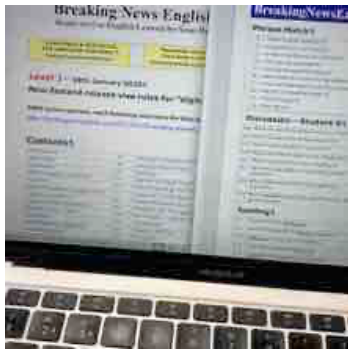


New Zealand relaxes visa rules for "digital nomads"

30th January 2025



There is good news for people who want to work in New Zealand. The country has relaxed its visa rules. It wants to attract "digital nomads" to live and work in the country for up to nine months. A digital nomad is someone who can travel and live anywhere

because they work online. New Zealand has a new visa that allows visitors to work remotely for a foreign employer for three months. This can be extended for up to nine months. However, someone staying for nine months may have to pay tax. Economic growth minister Nicola Willis hopes the new visa will help New Zealand's economy. She said: "We want more wealthy and super-talented people coming [through] the arrival gates."

New Zealand's economy has suffered in recent years. The Covid pandemic hurt the country's tourism industry. It has not yet recovered to pre-Covid levels. Another thing that is affecting the economy is the number of young people leaving New Zealand. Record numbers of people in their twenties are going overseas to work. Immigration Minister Erica Stanford hoped the visitors with the new visa will spend more money. This will boost the economy. She said: "I expect in their time here, visitors will spend longer than they normally would. They will spend more because they're here for longer. And the thing that we're really hoping for, is that they fall in love with the place."

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) / [rnz.co.nz](https://www.rnz.co.nz)

Writing

Working online is better than working in an office, factory or store. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

good news / visa rules / digital nomad / online / foreign employer / tax / wealth / economy / recent years / tourism / young people / immigration / money / fall in love

True / False

- 1) There is bad news for people wishing to live in New Zealand. T / F
- 2) To get the new visa, a person must work for a foreign employer. T / F
- 3) The New Zealand visa can be extended by up to one year. T / F
- 4) New Zealand's economic growth minister will wait at the arrival gates. T / F
- 5) New Zealand's economy has been booming in recent years. T / F
- 6) Many, many young people are leaving New Zealand. T / F
- 7) The immigration minister thinks visitors will spend more money. T / F
- 8) The immigration minister wants people to fall in love with each other. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. want | a. lengthened |
| 2. relaxed | b. hurt |
| 3. nomads | c. usually |
| 4. extended | d. travellers |
| 5. wealthy | e. wish |
| 6. suffered | f. abroad |
| 7. recovered | g. area |
| 8. overseas | h. loosened |
| 9. normally | i. rich |
| 10. place | j. got better |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What was the last piece of good news you heard?
- b) What do you think of working in New Zealand?
- c) Would you like to be a 'digital nomad'?
- d) Would you like to work online and go anywhere?
- e) Where in the world would you like to work?
- f) What do you think of paying tax?
- g) What kind of online job would you like?
- h) What advice do you have for the NZ government?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. There is good news for | a. to work remotely |
| 2. someone who can travel | b. love with the place |
| 3. a new visa that allows visitors | c. gates |
| 4. This can be extended | d. tourism industry |
| 5. coming through the arrival | e. in their twenties |
| 6. New Zealand's economy has suffered in | f. people who want to work |
| 7. The Covid pandemic hurt the country's | g. the economy |
| 8. Record numbers of people | h. and live anywhere |
| 9. This will boost | i. for up to nine months |
| 10. they fall in | j. recent years |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of New Zealand?
- How is your country's economy?
- Would you like to work as an influencer?
- What's tourism like in your country?
- Have you ever fallen in love with another country?
- Why might people fall in love with your country?
- What questions would you like to ask the NZ government?

Spelling

- travel and live ahwryeen
- work remotely for a nfoeigr employer
- etdxdeen for up to nine months
- help New Zealand's oncmyeo
- leaywht and super-talented people
- through the ravaril gates
- suffered in rnecet years
- hurt the country's itsorum industry
- It has not yet recvodree
- people in their ntstiwee
- going seoersav to work
- spend longer than they nlaoyrlm would

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. d	4. a	5. i
6. b	7. j	8. f	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Cairo

You think Cairo is the best place to work in for a while. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Hawaii, New York or New Zealand.

Role B – Hawaii

You think Hawaii is the best place to work in for a while. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Cairo, New York or New Zealand.

Role C – New York

You think New York is the best place to work in for a while. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Hawaii, Cairo or New Zealand.

Role D – New Zealand

You think New Zealand is the best place to work in for a while. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Hawaii, New York or Cairo.

Speaking – Locations

Rank these with your partner. Put the best places to work at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| • Cairo | • Paris |
| • Kyoto | • Kathmandu |
| • Hawaii | • Maldives |
| • New York | • New Zealand |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.