



SKY TOWER, AUCKLAND CITY

EMPLOYMENT

For those new to New Zealand and in search of gainful employment, there is a wide array of opportunities in many different sectors of the economy. Opportunities for employment exist in a diverse number of industries including agribusiness, manufacturing, service and professional sectors, hospitality and tourism, among others. New Zealand is proud to boast the lowest unemployment rate for an **OECD** (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) nation with the unemployment rate currently at 3.4%.

As with any country, the more skilled and qualified a person, the more likely they will be able to find work, and the more likely they will be successful in their application for residency under the Skilled Migrant Category (**SMC**). Immigration New Zealand (**INZ**) is principally interested in migrants who can contribute skills and experience to the economy and to New Zealand as a whole.

In most instances an individual is required to obtain a full time offer of skilled employment to qualify for New Zealand residence under the main category of residence being the SMC. For further more detailed information regarding applicable immigration policy we refer you to our New Zealand Immigration Policy section.

There are a broad range of occupations that will allow individuals to qualify and obtain New Zealand residence. There is a common misconception that unless an individual's proposed employment position is provided on the INZ Long Term Skill Shortage list or Immediate Skill Shortage list that an individual cannot qualify for New Zealand residence. This is simply not the case. Likewise, even if an individual's proposed employment position in New Zealand is listed on the Long Term Skill Shortage list or Immediate Skill Shortage list, this does not necessarily mean the position will allow that individual to qualify for New Zealand residence.

During the initial immigration assessment process our firm is able to provide an opinion in terms of whether or not the individual has a chance to secure New Zealand residence by virtue of their qualifications and experience and taking into consideration the skill level of the position that they would most likely be able to obtain in New Zealand.

Most migrants who choose to lodge residency applications spend time in New Zealand prior to looking for employment and/or lodging residency applications. Many arrive as a student through a student visa taking coursework or as a visitor on a tourist visa. The majority of migrants to New Zealand gain employment through recruitment agencies, or directly via online job search engines and regional newspaper publications. Lane Neave liaises closely with tried and trusted recruiters who can assist you with finding the right job for you when you arrive in New Zealand. The recruiters with whom we deal with have outstanding success in placing overseas migrants in skilled employment.

There is also a common misconception that due to New Zealand's very low unemployment rate it is relatively easy to source full time offers of employment from overseas. This is simply not the case, and in fact in 95% of cases individuals are required to travel to New Zealand to secure full time offers of employment. The decision as to whether or not to travel to New Zealand to investigate employment options is not a decision to be made without due consideration and accurate advice in terms of potential employability.

Specialised New Zealand recruiters are invaluable in the immigration process and this is why our firm works with specialist recruiters to assist our clients to obtain full time compliant offers of employment. It is important to receive accurate advice in terms of not only immigration eligibility, but also employability before the migration process is undertaken.