



3M TRAVEL & SERVICES SARL

Immigration • New Zealand Permanent Residence • All Pathways

 **NZ RESIDENCE**
Complete Guide 2026



3M TRAVEL & SERVICES SARL

RC/YAO/2019/A/2567 | NIU : M112417203369H

PERMANENT RESIDENCE



NEW ZEALAND

Complete Guide — All Pathways to Obtain Residence

Green List • Skilled Migrant Category • Family • Business & Investment



GREEN LIST



SMC POINTS



FAMILY



BUSINESS

Budget starting from 2,000,000 FCFA excluding airfare • Official document for Cameroonian nationals

+237 698 104 832 / +237 620 996 045 • hello@3mtravelagency.com • www.3mtravelagency.com

TRAVEL & SERVICES



01 — OVERVIEW OF THE NEW ZEALAND IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

New Zealand's system was substantially simplified in 2025-2026: the former complex 160-point system was replaced with a **simplified 6-point system** for the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC), with further changes taking effect on **24 August 2026**. Important distinction: unlike Canada, almost every skilled pathway requires either current skilled employment or a job offer — pure points-based residence with no job at all no longer exists since the Job Search Visa was discontinued.

Pathway	Job required?	Average timeline	Target profile
Green List Tier 1 — Straight to Residence	Yes — Tier 1 job offer	3–6 months	Doctors, nurses, engineers, critical shortage occupations
Green List Tier 2 — Work to Residence	Yes — Tier 2 job offer	2 years then residence	Skilled occupations with less critical shortage
Highly Paid Residence Visa	Yes — salary ≥ 2x median	2 years then residence	Executives and experts on very high pay
Skilled Migrant Category (SMC)	Yes — current job or offer	8–14 months	Qualification/registration + up to 2-3 years NZ experience
Sector Agreements (care, transport)	Yes — relevant sector	Variable	Caregivers, road transport workers
Partner Visa	No — spousal relationship required	12–18 months	Spouse/partner of a NZ citizen or resident
Active Investor Plus Visa	No — investment capital	6–12 months	Investors with substantial capital
Entrepreneur Work Visa → Residence	No (job) — business creation	2–3 years	Founders with a viable NZ business project

This document covers, in order: (02) Green List and SMC pathways with a job offer, (03) pathways requiring the least new employer engagement (already employed, investment), (04) family and business, (05) the simplified 6-point SMC system, (06) a typical procedure, and (07) the complete budget.



02 — RESIDENCE WITH A JOB OFFER — THE GREEN LIST PATHWAY

The Green List identifies occupations in critical shortage in New Zealand. It operates as a **completely separate system** from the 6-point SMC — if your occupation is listed, you generally do not need to go through the standard points test.

Green List Tier 1 — Straight to Residence Visa

Direct permanent residence, no points test — the fastest pathway in the country

Reserved for occupations in absolute shortage (doctors, nurses, civil engineers, midwives, certain teachers...). With a Tier 1 job offer meeting the qualification, registration and pay requirements, the residence application is lodged directly.

- ▶ Confirmed job offer in a Tier 1 Green List occupation
- ▶ Qualification, professional registration and minimum pay conditions to meet depending on the occupation
- ▶ No points test required — among the fastest processing times in the world (3 to 6 months)
- ▶ Family included from the residence application stage

This is the premier pathway for qualified Cameroonian doctors, nurses and engineers: permanent residence with no waiting year, as soon as the job offer is secured.

Green List Tier 2 — Work to Residence Visa

Job offer + 2 years of skilled work = permanent residence

For Tier 2 occupations (less critical shortage than Tier 1), the pathway requires an intermediate step: a work visa first, then the residence application after 2 years of skilled work in the role.

- ▶ Job offer in a Tier 2 Green List occupation, meeting pay/qualification conditions
- ▶ Reduced timeline in 2026: a maximum of 2 years of skilled work required (down from up to 3 years previously)
- ▶ Work visa first, then automatic residence application after the required period
- ▶ Access to Medicare-equivalent public services and education from the initial work visa stage

The required experience period was REDUCED in 2026 — former 3-year requirements dropped to a maximum of 2 years for most skills-based residence pathways.

Highly Paid Residence Visa

For very high earners — an accelerated 2-year pathway

If your job pays at least 2 times the New Zealand median wage, you qualify for an accelerated residence pathway, regardless of your specific occupation or its Green List status.

- ▶ Salary $\geq 2x$ the New Zealand median wage (threshold reassessed annually)
- ▶ 2 years of work at this pay level before lodging the residence application
- ▶ Applies to any sector — not limited to occupations listed on the Green List

Relevant for executives and international experts whose remuneration far exceeds standard sector thresholds.

Sector Agreements — Care & Transport

For caregivers and road transport professionals

Specific agreements between the government and the care and road transport sectors open dedicated residence pathways, each with their own pay and duration conditions.

- ▶ Care Workforce Work to Residence — for personal care occupations
- ▶ Transport Work to Residence — for qualified professional drivers
- ▶ Pay conditions specific to each sector agreement, adjusted in 2026



03 — SKILLED MIGRANT CATEGORY (SMC) — OUTSIDE THE GREEN LIST

If your occupation is not on the Green List, the **Skilled Migrant Category (SMC)** remains accessible. Important: current skilled employment or a skilled job offer is still required — but the accompanying points system has now been simplified to just 6 points to reach.

SMC Resident Visa — Simplified 6-Point System

6 points to reach via qualification, professional registration, income or experience

Since the 2025-2026 reform, only 6 cumulative points need to be reached. Points come from professional registration, education, or income, combined with skilled work experience already accumulated in New Zealand.

- ▶ New Zealand professional registration requiring 2+ years of training: 3 to 6 points depending on the occupation
- ▶ Qualification: foreign Bachelor's degree = 4 pts (from August 2026); Master's = 5 pts; PhD = 6 pts
- ▶ 1 point per year of skilled work in New Zealand, up to a maximum of 2 to 3 points
- ▶ Maximum age to apply: 55 years old
- ▶ Minimum pay: ANZSCO level 1-3 paid at least the median wage, or ANZSCO level 4-5 paid 1.5x the median wage

Concrete example: a Master's graduate (5 pts) + 1 year of skilled work in NZ (1 pt) = exactly 6 points — residence accessible after just 1 year on the ground.

Advantage for International Students Studying in NZ

For those already studying or who have studied in New Zealand

A qualification obtained on New Zealand soil earns more points than an equivalent qualification obtained abroad — an explicit government incentive to channel international students toward residence.

- ▶ New Zealand qualification = +1 additional point compared to the same qualification obtained abroad
- ▶ Post-Study Work Visa allowing the required experience to be accumulated
- ▶ Effective strategy: study in NZ, work 1-2 years in your field, then lodge the SMC application

Studying in New Zealand remains one of the safest pathways to permanent residence, and one most strongly supported by the 2026 reforms.

Foreign Qualification Assessment (IQA)

An essential technical step to have a qualification obtained outside NZ recognized

Any qualification obtained outside New Zealand must be submitted for an International Qualification Assessment with NZQA, unless it appears on the List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment (LQEA).

- ▶ Processing time: generally 4 to 8 weeks
- ▶ Some qualifications are on the LQEA and are automatically recognized without assessment
- ▶ 3M Travel identifies upfront whether your qualification requires an assessment



04 — ALL OTHER POSSIBILITIES — FAMILY & BUSINESS

Beyond employment pathways, New Zealand offers possibilities based on family ties and investment — with no job required at all.

Partner of a New Zealand Resident or Citizen Visa

For spouses or de facto partners of citizens/permanent residents

A New Zealand citizen or permanent resident can sponsor their spouse or de facto partner for residence — no points system, no employment condition.



- ▶ Evidence of a genuine, stable and committed relationship (generally a minimum of 12 months living together)
- ▶ No age limit, education or work experience requirement
- ▶ Right to work immediately upon grant of the partner visa

This is the most direct pathway for Cameroonians whose spouse is already a New Zealand permanent resident or citizen.

Parent Category

For parents of citizens or residents established in New Zealand

This category has gone through several periods of suspension and limited quotas in recent years due to high demand. Its current status and conditions must be verified at the time of application.



- ▶ Direct family relationship with a citizen or permanent resident established in NZ
- ▶ Sponsor income conditions to be met
- ▶ Limited annual quota — waiting times vary depending on opening periods

3M Travel systematically checks the current status of this category before directing a file toward this pathway.

Active Investor Plus Visa

For investors with substantial capital to place in New Zealand

This visa, which replaced the former Investor 1 and 2 categories, targets profiles capable of investing significant capital into the New Zealand economy, with two streams depending on the accepted risk level.



- ▶ 'Growth' stream: investment in higher-risk assets (private equity, shares)
- ▶ 'Balanced' stream: investment in a mix of assets including commercial property
- ▶ Substantial investment amounts — reserved for high-net-worth investors
- ▶ Residence granted after the required investment period

Entrepreneur Work Visa → Residence

For founders with a viable business project in New Zealand

Allows you to establish or purchase a business in New Zealand, with a transition to permanent residence after demonstrating the viability and success of the project over the required period.



- ▶ Detailed business plan and sufficient start-up capital
- ▶ Initial Entrepreneur Work Visa, then residence application after 2 to 3 years of successful operation
- ▶ Local job creation and demonstrable economic contribution are valued in the assessment



05 — SIMPLIFIED SMC POINTS SYSTEM — DETAIL (6 POINTS)

Since New Zealand's 2025-2026 reform, the SMC points system has been radically simplified. It is no longer a score out of 160 points but a total of **only 6 points** to reach, combined with current skilled employment or a job offer.

Source of points	Points	Detail
NZ professional registration (2+ years training)	3-6 pts	Depending on the length of training required for the regulated profession.
Doctorate (NZ or overseas)	6 pts	Maximum score — residence accessible with no additional NZ experience.
Master's degree (with a Bachelor's degree)	5 pts	1 year of skilled work in NZ is then enough to reach 6 points.
Bachelor's degree — obtained in New Zealand	4 pts (from August 2026)	+1 point compared to the equivalent obtained overseas.
Bachelor's degree — obtained overseas	3 pts (4 pts from Aug 2026 for NZ)	Requires an IQA unless on the LQEA list.
NZ Master's without a prior Bachelor's degree	5 pts	Recognized directly under specific conditions.
1 year of skilled work in New Zealand	1 pt / year	Maximum 2 to 3 points depending on the type of work visa held.
High income (income-based pathway)	3-6 pts	Depending on the pay level relative to the median wage.

*Important: having 6 points alone is not enough — you **MUST** also be in current skilled employment or hold a skilled job offer at the time of the residence application. The points system alone, without a job, no longer allows you to obtain residence in New Zealand since the Job Search Visa was discontinued.*



06 — TYPICAL 8-STEP PROCEDURE — FROM ASSESSMENT TO ARRIVAL

01

Profile Assessment & Selection of the Optimal Pathway

3M Travel — Free, no-obligation consultation

- ▶ Comprehensive analysis: occupation, education, experience, age, family situation and budget.
- ▶ Checking whether the occupation is on the Green List (Tier 1 or Tier 2) or must go through the standard SMC.
- ▶ Written orientation report delivered within 48 hours, with a personalized strategy.

100% free consultation — no commitment before signing the mandate.**02**

Qualification Assessment (IQA) & English Test

NZQA + accredited test centers

- ▶ Submission of the qualification to NZQA for comparative assessment — 4 to 8 weeks processing time, unless already on the LQEA list.
- ▶ English test according to the profile — minimum required level varies by pathway.
- ▶ For regulated occupations: initiating the professional registration application with the relevant body.

For Green List Tier 1 occupations (doctors, nurses...), professional registration is the most decisive step in the entire file.**03**

Searching for a Skilled Job Offer

3M Travel + network of partner New Zealand employers

- ▶ Matching with verified employers in your sector, with priority given to Green List occupations.
- ▶ Verifying that the offer meets the required pay thresholds (median or 1.5x median depending on ANZSCO level).
- ▶ Search timeline: 4 to 12 weeks depending on the sector.

04

Lodging the Work Visa or Direct Residence Application

Immigration New Zealand portal

- ▶ For Green List Tier 1: direct lodging of the Straight to Residence application.
- ▶ For Tier 2/SMC: lodging a work visa (Work to Residence or AEWW) as a first step.
- ▶ 3M Travel compiles and verifies every document before submission.

Depending on your pathway, this step may directly constitute the final residence application (Tier 1) or an intermediate step (Tier 2/SMC).**05**

Accumulating the Required Skilled Work Experience

On the ground in New Zealand — 0 to 2 years depending on the pathway

- ▶ Tier 1: no waiting period — direct application upon arrival.
- ▶ Tier 2: maximum 2 years of skilled work required (reduced in 2026).
- ▶ Standard SMC: up to 2-3 years depending on points already earned through qualification/registration.

06

Compiling the Complete Residence Application

Candidate + 3M Travel — Decisive step

- ▶ Key documents: passport, police certificates, medical examination, proof of income, certified qualifications.
- ▶ For accompanying family: certified and translated marriage and birth certificates.
- ▶ 3M Travel applies a strict verification protocol before any submission.

An incomplete file results in rejection or significant processing delays.**07**

Medical Examination, Security Checks & Final Decision

INZ-approved physician in Yaoundé + final processing

- ▶ Complete medical examination with a physician approved by Immigration New Zealand.
- ▶ Police certificates for every country of residence of more than 12 months since age 17.
- ▶ Decision issued by an INZ officer — timeline varies by pathway (3 to 14 months).



Arrival in New Zealand & Settlement

First weeks — Priority formalities

- ▶ Resident status activated immediately upon entry into New Zealand territory.
- ▶ Priority formalities: IRD number (tax), registering with a general practitioner, bank account.
- ▶ After 2 continuous years of residence: transition to the Permanent Resident Visa, with no presence condition.

Final objective: New Zealand citizenship after 5 years — one of the most respected passports in the world.





07 — DETAILED BUDGET — STARTING FROM 2,000,000 FCFA (EXCLUDING AIRFARE)

Expense item	Estimated amount	Mandatory	Detail
3M Travel file opening (non-refundable)	65,000 FCFA	Yes	Due upon signature. Profile analysis, Green List check, dedicated advisor.
Profile analysis & orientation	Included	Yes	Identification of Green List Tier 1/2 or standard SMC pathway.
Qualification assessment (NZQA / IQA)	150,000 – 280,000 F	Depends	Unless qualification already on the LQEA list. 4-8 weeks processing.
English test (IELTS/equivalent)	150,000 – 250,000 F	Depends	Required level varies by pathway and occupation.
Professional registration (regulated occupations)	100,000 – 250,000 F	Depends	Doctors, nurses, engineers... depending on the relevant body.
Complete file preparation & follow-up	Included	Yes	Immigration New Zealand coordination.
Government residence fees (principal applicant)	≈ NZD 4,290 / 1,600,000 F	Yes	Official non-refundable INZ fee.
Fee per accompanying person (spouse/child)	≈ NZD 2,200 / 820,000 F	Depends	Per additional person included in the application.
INZ-approved medical examination	100,000 – 180,000 F	Yes	Approved physician in Yaoundé. Valid for 3 months.
Certified document translation	40,000 – 100,000 F	Yes	English — certified sworn translator.
Police certificates / apostille	20,000 – 60,000 F	Yes	Police clearance from every country of residence.
First rent + settlement (New Zealand)	450,000 – 950,000 F	Yes	Varies between Auckland, Wellington or other regions.
 Airfare (NOT INCLUDED)	At your own expense	—	Estimated: 700,000 – 1,200,000 F. To be purchased after visa approval.
BASE BUDGET — EXCLUDING AIRFARE	2,000,000 FCFA	—	Excludes INZ fees. Varies by pathway (Green List often costs less overall).

The Green List Tier 1 pathway is generally the least time-consuming (no 2-year wait) and the simplest administratively. Airfare (700,000 – 1,200,000 FCFA) remains AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE, to be purchased only after obtaining the visa.



3M TRAVEL & SERVICES SARL

Immigration • New Zealand Permanent Residence • All Pathways

NZ RESIDENCE
Complete Guide 2026

08 — CONTACT & FREE CONSULTATION



3M TRAVEL & SERVICES SARL

+237 698 104 832 / +237 620 996 045

hello@3mtravelagency.com • www.3mtravelagency.com

Biyem-Assi, Montée Chapelle Obili — Yaoundé

"Your mobility, our expertise. Your success, our mission."

✓ **FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION** — Checking whether your occupation is on the Green List, identification of the fastest pathway to your New Zealand residence.

Document prepared by 3M Travel & Services SARL — For informational purposes only. Timelines, fees and conditions are subject to change, particularly with the SMC changes taking effect on 24 August 2026.

