



Edge Hill University
CAREERS CENTRE

A Guide to working as a Nurse in New Zealand

CC 06

Inclusive Learning

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Edge Hill Careers Centre
Contact Details: Tel: 01695 584866

Website; www.edgehill.ac.uk/careers

Opening hours:

Term-time: Monday – Thursday	9.00 am – 4.45 pm
Friday	9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Vacation periods: Mon – Fri 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
(closed for lunch 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm)

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Why New Zealand?

New Zealand remains a popular destination with overseas medical staff, some of whom choose to spend a working holiday over here, others who prefer a one or two year stint of overseas work experience before returning back to what is familiar, and others who are so smitten by the country decide to relocate here permanently.

Writing this as a Brit who has relocated over here permanently, there are a lot of plus points about being over here although it is not for everyone. Even in the big cities, the pace is nowhere near as frenetic as the pace of life in the UK. I live in a central north island city with a population of 80,000 and if there are four cars ahead of me at the traffic lights, that constitutes a traffic jam. The people are friendly and reasonably welcoming to newcomers providing you are willing to make an effort yourselves, the scenery is breathtaking, it is a really good place to bring up children, great for people who enjoy the outdoor life, we all speak the same language (well, kind of – you will have to get used to calling sweets “lollies” and a cool bag is a “chilly bin”) and you will definitely be able to experience a more laid back way of life.

If there is a downside, salaries are not as high as in the UK and I feel it is unlikely you will be able to make enough over here to take back to make a huge reduction in the size of your student loan. It is a long way from the UK, I miss the proximity of Europe (but it is a great chance for the “rellies” to come over on a long haul holiday – you may find yourselves very popular with friends if you relocate here!) I also oddly miss the friendly English pub and perhaps the availability of a wider range of products. That said there is nothing I really NEED that I cannot get here.

New Zealand is suffering a shortage of medical staff across the country and we are keen to encourage recruitment from overseas. When looking at job opportunities don't just look at the big cities like Hamilton, Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch, give the smaller centres a chance too. They can provide you with a real sense of community and could give you a great experience in a beautiful area.

Immigration requirements

Everyone who intends to live and work in New Zealand will need to satisfy the visa and permit requirements of the NZ Immigration Service. The types of visas which are most common are:

The working holiday visa which lasts up to one year and is for people ages 18 – 30

Work visas and permits which usually last one or two years and

Residence permits for people who wish to relocate permanently to New Zealand and stay indefinitely.

Look at the New Zealand Immigration Service website for further information and forms which may be downloaded plus links to other useful websites dealing with all aspects of life in New Zealand.

Professional registration for overseas trained nurses

All health professionals working in New Zealand are required to hold a current practicing certificate and to be registered with the appropriate New Zealand authority for their profession. In the case of nurses this is the New Zealand Nursing Council.

Nurses are registered over here within the scope of their practice as

- Registered Nurse
- Nurse practitioner
- Nurse assistant

Not all overseas nurse registrations will have an exact equivalent in New Zealand. If an exact equivalent does not exist, then conditions will be included in the nurse registration to clarify the scope of your practice – see below for examples of this.

Overseas nurse registration	New Zealand registration	Conditions
Registered General Nurse	Registered Nurse	May practise only in general nursing
Registered Mental Health Nurse	Registered Nurse	May practise only in mental health nursing
Registered Sick Childrens Nurse	Registered Nurse	May practise only in settings that provide services for children
Registered learning Disabilities Nurse	Registered Nurse	May practise only in settings which provide services for consumers with intellectual disability
Enrolled Nurse	Nurse assistant	

All applicants must satisfy the Nursing Council as to their “*fitness to practice.*” This means that the applicant must:

- Be able to communicate effectively
- Have an ability to communicate and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of clients
- Have no convictions which would adversely affect practice
- Have no physical or mental condition that will affect your ability to practice as a midwife

- Not be the subject of any professional disciplinary proceedings and not be under investigation in respect of any matter which could lead to such proceedings

The inability to satisfy any of the above criteria may mean the application would be declined at this point in time but each case is taken on its own merit.

- In addition to the above all applicants must also
- Have undertaken a nursing programme that is similar in all specified content and length to the equivalent programme in New Zealand .
- Be able to meet the competences for registration. Competences for practicing as a nurse in New Zealand are listed on the Nursing Council website. Preferably an applicant will have recent nursing practice to back all of this up.

If for any reason a person's ability to meet the competences is not clear or not supported by the evidence submitted, then an applicant may be able to complete a competence assessment programme which is usually 6 – 8 weeks in duration and involves theoretical and clinical components.

Interviews for overseas job

For most overseas jobs the screening will be done via a telephone interview. You will be given a time at which you will be called for the interview and will usually have some time to prepare before this happens. It is wise to think in advance about who you share the house with, whether the children can be looked after at that time and that you will have no interruptions.

Remember that the information sought will be little different to that in a normal face to face interview so you need to think about the same sort of questions you would normally expect to answer and plan some of the things you need to know from them. Look in the Careers Service about information specific to job interviews to help you.

The only drawback of a telephone interview is not being able to read the body language but try to relax and sell yourself.

Listen carefully to the questions – it may help to jot them down as you are asked them.

Remember to thank the interviewers for their time and the opportunity to speak with them at the end of the interview.

How to find out more

New Zealand Immigration Service

New Zealand Immigration Service

Bear in mind that all people wishing to live and work in New Zealand will need to satisfy the requirements of the NZ Immigration service . Details on their website at: www.immigration.govt.nz

New Zealand High Commission, New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TQ

Tel: 020 7930 8422

Fax: 020 7839 4580

www.newzealand.embassyhomepage.com

New Zealand Tourism

www.newzealand.com

Nursing publications

There are two main nursing publications in New Zealand which would be able to give you a flavour of nursing issues and attitudes over in New Zealand. These are:

Kai Tiaki – this is the New Zealand Nurse association's monthly magazine and features clinical, research and feature articles on nursing issues.

This is available on line at www.nzno.org.nz/Site/Professional/Kai_Tiaki

Nursing Review – an independent nursing magazine and available at:

www.nursingreview.co.nz

Both of these publications carry vacancy information.

Nursing organizations in New Zealand include the following:

The Nursing Council of New Zealand

This is the statutory authority that governs the practice of nurses in New Zealand. They can be reached at:

Postal address:

PO Box 9644

Wellington

Street address :

Level 12, Mid City Tower, 139 – 143 Willis Street, Wellington

Tel : 0064 4802 0247

Fax: 0064 4801 8502

www.nursingcouncil.org.nz

College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ)

Formed in 1992 to be an organisation that would focus entirely on the professional issues of nursing
PO Box 1258 , Palmerston North, New Zealand.
Tel/Fax : 0064 6358 6000

Te Ao Maramatanga (New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc)

Formed in 2004 this organizations profiles issues in mental health areas of nursing.

www.nzcmhn.org.nz

PO Box 83 – 1111, Edmonton Road, Auckland.

Mobile : 0064 21 2866912

New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO)

This organisation represents more than 30,000 health workers and is the largest organisation of nurses and health workers in New Zealand.

Street address: Level 3, Willbank Court, 57 Willis Street, Wellington 6015

Postal address: PO Box 2128, Wellington

Tel: 0064 4499 9533

Fax:0064 4382 9993

New Zealand Occupational Health Nurses Association

Formed in 1973 and made up of 9 regional groups, membership of the association is occupational health nurses who are the leading workplace health and safety professionals in New Zealand

www.nzohna.org.nz

Largest on line health directory in New Zealand

www.healthpages.co.nz

Sources of vacancy information

www.seek.co.nz

www.genevahealth.co.nz

www.synergyconsult.co.nz

www.search4jobs.co.nz

www.trademe.co.nz

www.moh.govt.co.nz

www.healthstaffrecruitment.com.au

www.edenhealth.co.nz

www.jobpulse.co.nz

www.nznurse.com

www.tonix.co.nz

www.careerone.com.au

District Health Board Information

A lot of the job vacancies will be advertised on the websites of the district health boards themselves – useful also if you want to target a specific area in which you would like to work.

Northland

www.nhl.co.nz

Waitemata DHB (this is Auckland area)

www.waitemataDHB.govt.nz

Auckland DHB

www.adhb.govt.nz

Counties Manakau DHB (this is South Auckland)

www.cmdhb.org.nz

Waikato DHB (Hamilton area)

www.waikatodhb.govt.nz

Bay of Plenty DHB (Tauranga , Whakatane area)

www.bopdhb.govt.nz

Lakes DHB(Rotorua, Taupo area)

www.ldhb.co.nz

Tairāwhiti DHB (Gisborne)

www.tdh.org.nz

Taranaki DHB(New Plymouth area)

www.tdhd.govt.nz

Hawke's Bay DHB(Napier, Hastings area)

www.hawkesbaydhd.govt.nz

Wanganui DHB

www.wdhd.govt.nz

Mid Central DHB(Palmerston North area)
www.midcentral.co.nz

Wairarapa DHB(Masterton area)
www.wairarapa.dhb.org.nz

Capital and District Health Board (Wellington area)
www.ccdhb.org.nz

Hutt Valley DHB (Wellington area)
www.huttvalleydhb.org.nz

Nelson Marlborough DHB
www.nmdhb.govt.nz

West Coast DHB
www.westcoastdhb.org.nz

Canterbury DHB
www.cdhb.govt.nz

South Canterbury DHB
www.scdhb.co.nz

Otago DHB(Dunedin area)
www.otagodhb.govt.nz

Southland DHB(Invercargill area)
www.southlandhealth.co.nz

This booklet has been written by Jackie Dean, Careers Adviser in New Zealand and formerly a Careers Adviser at Edge Hill
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