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NZ Specialists

When considering migration there are so many questions that need to be answered. We will try, but if we don't know the answer then we will probably know someone who does. Some of the topics other migrants have asked for information on include:-

- Buying a House
- Renting property on your arrival
- Banking
- Tax & Trusts laws (UK to NZ)
- Child care and schooling
- Moving money to NZ
- Moving Pets to NZ
- Relocating your belongings
- Buying and Driving a car in NZ
- Kiwisaver (NZ pension scheme)
- Tax advice on keeping a UK rental property

If you would like information regarding the above topics or you have other topics to suggest then please email us and request the info. We have teamed up with a number of specialist providers who have built businesses helping people like you.

New Zealand market update

Welcome to the February edition of the Catalyst newsletter. As many of you will be aware Christchurch has this week suffered a further horrific earthquake causing a huge amount of damage and a growing number of fatalities. Unlike the previous quake in September this was only 5km deep and occurred at lunchtime on a week day catching many people on the street and in their place of work. At this moment in time the nation is in a state of shock and slowly coming to terms with what has happened and the tragedy that continues to unfold. The people of New Zealand, and particularly Cantabrians, are a resilient bunch and we know that out of this disaster will emerge a stronger and more vibrant city than before.

So far most of our clients have confirmed that their Christchurch teams and immediate families are all OK and that they are trying (if slowly) to put together the pieces. Two clients have confirmed that their office buildings will need to be demolished but they are already contacting employees due to start in the next month to confirm that they still have jobs to come to and that they are needed more than ever.

Until Tuesday's quake most clients were temporarily holding off any further recruitment whilst they assessed the teams they had and allocated work appropriately. It would be fair to say that this situation has now changed and that the likely outcome will be an increased need for professionals within the region. Initial speculation states that the original \$4 billion figure quoted after the first quake could now increase to near \$16 billion but that remains to be seen. Exact numbers are yet to be confirmed and will no doubt be pieced together over the next few weeks as the level of damage is assessed.

The rest of the country continues to recover from the recession with pockets of activity in different areas. The wheels of the Auckland Supercity are slowly starting to turn and a range of projects are beginning to be released to the consultants with some filtering through to the contractors. At this stage much of the work is being covered by existing staff but as the year goes on and the activity increases there will be a need to fill the shortfall. A number of major projects are also due to start with contractors currently reviewing their staff numbers.

Highways, structures and geotechnical still remain the main areas of activity for consultancies with water, wastewater and traffic & transportation slowly starting to gain some impetus. The needs still remain at the more senior end of the scale but as we move further into the year opportunities for more junior staff will begin to appear. Contractors in building and civil still have their eyes open for key staff but these are very specific and certainly not in huge numbers as yet. Optimism is high in the industry as a whole and the mood is very positive as we move further into 2011.

As always, keep us posted on your movements and any changes to your circumstances. If you're planning a visit to New Zealand let us know in plenty of time and we'll do everything we can to make the journey worthwhile for you. Specifically if you have an interest in future positions in Christchurch then let us know and as we find out more we can contact you. If you haven't already, join the Linked-In group and get up to date information from the industry blog - you need to be invited to the group so please let us know if you want to be part of it!

Immigration trends of 2009/2010

The Effects of Economic Recession

Temporary Migration:

During 2009/10 1.37 million people were granted a temporary visitor, student or work permit on their arrival in New Zealand.

- More than 835,000 Australian citizens travelled to NZ.
- Visitors decreased by 2% due to lower numbers of tourists from Oceania and Europe (especially UK). The top 5 visitor source countries were UK, USA, China, Japan & South Korea.
- 73,432 international students were approved to study in NZ, with China being the largest source of students. However, India has been the largest source country of new students to NZ since 2007/08.
- Temporary workers decreased from 136,384 in 2008/09 to 130,002 in 2009/10, mainly due to a large fall under the Essential Skills Policy.

Permanent Residence:

During 2009/10 45,719 people were granted permanent residence in NZ.

- 62% through the Skilled/Business Stream; 32% through Family-sponsored streams; and 6% through the International/Humanitarian Stream.
- The largest source for permanent residents was UK (17%), followed by China (13%) and South Africa (12%).

Skilled Migrants:

NZ has immediate & long term skill shortages in many areas, and skilled migrants can help meet these shortages.

- In 2009/10, 26,652 people were approved through the Skilled Migrant Category (58% of all residence approvals).
- The UK is the largest source country of skilled migrants (18%), with South Africa following closely (17%).

Family sponsored:

The 'Uncapped family sponsored' stream and 'Parent & Sibling/Adult child' stream enable NZ citizens and permanent residents to sponsor close family members for residence.

- 14,570 people were approved for residence through these 2 streams (32% of residence approvals).
- Through the parent category China was the largest source (37%) followed by India (15%) and UK (13%). Through the partnership policy UK was the largest source (16%) followed closely by China (15%).

Judith Makinson

Case study of moving from the UK to NZ

Current Employer: Traffic Deign Group, Christchurch

Judith first approached Catalyst towards the end of May 2010, having booked a fact-finding holiday to NZ for June and wanting to arrange interviews with potential employers during the trip. TDG was interested in meeting with Judith for a face-to-face interview, and Judith and her husband Colin amended their itinerary accordingly to include an overnight visit to Christchurch. At the conclusion of their trip, not only were they of the opinion that New Zealand was the right move for them, Judith had also accepted the offer to commence with TDG. Judith, Colin and their two children arrived in Christchurch on the 10th of November 2010.

Q. What inspired you to consider moving with your family to New Zealand?

A. Independence and common sense were the two biggest factors, that and the stunning scenery of course which always helps. We just wanted to bring the children to a place where they are still allowed to be children and to learn from their own mistakes, where they can still climb trees and fall out of them without a big Health & Safety investigation as to who let them do it and should they have been allowed. It is just so much more family orientated.

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. Yep, (with knobs on). We can't get over how quickly we have all felt at home. We keep wondering when reality is going to catch up with us but we're three months in and other than the odd bout of homesickness from the children (usually when they have just been in trouble and been told off!), nobody is saying they want to go back to the UK. We're not even missing marmite!

Q. Has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?

A. The quality and quantity of family time seems to have gone off the scale but we can't quite figure out how - I actually work longer hours than I used to in the UK but I'm much more relaxed than I was there. We get out and about and do so many more things than we would have in the UK - it all just seems easier to do somehow but I guess a large part of that is the weather is better (even in the South Island where its notoriously fickle) and being a lot more chilled out.

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. Emigrated sooner!

Q. What one thing do you wish you had known about before moving?

A. I think we probably knew what we were getting in to so there hasn't really been anything we'd wished we'd known. We came out on holiday first and did a lot of work on the internet so there haven't really been any big surprises yet. We wish we could figure out the school system but Kiwi parents say the same so it's not just us!

Q. What advice would you pass to someone commencing the process?

A. Talk to people, research as much as you can on the internet and if you can manage the time and the funds, come and see it in the flesh first. The more you know, the more likely you are to make the right decision about whether you want to be here or not.

Q. Looking back with hindsight, do think you have made the right move for your family?

A. Without doubt.

Useful Facts:

First Interview - 28th June 2010

Interview to Offer - 22 days

First contact to arrival - 170 days

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New Zealand Checklist

First steps

What to do	When to do it* ✓
Plan a visit to investigate your new country. If this isn't possible, do as much research ahead of your move as you can	18 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Investigate housing options	18 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Tell your friends and family	18 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Assess your finances and plan how you can best repay debt/save for the move	18 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Check what type of visa(s) you and your family will need	18 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Attend an Opportunities New Zealand Expo	12 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Check your passports to make sure they are valid for at least another two years	12 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Make a folder with all your personal documents, including driver's licences, birth, marriage and adoption certificates, references for employment, evidence of qualifications, etc	12 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Research the requirements for moving your pet	12 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>



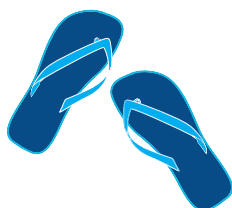
Phase two

What to do	When to do it* ✓
Start your visa application process	10 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Start job hunting and contacting companies in New Zealand	8 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Put your house on the market	8 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Inform schools that your children will be moving	6 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Book your flights to New Zealand	6 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Decide whether to transfer your pension to New Zealand	6 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Get quotes from freight companies for moving your belongings	6 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Go for your medicals and apply for police checks for visas	6 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Research schools in New Zealand	4 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Open a New Zealand bank account	4 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Request credit references from your bank	4 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Research cost of living and taxes in New Zealand	3 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Sell any unwanted furniture or belongings	3 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Give formal notice to your current employer	3 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>



Final tasks

What to do	When to do it* ✓
Sell your car	2 weeks to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Wind down the goodbye parties to give you breathing space	1 week to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Finalise packing	1 week to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Organise transport to the airport	1 week to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Cancel your car insurance and newspaper delivery	1 week to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Change money into New Zealand dollars	1 week to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Arrange little treats for your children to keep them entertained on the flight	1 week to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Confirm transport to the airport	2 days to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Double check your hand luggage has everything you need, including your travel documents	1 day to go <input type="checkbox"/>



Almost there

What to do	When to do it* ✓
Book temporary accommodation in New Zealand	2 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Register your children at their new schools in New Zealand	2 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Book your pet's kennel accommodation in New Zealand	2 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Give notice to your landlord	2 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Hire a car for your first weeks in New Zealand	2 months to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Start packing any non-essential items	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Give a forwarding address to all your contacts, including your bank, passport office, DVLA and accountants	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Cancel accounts for TV, internet, phone and insurance	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Pay off any outstanding debts	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Arrange for your post to be redirected	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Transfer your funds with a foreign exchange specialist	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Confirm bookings with travel agents and freight companies	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Cancel direct debits coming from your account	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>
Ask for a copy of your no claims bonus form from your insurance company	1 month to go <input type="checkbox"/>

* The timeframe should only be used as a reference and will likely vary according to your personal circumstances.

Information from WorkingIn New Zealand
<http://www.workingin-newzealand.com/>

What topics would you like to see more information on? Drop us an email (mverdon@catalystjobs.co.nz) and we'll be sure to include it in upcoming newsletters!