

Quick fire information

Summary of Immigration changes



A number of changes to the Immigration system will be introduced in 2025. Get the latest facts below.

Greater work rights for those on interim visas

While the AEWV is being evaluated, certain employees and students will have the chance to get an Interim Visa with work privileges in April. Instead of waiting for the processing and decision of the visa application, which may take several months, workers can now start working sooner.

Reducing the experience requirement for migrants

From March 2025, foreign workers must demonstrate two years of work experience related to the position provided in New Zealand. This is a decrease in the existing requirement for three years of relevant work experience.

Removing the median wage requirement

The median pay will no longer be required to qualify for an AEWV. Employers must pay at least the minimum wage by March 2025 (which will be \$23.50 per hour beginning April 1). Immigration NZ will continue to ensure that a job pays the "market rate". Migrant workers and employers must ensure that a job does not pay less than what a Kiwi would expect to receive for doing the same job.

Removing the requirements for completion of Employment New Zealand online modules

As of January 27, 2025, all authorised employers, both present and prospective, and Recognised Seasonal Employers (RSE) are no longer required to complete online programmes.

Instead, at the most suitable stages of the immigration process, INZ will provide businesses and employees links to publicly accessible Employment New Zealand or INZ websites that outline employment rights and duties.

Increasing the visa duration for ANZSCO Level 4 or 5 AEWV holders to 3 years

The maximum 3-year work visa will be awarded to applicants for AEWVs in lower-skilled occupations on their initial visa application, instead of two years, and they will then need to apply for a second one-year visa. A person may only work in lower-skilled employment in New Zealand for a maximum of three years with a work visa. Anyone with a two-year AEWV is eligible to seek for a one-year extension. March is when these changes will go into effect.