



## IMMIGRATION LAW

# Entrepreneur Work Visa Category

This category is for business people with experience that wish to move to New Zealand and either buy an existing business or start up a new one. This can be used as the first step towards applying for residence under the Entrepreneur Residence Category.

The Entrepreneur Work Visa is a 3 year visa divided into two stages. In the first stage the applicant will be given a 12 month work visa to either buy or establish their business. The remaining 24 months of the visa will be granted one the Business Migration Branch is satisfied that the first stage has been successfully completed.

The general policy behind this category is aimed at businesses that are unique, are based in a high growth industry or are in a high export industry.

### Requirements

The basic requirements are as follows:

- Make a minimum capital investment of NZ\$100,000 (excluding working capital), unless this requirement is waived
- Meet or exceed 120 points on a scale which awards points for factors relating to the likely success of the proposed business and its value to New Zealand
- Have a business plan specific to your proposed business
- Not have been involved in bankruptcy or business failure within the 5 years preceding the date your application is made
- Not have been involved in business fraud or financial impropriety, and
- Meet the health and character requirements for residence and English language requirements.

Entrepreneur Work Visa Eligibility Assessment

### Points Scale

In order to be considered eligible for the Entrepreneur Work Visa, you must also score a minimum of 120 points on the below point scale.

<b>Business experience (awarded under <u>only one</u> category)</b>	Points claimed
Relevant self employment	
10 years+	40
5 years+	30
3 years+	20

Other self employment		
10 years+		20
5 years+		15
3 years+		5
Relevant senior management experience		
10 years+		10
5 years+		5
<b>Benefit to New Zealand (can be awarded under two categories)</b>		
New full time employment creation		
10+ new full time positions for New Zealand citizens or residents		80
5 or more new full time positions for New Zealand citizens or residents		50
3 or more new full time positions for New Zealand citizens or residents		30
2 new full time positions for New Zealand citizens or residents		20
1 new full time positions for New Zealand citizens or residents		10
Approved export business (based on annual turnover)		
\$1,000,000+ turnover a year		80
\$750,000+ turnover a year		60
\$500,000+ turnover a year		40
\$400,000+ turnover a year		30
\$300,000+ turnover a year		20
\$200,000+ turnover a year		10
Unique or new products or services to New Zealand		
A credible business proposal that provides unique or new products/ services to New Zealand, or to a particular region.		30
Capital investment (excluding working capital)		
\$1,000,000+		80
\$750,000+		60
\$500,000+		40
\$400,000+		30
\$300,000+		20
\$200,000+		10
Under \$200,000		0
Age of prospective applicant (at date of lodging application)		
24 and under		15
25-29		20
30-39		20
40-49		20
50-59		10

60 and over		0
<b>Bonus points (Can be awarded under <u>only one</u> category)</b>		
Regional bonus points		
Business based outside Auckland as defined in BB6.1.35.		20
Market research and/or local agency support		
Has obtained local council or Economic Development Agency formal support or chamber of commerce support (new businesses only); or  Has obtained formal support from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, or MBIE		20
<b>Total points</b>		