

Top Jobs

If you fit any of the job roles below then contact us now! Our clients are desperate to speak with the following:

- REVIT Technicians
- Bridge Design Engineers
- Bridge Design Technicians
- Civil Geotechnical Engineers
- Seismic Structural Engineers
- Stormwater Engineers
- Water Resource Engineers

Shortcuts to Knowledge

There will be so many things to consider when you move to New Zealand. Luckily you can share our contacts for:-

- 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

We do not receive any benefit from these referrals, only the knowledge that your move will be less stressful!

[Want more info? Click here!](#)



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New Zealand market update

Welcome to the March edition of the Catalyst Newsletter and the start of spring in the UK. Both New Zealand and the UK adjust the clocks within a week of each other so instead of a 13 hour difference we'll be working on an 11 hour difference. Strangely with the acceptance that summer is over the weather has improved so long may that continue.

The Catalyst team visited Christchurch this week and spent two days meeting up with a variety of clients and candidates. Andy and Mireille spent their time with the consultant engineers and gained a much better insight into the progress being made in Christchurch. Although things are still relatively quiet there is likely to be a huge boom in activity by the end of this year. So far SCIRT has released approximately \$100m on infrastructure work and this has hardly scratched the surface with overall estimates going up from \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

This increase is partly due to the change of focus for underground pipelines resulting in them going much deeper than before. Due to Christchurch being so flat the pipeline gradient has been fairly shallow but with the earthquakes that gradient has been lost or inverted. Therefore to avoid this happening with further shakes the pipes will be at a steeper gradient and therefore going much deeper and this in turn is requiring an additional 400 small pump stations throughout the city, hence the cost escalation.

With only a limited amount happening at the moment most companies are utilising staff from overseas branches and other NZ locations on 3 to 12 month transfers.

This is allowing them to cope with current workloads but once that level of work increases there will a huge increase in new recruits on a permanent basis. It is accepted that these additional staff will be international candidates as New Zealand's resources are already under significant strain. Areas with some immediate demand include geotechnical and structural engineers as well as some environmental and water specialists. If this fits your experience then get in touch with Andy or Mireille immediately.

Phil and Fran spent their time with the civil and construction contractors and heard a similar story. The work is starting to trickle through but most clients are expecting a massive increase in personnel over the next 12 months. The civil contractors appear to have the more immediate workload whilst demolition still goes on in the red zone but the construction companies acknowledge that they won't be far behind. Both sectors are already recognising that when the work increases they will have to recruit on a massive level; again the bulk of those recruits coming from overseas.

With the rest of New Zealand remaining relatively quiet it would appear that Christchurch is the immediate focus for the sector as a whole. However, as those other sectors pick up the strain on local resources will be such that companies will need to go further for their candidates. Many are looking to Catalyst to offer significant help with that recruitment so watch this space as activity grows.

As always do keep in touch with us and if you are planning a trip or packing your bags for a permanent move to NZ then do let us know and we'll be in touch to discuss your options and how we can help you start a new chapter in New Zealand.

Should I stay or should I go now?

I can't remember how many times I have been asked the famous question posed by *The Clash in 1981* over the last 12 months – but it is a lot. And – the answer is starting to change as the momentum in Christchurch builds – which I am sure, is good news for a growing number of our newsletter recipients.

The answer initially was - not yet - as the earthquake aftershocks rumbled throughout the city damaging more and more buildings in the CBD - magnifying the scale, but delaying the timing of the rebuild efforts. It has also taken a long time to set up infrastructure rebuild processes, which of course constantly changed as the scale changed.

More recently though we have seen a distinct change in the people we are placing. Whereas for the last 3 years, we could only place experts in their field who were committing to migration to our great country - i.e. 15 to 20 years specialist experience - we are now seeing more generic placements occurring, but only for people who have literally arrived.

Of the last 20 placements on the Construction side:

- 10 had arrived in the country
- 1 was a Kiwi in NZ
- 1 was arriving
- 2 had recently visited
- 6 were direct hires from overseas

Of the last 8 placements with Consultants

- 6 were hired direct from overseas
- 1 had arrived in the country
- 1 was arriving

We are not saying – 'get over here we will find you a job' - we are only reporting the facts – which are – most people who are arriving are securing interviews and jobs.

Before you take the jump – you really must call Phil or Andy to be sure that you will not be making a wasted trip – if your skills are outside our expertise and sphere of influence – we may not be able to help.

Chris Lowe

Case study of moving to Christchurch, NZ from the UK

Current Employer: RCP, Christchurch – Assistant Project Manager

Q. What inspired you to consider moving to New Zealand?

A. I wanted to increase my professional experience as a building surveyor whilst having the opportunity to experience living in a new country. I selected New Zealand as I wanted to get involved in the repair and redevelopment of Christchurch after the earthquakes as it represents a unique opportunity to get involved in very important work whilst pursuing my chosen career. I also enjoy outdoor activities like climbing and hiking which New Zealand has to offer.

Q. Has New Zealand lived up to your expectations?

A. Christchurch is kind of what I expected – some of the city seems quite surreal with large areas cordoned off. For the first month in New Zealand I lived in hostels so people filled me in on a lot of info with regards to Christchurch.

Q. How has your life changed since moving to New Zealand?

A. Life is quiet here in Christchurch although the proximity of everything is great – the beach is only 15 minutes away and I often go to the harbour for a cup of coffee. Saying that with all the stunning scenery in the Canterbury region I like to get out and about on bus trips out of the city, exploring the region.

Q. How easy was it to find accommodation?

There are quite a few properties around, but it takes a while. A lot of properties have a small amount of earthquake damage still, but I managed to find a good place on the East side of the city. I currently live with 2 Kiwi's and another person from the UK.

Q. How long does it take you to travel to work?

A. It depends which office I work at that day. Usually between 5 and 15 minutes.

Q. What one thing would you have done differently?

A. I would have brought more of my possessions over, as I was unsure if I would get a job, my back up plan was to be a backpacker, so I brought very few things with me, like clothing and shoes etc and they are pretty expensive in NZ.

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

A. I don't think I really understood the extent of the damage before I got here. It took sometime to get used to living here, but the people are great and there are lots of places to visit for weekends away.

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

A. I came over with a working holiday visa and then went through the work permit process once I'd got a job so this was pretty simple. There are rumours circulating that NZ Immigration is looking at a new work permit for Christchurch that won't require you to have secured a position first and that could make things even easier but we'll wait and see.

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

A. Yes I have - I wouldn't get experience like this anywhere else in the world right now. Rebuilding a city is a huge project that I'm proud to be involved in.

Useful Facts:

1 st Contact -	21 st June 2011
1 st Interview -	22 nd September 2011
1 st Interview to Job Offer -	1 Days
1 st Contact to arrival -	52 days (1m 22d)



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NZ second for UK expat lifestyle

New Zealand has been named the second best place in the world for UK expatriates, according to an annual index released today.

1. Canada
2. New Zealand
3. Australia
4. France
5. South Africa
6. Portugal
7. Spain
8. United States of America
9. United Arab Emirates
10. Singapore
11. Hong Kong
12. China

The NatWest International Personal Banking Quality of Life Index also reported that despite a global economic malaise, more than two thirds of UK expats had not seen a reduction in their quality of life abroad and fewer planned to return home.

Coming in behind Canada, who took out the number one spot, factors considered in the index were natural beauty, multiculturalism, health care services and security.

The fifth index by Britain's Natwest bank revealed most UK expats believe their decision to move abroad was right and that more than half of them have not had to reduce their spending significantly despite the economic backlash from a debt crisis that has depressed the global economy for years.

NatWest head of International Personal Banking Dave Isley said in a statement the index showed expats had sailed through the most troubled global economic period since the end of World War Two.

“ Our Quality of Life Index - which examines expats real life perceptions and experiences and gauges their personal assessments - shows the global financial crisis has failed to dampen the spirits of expats who seem to have adopted the ‘keep calm, carry on’ philosophy

Dave Isley - Natwest head of International Personal Banking

Expats living in China, UAE, Hong Kong and Singapore said their financial position had ‘improved dramatically’ since moving to the country. Those living in Australia, Canada and New Zealand assessed their financial position as having ‘improved significantly’.

Those living in Western Europe, South Africa and the United States were less enthusiastic about the improvement in their financial prospects and reported their financial position to have ‘improved moderately’.

The index also reported that those Britons who escaped to the sun in Spain, France and Portugal are counting the cost of their moves as their disposable income is eroded and the cost of living rises during a period of budget austerity ushered in by a euro zone crisis that has hit market confidence in several countries tied to the single European currency.

When the first Quality of Life Index was carried out in 2007, confidence around the world was high as the global economy was expanding, household prosperity was increasing and global GDP forecasts were positive, Isley said.

“Fast forward five years and it's a very different picture however, it is the expats who are riding the storm with the majority planning to remain abroad,” he said. “Those who are most likely to return home are those who retired to France, Portugal and Spain as their disposable income diminishes and the cost of living rises.”

Source - <http://tvnz.co.nz/world-news/nz-second-uk-expat-lifestyle-4748376>