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), at a cost, to have them assessed and recognised in New Zealand.

Website: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/for-international/qual-eval/index.html>

Phone: 04 463 3000

New Zealand work experience

Employers like to see some New Zealand work experience on CVs, especially if it is career-related. Many international students find it hard to get work when they finish their studies because they have no New Zealand work experience. While you are studying, use the opportunity to work part time and during holidays. Start working for a smaller organisation where your ethnicity could be an advantage or get your foot in the door by doing volunteer work.

VOLUNTEERING

Website: www.volcan.org.nz or <https://seekvolunteer.co.nz/>

POST-STUDY WORK VISA

When you have received your official “Completion of Study” letter from Ara you may be eligible to apply for a Post-Study Work Visa. For more information on eligibility visit: <http://nzstudywork.immigration.govt.nz/work-rules-for-students/staying-to-work-after-study/>

SETTLING IN NEW ZEALAND

Information on settling into New Zealand as a new migrant: <https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/settling-in>

OTHER USEFUL SITES

Immigration New Zealand

Website: www.immigration.govt.nz

Phone: 0508 558 855

Careers New Zealand

Website: www.careers.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 222 733

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