



Nau mai. Haere mai ki Aotearoa. Welcome. Welcome to New Zealand.

New Zealand is open for business and welcomes investors with the capital, business skills and international connections that help New Zealand firms to grow and reach out to the rest of the world.

In 2014 Forbes Magazine ranked New Zealand as one of the best countries in the world to do business thanks to a low regulation, transparent and stable business environment. In addition, New Zealand’s taxation system is simple and with the right professional advice, straightforward to navigate.

New Zealand’s business migration policies are designed to contribute to economic growth with the aim of attracting experienced businesspeople to invest, buy or establish businesses here, and also enable them to live in New Zealand permanently with their families.

### Business migration policies

There are three business visas that will either give applicants residence, or lead them to residence in New Zealand:

- > Investor Plus
- > Investor
- > Entrepreneur Work Visa

Investor and Investor Plus categories are designed specifically around investment. Investor Plus is New Zealand’s premium residence policy with priority processing.

The key requirements for Investor and Investor Plus are outlined in the chart below. *Please note that changes to these categories were recently announced. Refer to page 4 for more information.*

	INVESTOR PLUS	INVESTOR
Investment	\$10m for 3 years	A minimum of \$1.5m for 4 years
Settlement funds	None	\$1m on hold (does not need to be invested)
Minimum English language	None	IELTS 3
Maximum age	None	65 years
Minimum business experience	None	Three years*
Minimum time required in NZ	44 days per year for each of the last 2 years of the investment period	146 days per year for each of the last 3 years of the investment period

\*Business experience is recognised for the award of points if it is experience in planning, organisation, control, senior change-management, direction-setting and mentoring acquired through ownership of, or management level experience in, a lawful business enterprise that has at least five full-time employees or an annual turn-over of NZ\$1 million.

## Changes to the Migrant Investor Categories

On 7 December the Minister of Immigration announced changes to the Migrant Investor Categories. These changes will come into effect in May 2017 and are outlined below.

### Expression of Interest (EOI) points system

The Investor 2 EOI points system will be adjusted to recognise greater levels of business experience (up to 15 years), and an applicant's English language ability. The points awarded for age will also be simplified, with the introduction of straightforward age brackets.

Bonus points and priority processing for those wishing to pre-commit an investment in assets other than bonds will also be introduced.\*

*If your Expression of Interest is selected before the new policy is implemented, you will be held by the previous policy, even if your application is submitted after the new policy comes into effect.*

### Investment and settlement funds for Investor 2 applicants

The minimum investment amount will increase from NZ\$1.5m to NZ\$3m, and settlement funds of NZ\$1m will no longer be required. While all applicants will need to show at least NZ\$3m in assets, if an applicant decides to invest at least NZ\$1.5m in assets other than bonds, they may be eligible for a financial discount.\*\*

### Time required in New Zealand

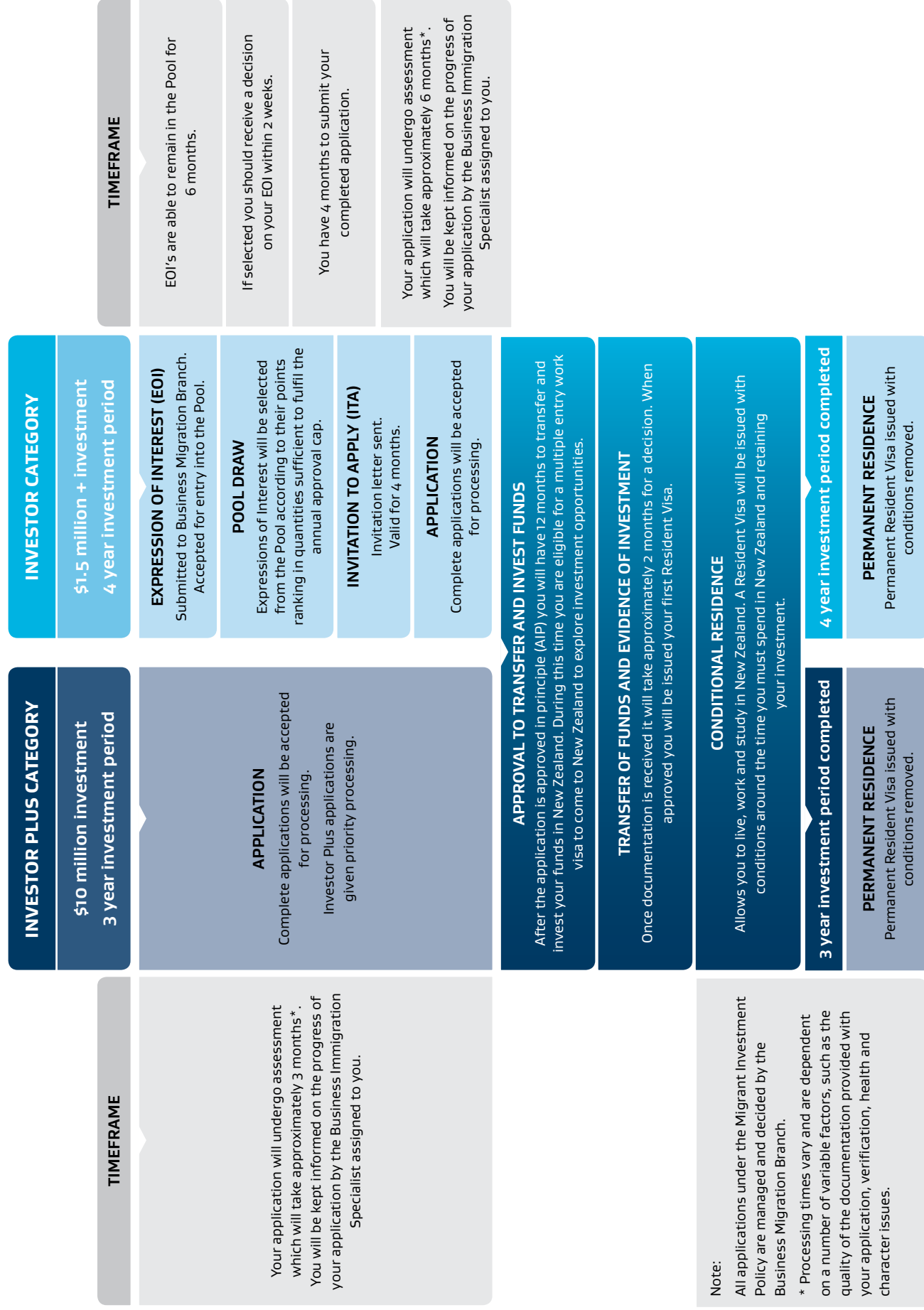
Under the future investor policies there will be greater flexibility with the time required in New Zealand, provided 25% of the applicant's funds are invested outside of bonds. If this criteria is met, Investor Plus applicants will only be required to spend 88 days in New Zealand over their three year investment period (the sum of the previous requirement), with no minimum in any of these years. And Investor 2 applicants will be required to spend 438 days in New Zealand over the four year investment period.

	INVESTOR PLUS		INVESTOR 2	
	CURRENT POLICY	FUTURE POLICY	CURRENT POLICY	FUTURE POLICY
Minimum Investment	NZ\$10m	NZ\$10m	NZ\$1.5m	NZ\$3m
Business Experience	None	None	Min. 3 years (9pts), 10 years (30pts)	Min. 3 years (9pts), 15 years (45pts)
English language	None	None	Min. IELTS 3 (1pt), IELTS 5+ (10pts) max	Min. IELTS 3 (1pt), IELTS 8+ (20pts) max
Maximum age	None	None	65 years	65 years
Annual cap	None	None	300 per year	400 per year
Time in New Zealand	44 days in each of the last two years of the three year investment period	88 days over the three year investment period*	146 days in each of the last three years of the four year investment period	438 days over the four year investment period*
20 Bonus points & priority processing	Not applicable, priority processing already given	Not applicable, priority processing already given	None	Yes*
Financial discount of \$0.5m	None	None	None	Yes**
Philanthropic donation	Not allowed	Allowed – maximum of 15%	Not allowed	Allowed – maximum of 15%

\*Requires at least 25% of investments to be made outside of bonds

\*\*Requires at least 50% of investments to be made outside of bonds

# MIGRANT INVESTMENT POLICY APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW



**Note:**

All applications under the Migrant Investment Policy are managed and decided by the Business Migration Branch.

\* Processing times vary and are dependent on a number of variable factors, such as the quality of the documentation provided with your application, verification, health and character issues.

## Why New Zealand?

- › A transparent, well regulated and globally competitive business environment - World Economic Forum; The Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015
- › Ranked first in the world for investor protection – World Bank Doing Business Report 2014
- › Free Trade agreements with over 15 countries including China, Australia, Korea and ASEAN nations
- › No capital gains or inheritance tax and a simple, easy to understand taxation system
- › Flexible business immigration policies
- › New Zealand offers lifestyle in abundance
- › New Zealand is open for business.

## Further information

For further information and insight into investment opportunities in New Zealand, please see the following:

- › **New Zealand Trade and Enterprise**  
[www.nzte.govt.nz/en/invest/](http://www.nzte.govt.nz/en/invest/)

Understand the advantages of investing in New Zealand, find out about the sectors and regions of opportunity and get a rundown of the New Zealand economy and its regulations.

NZTE is the Government's national economic development agency. Operating globally, NZTE uses its overseas networks to connect New Zealand businesses with international trade and investment opportunities.

- › **New Zealand Venture Capital Association**  
[www.nzvca.co.nz](http://www.nzvca.co.nz)

The NZVCA's mission is to develop a world-best venture capital and private equity environment for the benefit of investors and entrepreneurs in New Zealand.

- › **Angel Association NZ**  
[www.angelassociation.co.nz](http://www.angelassociation.co.nz)

The Angel Association is an organisation that aims to increase the quantity, quality and success of angel investments in New Zealand and, in doing so, create a greater pool of capital for innovative start-up companies.

- › **New Zealand Venture Investment Fund**  
[www.nzvif.com](http://www.nzvif.com)

The New Zealand Venture Investment Fund Limited (NZVIF) invests into venture capital funds and partners with angel investor groups to drive investment into exciting young New Zealand companies with high-growth potential.

- › **Inland Revenue Department**  
[www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)

Information about tax residency and your tax obligations and entitlements if you're moving to or leaving New Zealand either permanently or for the short term.

- › **Department of Internal Affairs**  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Information about applying for New Zealand Citizenship.

- › **Overseas Investment Office**  
[www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/overseas-investment](http://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/overseas-investment)

The Overseas Investment Office (OIO) assesses applications from overseas investors seeking to invest in sensitive New Zealand assets – being 'sensitive' land, high value businesses (worth more than \$100 million) and fishing quota.

People who are not New Zealand citizens or who do not ordinarily reside in New Zealand must apply for consent to invest in these assets. That requirement also applies to overseas owned or controlled companies, other incorporated or unincorporated bodies, such as partnerships or joint ventures, and trusts, as well as associates of overseas investors (who may be New Zealanders).

## Contact Immigration New Zealand

To find out more about the investor and business policies, or if you have any questions for Immigration New Zealand, please contact our Investment Market Managers:

[investors@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:investors@mbie.govt.nz)

For full details and application requirements, visit [www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/invest](http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/invest) or [www.immigration.govt.nz/invest](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/invest)

### Note:

This fact sheet is a guide only, designed to provide an overview of the options available for investors and businesspeople wishing to reside in New Zealand. It should not be used as a substitute for legislation, or for legal or other expert advice.