

VISA INFORMATION FOR

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) PACIFIC REGION SEMINAR

Location: Wellington, New Zealand

Date: 19 to 20 September 2019

People who are travelling to New Zealand to attend a seminar (such as the IPU Pacific Region Seminar) may be granted a visitor visa to facilitate the purpose of their travel.

Who needs a visitor visa?

If you are **from a visa waiver country**, you do not have to apply for a visitor visa before travelling to New Zealand but you will still need to meet standard visitor visa requirements. Refer to the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website to check if you are from a visa waiver country: immigration.govt.nz/visawaivercountries.

If you are **not from a visa waiver country**, you will need to **apply for a visitor visa before** travelling to New Zealand.

All visitors to New Zealand must meet standard visitor visa requirements, including being of good health and character, being a 'bona fide applicant', having evidence of outward travel (to a country that you have right of entry to) and sufficient funds for maintenance while in New Zealand.

Bona fides

When you apply for a temporary visa, INZ must be satisfied that you are genuine about your reasons for coming to New Zealand and about what you will do while you are here. INZ must also be satisfied that you won't stay in New Zealand without a visa and that you can leave at the end of your stay.

To consider that you are bona fide, INZ must be satisfied that:

- you genuinely intend a temporary stay in New Zealand
- you are coming to New Zealand for a lawful purpose
- you will comply with the conditions of your visa once in New Zealand
- you won't remain in New Zealand unlawfully
- you will be able to leave New Zealand at the end of your stay.

When INZ assesses bona fides, we look at the information you provide on your visa application (or your arrival card if you are travelling visa waiver) and the documents you provide to support it, as well as any information we have about your personal circumstances and previous visa applications.

We encourage you to provide as much information as possible about your personal circumstances and your reasons for spending time in New Zealand. More details on bona fides can be found here: immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/character-and-identity/bona-fide.

Applying for a visitor visa

INZ recommends that you **apply for a visitor visas online** as this means your application can be assessed more quickly and easily. Visitor visa applications can be made online at: immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/visitor-visa.

In order for INZ to be able to process the application quickly, all relevant fields in the online application form must be completed.

All of the following supporting documents must also be uploaded with the online application:

1. Passport size photo
 - The photo must meet the requirements otherwise it will not be accepted. Photo requirements can be found here: immigration.govt.nz/acceptablephoto.
2. Copy of passport bio page
 - The passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the intended date of departure from New Zealand.
3. Application fee
 - You will need to have a valid credit card to pay for the application online.
4. An invitation letter from the organiser confirming your participation in the seminar.
5. Evidence of funds for maintenance and onward travel from New Zealand
 - NZ \$1,000 per month or NZ \$400 if accommodation is prepaid.
 - If all costs associated to your travel are being funded by a third party organisation, please include a letter with information on who will be covering your costs and what will be covered.
6. Any other documents that show that you meet all of the criteria for the visa you are applying for.

Once your application has been submitted online, an automated message may appear requesting your **original passport to be submitted to the relevant processing office**. Instructions on where to send your passport will be included in that message.

Note: Immigration officers may request information in addition to those mentioned above. If additional information is requested, you must provide it to the immigration officer.



If your application is approved, you will be granted an electronic visitor visa (eVisa) which will be uploaded on your Immigration ONLINE account. You must print this and carry with you when you travel.

Timeframes

INZ recommends that participants apply for their visa **at least 6 weeks** before their intended travel date. In some countries INZ does not have visa processing services so it is important that you allow sufficient time for your passport to be sent to the appropriate office (if required) and returned to you.

Passport validity

Your passport must be valid either:

- For at least three months beyond the date that you intend to depart New Zealand; or
- For one month beyond the date you intend to depart, if the issuing government has consular representation in New Zealand and is able to issue and renew travel documents.

Transit visa for Australia and other countries

If you intend to travel through Australia or any other country on your way to or from New Zealand it is important that you consider the visa requirements for these countries.

Some nationalities are eligible to transit through Australia without a transit visa but others must hold a valid transit visa for Australia. More details can be found at: www.border.gov.au. **If you require a transit visa for Australia, it is your responsibility to obtain this before travelling.**

Please note that Australia will not grant a transit visa without confirmation that the New Zealand visa has been approved. This means that you should apply for your New Zealand visa as soon as possible.