



NZ-EU FTA Travel for Business Visitors

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between New Zealand and the European Union (EU) makes it easier for businesspeople to travel for certain types of work. This factsheet provides some general information on those benefits. It is intended only as a guide and travellers should consult the relevant immigration authority for definitive information about the categories of visas and how to apply (see links below).

Who will benefit from easier travel under the FTA

Under the FTA, New Zealand and the EU have decided to make travel between each other easier for certain types of business travellers. In some cases this means fewer or no limits on the numbers of travellers, simplified entry requirements, or equal treatment between business travellers and local businesspeople. In all cases, the new rules should improve the ease of doing business between New Zealand and the EU, and make travel a smoother experience. New Zealand businesses will have easier access to EU specialists and experts, while their employees can more freely travel to the EU to attend meetings and conferences, make sales and purchases, and provide services.

There are five types of travellers covered by the FTA:

Short-term business visitors

For travellers who are undertaking certain short-term work activities such as making sales, purchases, or attending conferences, meetings, or training (see full list below)

Intra-corporate transfers

For managers, executives, or specialists who are being temporarily transferred between business operations (such as offices, branches, or headquarters of a company)

Setting up or winding down a business

For senior staff who need to travel to set up or wind down a business

Self-employed professionals

For self-employed professionals travelling to provide services under a specific contract.

Providing a service under a contract

For employees who need to travel to provide a service under a specific contract

Further information on each of the categories

Short-term



The FTA helps facilitate the travel of businesspeople between New Zealand and the EU who are travelling to:

- attend meetings, conferences, or trade fairs;
- receive training;
- make sales to, or purchases from, other businesses;
- provide after-sale or after-lease support; or,
- conduct commercial transactions if they are management, supervisory, or financial services personnel.

A full description of these activities can be found in [Annex 10-D](#) of the FTA.

Short-term business visitors cannot sell goods or services to the public, be paid by a business in the market (i.e. New Zealand or the EU) they are travelling to, or supply services under a contract between a consumer and a business or person that is not established in the market (i.e. New Zealand or the EU) they are travelling to. Some EU countries have further requirements for short-term business visitors. These can be found in [Annex 10-C](#) or by contacting their immigration agencies.

Short-term business visitors can stay up to 90 days in a 12 month period when visiting New Zealand or the EU.

Setting up or winding down a business



The FTA helps businesspeople in senior positions travel between New Zealand and the EU to set up or wind down a business. They cannot engage in other activities, such as offering or providing services. Nor can they be paid from a source within the market they are travelling to. Some EU countries have further requirements. These can be found in [Annex 10-C](#) or by contacting their immigration agencies.

Businesspeople travelling to set up or wind down a business can stay up to 90 days in any six month period in the EU or up to 90 days in any 12 month period in New Zealand.

Providing a service under a contract



The FTA helps businesspeople in certain sectors travel between New Zealand and the EU to provide a temporary service.

These travellers must be regular employees of their company (i.e. not provided temporarily by a talent agency etc) who have been employed by the company for at least a year and cannot be paid by a company in the market they are travelling to. They must have a contract to provide the service.

Further information on these conditions, and the additional conditions of certain EU countries, as well as sectors covered can be found in [Annex 10-E](#) of the FTA.

Businesspeople travelling to provide a service under a contract can stay for a cumulative period of 12 months or for the duration of the contract – whichever is less.

Transfers of staff between branches in New Zealand and the EU



The FTA helps facilitate the travel of managers, executives, or specialists who are temporarily transferred between business operations (such as offices, branches, or headquarters of a company) in New Zealand and the EU.

Transferees have to have been working for at least one year with their employer, and have to be either managers, executives, or specialists. A definition of each of these groups can be found in [Chapter 10](#) of the FTA.

EU authorities will process applications for travel to the EU as a transferee within 90 days. Immigration New Zealand will either process applications or provide an indicative timeframe of when a decision will be made within 15 working days. Transferees can stay for up to three years. Transferees moving to the EU can be accompanied by their family, while transferees to New Zealand can be joined by their partner and dependent children.

Self-employed professionals



The FTA helps facilitate the travel of self-employed professionals who have a contract to deliver a service.

Self-employed professionals must have no business presence in the market they are travelling to. They need to have at least six years of professional experience and a relevant university degree and other professional qualifications, as well as a contract to provide the services that does not exceed 12 months. Further information on these conditions, and the additional conditions of certain EU countries, as well as sectors covered can be found in [Annex 10-E](#) of the FTA.

Self-employed professionals can stay for a cumulative period of 12 months, or for the duration of the contract, whichever is less.



Where to go to find further information

This is not a comprehensive guide and there are exemptions and further provisions for many of the categories of travel listed above. For further information on visas to travel to New Zealand for the purposes listed above, please see the Specific Purpose Work Visa of the Immigration New Zealand website: [Immigration New Zealand](#).

Specific advice for travellers from the EU on how to apply and the duration of visas can be found on the Immigration New Zealand website [here](#) and [here](#).

For further information on visas to travel to the EU for the purposes listed above, please use the following website to identify the relevant immigration authority you will need to contact: [EU Immigration Portal - European Commission](#)