

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in New Zealand

A guide for qualified & aspiring teachers — how teaching in New Zealand works, registration, visas, pay, and how to find the right role.



Find Your Community
2026 EDITION

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

A QUALIFIED-TEACHER MARKET WITH THE FASTEST PR

New Zealand is a **native-English, qualified-teacher market** with a teacher shortage that has put teaching on the **Green List** — one of the **fastest residency pathways** anywhere. You register with the **Teaching Council** to teach. Roles span **state, private, and international schools**. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, registration, visas, and pay**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find roles.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. New Zealand rules, pay, registration, and visa requirements change and vary by employer. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, NZQA, Immigration New Zealand, and each employer**. K12 Academics does not run or endorse any specific program — use the K12 Academics directory to find and compare your options.

Understand Why Teachers Choose New Zealand

WHAT TO KNOW

New Zealand offers **a teacher shortage (so strong demand), one of the fastest residency pathways via the Green List, solid salaries, an exceptional quality of life, and no language barrier** — a premier destination for qualified teachers, with a working-holiday option for shorter stays.

BY THE NUMBERS

Green List

fastest residency

Strong demand

solid salaries

Exceptional

quality of life

HOW TO HELP

Weigh New Zealand's **fast residency and quality of life** against a rigorous registration process — for a qualified teacher wanting the quickest path to residency, it's hard to beat.

WATCH OUT

Teaching is on New Zealand's **Green List** — giving qualified teachers one of the **fastest residency pathways** available anywhere.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

As a **qualified teacher**, you can work in: **state (public) schools, private and integrated schools, international schools, and early childhood education (ECE)**, plus **relief/supply** work. Demand is strongest in **shortage subjects and regional areas**. Browse and compare options in the **K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

State/private

schools

ECE

+ international schools

Relief/supply

+ regional demand

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — a state, private, or international school, early childhood, or relief work; shortage subjects and regional areas have the strongest demand — then find options in the K12 Academics directory.

GOOD TO KNOW

Find and compare **specific schools and recruiters** in the K12 Academics directory — this guide stays program-neutral.

Check the Requirements & Register

WHAT TO KNOW

You need to be a **qualified teacher** (a degree plus an accredited teacher-education qualification). To teach, you must **register with the Teaching Council**; overseas-trained teachers first obtain an **IQA from NZQA** comparing your qualification to New Zealand's standards (**UK QTS and other recognised qualifications are accepted**). You'll also need a **police vet** and to meet **English requirements**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Qualified teacher

degree + ITE

Register

Teaching Council (via IQA)

Also

police vet + English

HOW TO HELP

Line up your credentials — a **degree and teaching qualification**, an **IQA from NZQA**, and **Teaching Council registration** (UK QTS and others accepted), plus a police vet and English.

GOOD TO KNOW

Overseas teachers first get an **IQA from NZQA**, then **register with the Teaching Council** — registration is what authorises you to teach.

Choose Your Visa Pathway

WHAT TO KNOW

Because teaching is on the **Green List**, qualified teachers can access **fast-tracked residence pathways**; there is also the **Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV)** (you'll need an accredited employer) and the **Working Holiday visa** for shorter stays. New Zealand registration is **recognised in Australia** under trans-Tasman arrangements. Confirm current rules with Immigration New Zealand.

BY THE NUMBERS

Green List

fast residence

AEWV

(accredited employer)

Working holiday

shorter stays

HOW TO HELP

Choose your visa — the **Green List** offers fast residence, the **AEWV** needs an accredited employer, and the **Working Holiday visa** suits shorter stays; NZ registration is recognised in Australia.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **Green List** gives qualified teachers **fast-tracked residence** — one of New Zealand's biggest draws.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Teacher salaries are **solid and transparent**, set by **national collective agreements** with structured progression. Combined with the **Green List residency pathway**, strong conditions, and an exceptional quality of life, the overall package is very attractive for qualified teachers, especially those seeking to settle.

BY THE NUMBERS

Salaries

collective agreements

Structured

progression

Plus

fast residency

HOW TO HELP

Set expectations — solid, transparent salaries set by collective agreements, with structured progression; the Green List residency pathway adds major long-term value.

GOOD TO KNOW

Salaries are **set by national collective agreements** — transparent, with structured progression.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

Remember that **Teaching Council registration is what lets you teach** — start the IQA and registration early. Match your **visa to your goal** (Green List/AEWV for settling; Working Holiday for short-term), and note the **AEWV needs an accredited employer**. Confirm salary, conditions, and your police vet. Favour reputable schools and recruiters, and confirm terms in writing.

BY THE NUMBERS

Registration

lets you teach

Match

visa to goal

AEWV

needs accredited employer

HOW TO HELP

Read every offer for **registration status, visa fit, and conditions**; registration lets you teach, and the AEWV needs an accredited employer.

GOOD TO KNOW

Start the **IQA and Teaching Council registration early** — they take time, and you can't teach without registration.

Get Qualified, Assessed & Registered

WHAT TO KNOW

Have your **degree and teaching qualification** ready, obtain your **IQA from NZQA**, and **register with the Teaching Council**. Prepare your **police vet, English evidence, and documents**, and identify **Green List or accredited employers**. **Start early** — the combined process takes time. Reputable recruiters can guide the steps.

BY THE NUMBERS

IQA

from NZQA

Register

Teaching Council

Start

early

HOW TO HELP

Get your **teaching qualification, IQA, and Teaching Council registration** in order (plus police vet, English, and documents), target Green List or accredited employers, and start early.

GOOD TO KNOW

Reputable recruiters can guide the **IQA and registration** steps — and help you find Green List or accredited employers.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

New Zealand's school year runs **late January/early February to December**, so **schools recruit ahead of the year** (and around term boundaries); **relief/supply** work is available **year-round**. Given the shortage, recruitment is active — but allow time for the IQA, registration, and visa before you can start.

BY THE NUMBERS

Schools

ahead of the year

Relief/supply

year-round

Allow time

for IQA + visa

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — the school year runs late January to December, so schools recruit ahead of it, relief work is year-round — and allow time for the IQA, registration, and visa.

GOOD TO KNOW

Given the shortage, recruitment is **active year-round** — but the IQA, registration, and visa take time to complete first.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

There's **no language barrier**. Popular bases include **Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch**, with strong demand in **regional areas**. New Zealand offers an exceptional quality of life — stunning landscapes, safety, outdoor living, and work-life balance — which, with the Green List, makes it a top choice for teachers looking to settle.

BY THE NUMBERS

No

language barrier

Bases

Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch

Exceptional

quality of life

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — no language barrier; Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch are popular, with strong regional demand, in a country famed for quality of life.

GOOD TO KNOW

New Zealand's **exceptional quality of life** — landscapes, safety, and balance — pairs with the Green List to make it ideal for settling.

Find Your Role & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific schools and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory**. Complete your IQA and Teaching Council registration, choose your visa (Green List for the fastest residency), and verify each contract. Confirm current rules with the Teaching Council, NZQA, and Immigration New Zealand.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

schools & recruiters

Complete

IQA + registration

Green List

fastest residency

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare schools and recruiters, complete your IQA and Teaching Council registration, choose your visa (Green List for the fastest residency), and verify each contract.

WATCH OUT

Browse **the K12 Academics directory** to find the specific schools and recruiters that fit your qualifications and goals.

Teaching in New Zealand: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm with the Teaching Council, NZQA, Immigration NZ, and each employer.

The market

A native-English, qualified-teacher market (not ESL) with a teacher shortage that has placed teaching on the Green List — one of the fastest residency pathways anywhere; roles in state, private, international, and early childhood settings.

The routes

As a qualified teacher: state, private, and integrated schools, international schools, and early childhood (ECE), plus relief/supply; shortage subjects and regional areas have the strongest demand — find and compare in the directory.

Requirements & registration

A degree plus a teacher-education qualification; an IQA from NZQA; and Teaching Council registration (UK QTS and other recognised qualifications accepted), plus a police vet and English; registration is what authorises you to teach.

Visa

Green List fast-tracked residence for qualified teachers, the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV, needing an accredited employer), and the Working Holiday visa for shorter stays; NZ registration is recognised in Australia under trans-Tasman arrangements.

Pay & move

Solid, transparent salaries set by national collective agreements; the Green List adds fast residency; no language barrier, and an exceptional quality of life (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and regional).

YOUR TEACHING-IN-NEW-ZEALAND JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Teaching in [Country] guides, and find and compare programs, schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

