

Opportunities for Civil Engineering Professionals in New Zealand



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PASSION | POTENTIAL | PROCESS

Scientific Career Planning

**Employability Enhancement
Support**

SMART Visa Filing

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ALIGN

ACT

ACHIEVE

**THE
5A
APPROACH**

Civil Engineering

The “foundation” of Human Civilisation



Congratulations on your academic accomplishments, a bundle of opportunities await you in the exciting world of creating and innovating the next generation of mechanical wonders. The growing size of humankind needs the Engine House of the industrial juggernaut to keep going and provide new products and improved means of transport as the natural resources dwindle and environmental pressures mount higher and higher.

Every product or service in modern life has probably been touched by a mechanical engineer to materialise the possibilities offered by emerging technologies. Mechanical engineers analyse their work using motion, energy, and force principles—ensuring that designs function safely, efficiently, and reliably, all at a competitive cost.

As an accomplished engineer, you have unique skills that set you apart from the crowd and enable you to make tangible contributions to the betterment of society. To list a few;

1. Creativity and innovation
2. Analytical Skills
3. Complex Problem Solving
4. Sound Judgment
5. Form and lead the teams
6. Organizational and time management skills

We appreciate the efforts and hard work that you've put into your career and congratulate you on your success so far. But now it's time to get advanced level skills and enhance your profile to increase your employability and choose a career path that guarantees success in your journey.

We have put together this career guide detailing the career prospects, study options, eligibility and affordability criteria, and post-study work visa and PR pathway information under current rules and regulations.

Opportunities For **Civil Engineers** in New Zealand



Imagine being able to work and grow your skills in a busy and varied construction scene. Then, in half an hour or less, be relaxing on a beach, hiking through beautiful native bush, pounding down a mountain bike track, or chilling with friends in your back garden over a fine New Zealand craft beer or wine.

This is what you can look forward to when you bring your existing skills to New Zealand and further develop your skill set in civil engineering core or complimentary applied business skills.

Engineering skills are in chronic short supply in New Zealand. There are approximately 74,000 working as engineers or in related roles. It is estimated that we need 1,500 more yearly to match economic growth, let alone replace the engineers who retire or move on to other jobs.

The building and construction sector significantly contributes to New Zealand economy. It contributed 6.7 per cent of total GDP in 2019 and was the fourth largest employer, employing 275,600 people in June 2021. In June 2021, the sector was the second-fastest growing industry in terms of employment, with 11,014 more jobs than in June 2020.

Civil engineers are at the centre of the construction and infrastructure sector, which is the engine house of any national economy. New Zealand is no different, and the government is planning for increased government spending on infrastructures such as roads, water collection, wastewater management and public buildings. There are several major roading and water infrastructure projects.

In the private and managed residential sector as well as retirement village , aged care sector, housing build activity is also at record levels across all regions of New Zealand.

Therefore, the demand for civil engineering professionals will remain strong over the next five to 10 years. The chances of getting a job in the civil engineering sector are good due to a shortage of trained professionals with core Civil engineering skills who also have effective project management skills; you can explore job opportunities in the Civil and Infrastructure sector using this link.

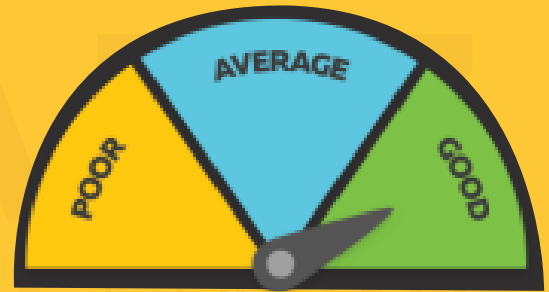
Pay

New civil engineers usually earn
\$80K-\$100K per year

Senior civil engineers (Team Leaders)
usually earn
\$120K-\$130K per year

Civil engineer managers can earn
\$150K-\$160K per year

JOB Opportunities



These are some of the useful links to the major industry professional bodies and successful and progressive companies operating in the construction sector.



Study Options

To enhance their career profile and further develop their skill set, civil engineering graduates can choose the trajectory of their study path either to further strengthen their core technical skills of design and engineering or add complementing skills to make the bouquet of their skills even more colourful by studying applied business and management skills specific to commercial aspects such as quantity surveying and construction project management.

New Zealand has a wide range of tertiary education options. There are education providers in each of the main centres and regional areas. The New Zealand tertiary sector covers private training establishments (PTEs), technology and polytechnics (ITPs) and universities.

NZ education System is a level based system where vocational courses upto level 4 are for school passouts in trades and skills area. The academic focused courses start with certificates and diplomas in level 5 and 6 or a undergrad degree of three years combined 5, 6 and 7 levels.

For a graduate student, there are study options available in the form of a graduate diploma (Level 7, 1 year duration) or postgraduate Diploma (Level 8, 1 year duration) as well as a Masters's (Level 9, 1-2 years duration)

For each year of studie students are awarded 120 credits which are made of combination of classroom studies and industry projects. Each subject generally vary 15 credits and students have to study upto 8 papers to claim the 120 credits, or if industry project (say 30 credits) is part of the course student will have to do 6 papers worth 15 credits each to make up for the balance 90 credits.

When making a course selection, candidates should look at five factors, at the top is the interests and match to career aspirations, and then eligibility, affordability, visa suitability and program availability in the desired intake.



Horizontal Progression: You can grow your career horizontally by adding applied business skills to complement your technical skills. The applied business skills could be from one of these courses.

1. Construction Project Management
2. Engineering Management
3. Supply Chain Management
4. Construction Law
5. Quantity Surveying

Core Strengthening - You can also opt for core strengthening by picking a specialised technical field in civil engineering stream.

1. Architectural Engineering
2. Environmental Building sciences
3. Applied Science in Civil and Resource Engineering ,
4. Water Resource Engineering
5. Geotechnical Engineering
6. Building Engineering

Master degree - Vertical Progression - If you are at an advanced stage of your career where you completed your bachelor's degree a few years back and have significant work experience, then you can opt for in-depth knowledge of your area of interest by choosing a master's program. The master's programs are available in both researched-based work as well as coursework details. The master programs are also offered with both horizontal and vertical progressions. The duration of your masters course can range from 12 months through to 24 months

Featured Programmes

- 1 Graduate Diploma in Construction Project Management By Unitec Institute of Technology**
Total Credits: 120



- 2 Master of Construction Management By Auckland University of Technology**
Total Credits: 120



- 3 Graduate Diploma in Construction By Southern Institute of Technology**
Total Credits: 120



- 4 Master of Construction in construction Law By Massey University**
Total Credits: 180



- 5 Master of Construction in Construction Project Management By Massey University**
Total Credits: 180



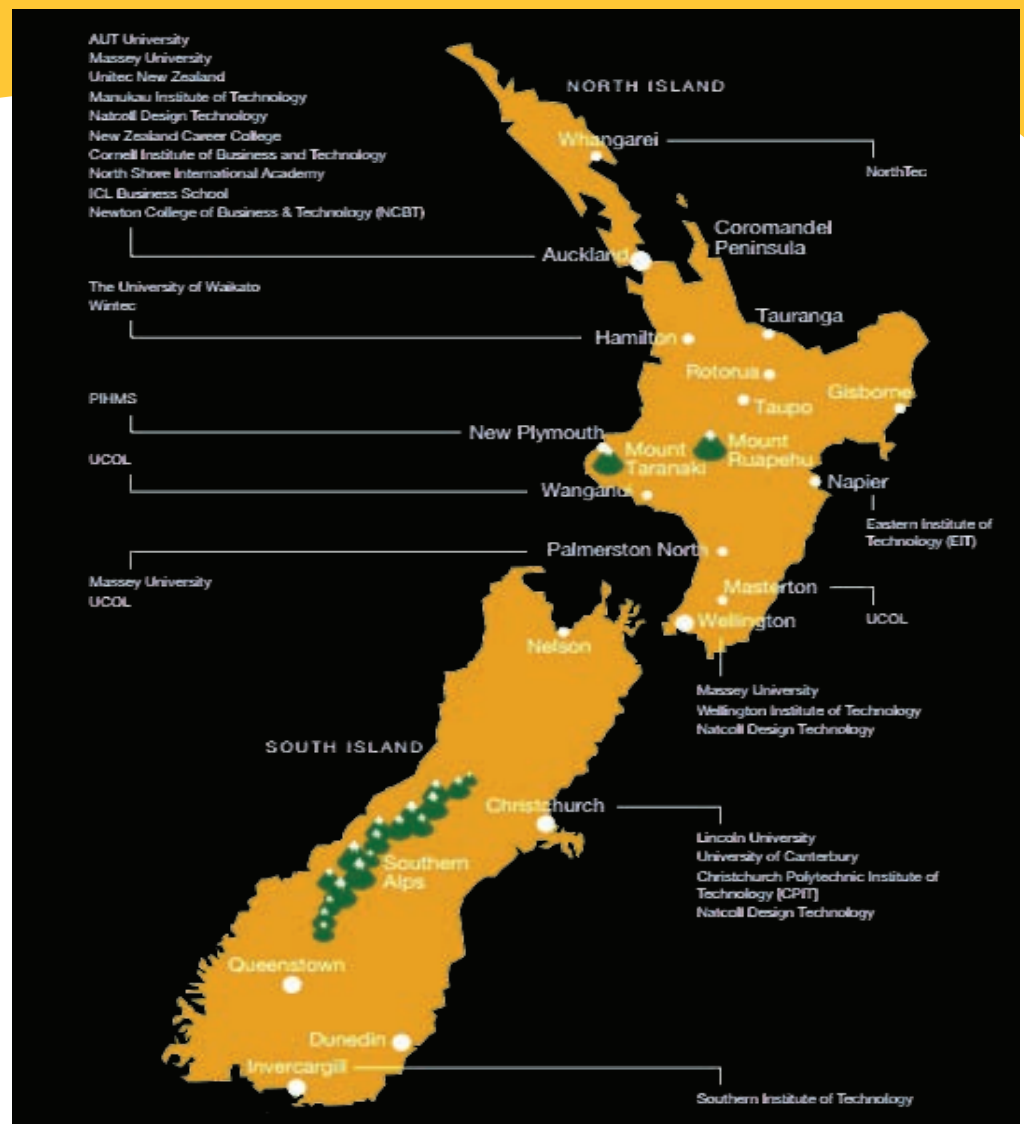
Colleges & Provinces

A New Zealand education equips you with skills that match the future of work. The tertiary sector includes private training establishments (PTEs), government polytechnics or institutes of technology (ITPs), and public universities.

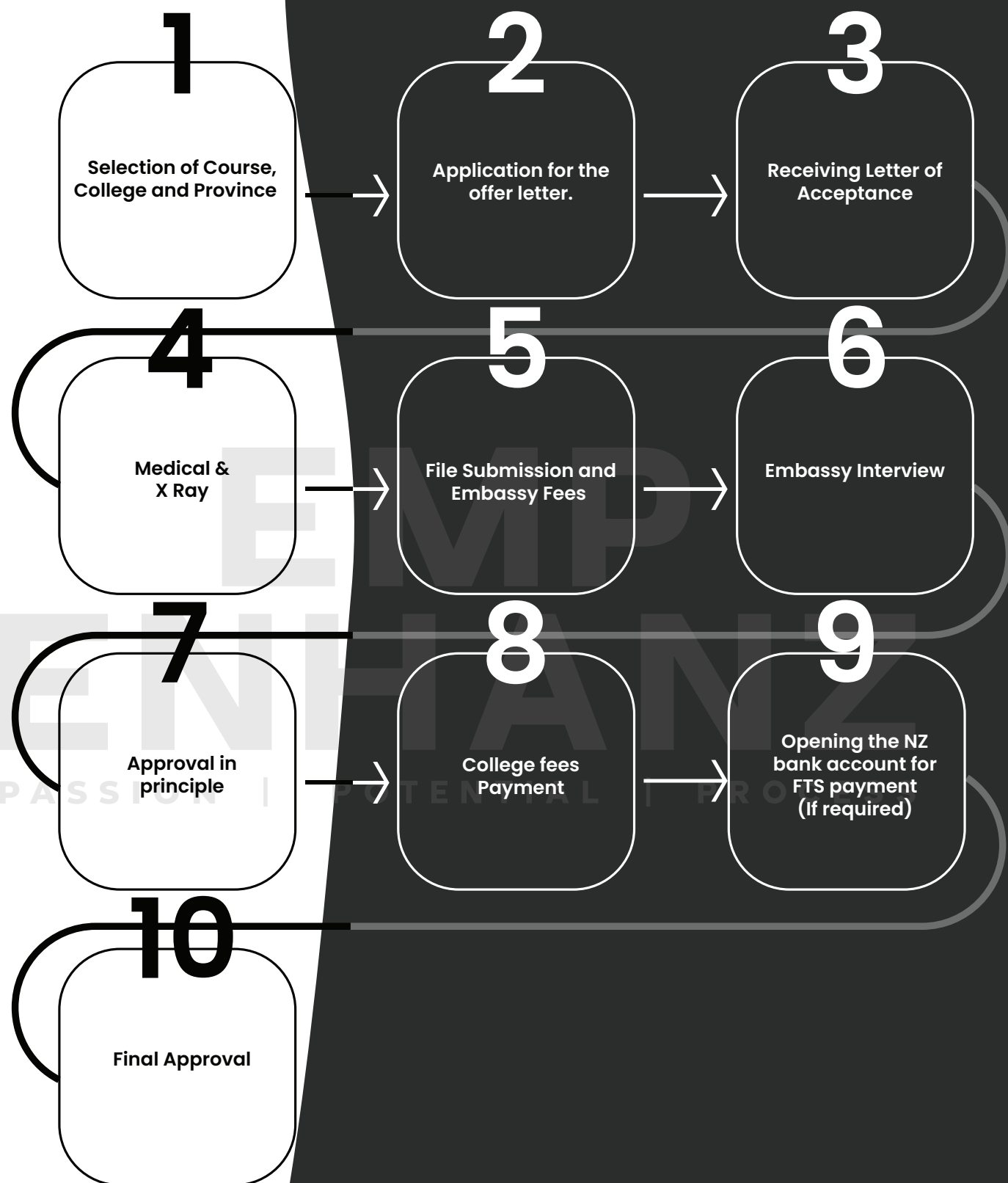
NZQA oversees PTEs and ITPs, ensuring programme quality, delivery standards, and compliance. Universities sit under a separate framework: each of the eight universities is autonomous, but they are collectively guided by Universities New Zealand, which manages academic quality through the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) and the Academic Quality Agency (AQA).

New Zealand has two main islands, each offering its own career landscape. The North Island hosts Auckland, the commercial hub with a third of the country's population, and Wellington, the political centre. The Waikato region, anchored by Hamilton, is a major employer in dairy, agritech, and research-intensive sectors. Further west, Taranaki on the North-West Coast is known for engineering, energy, and oil and gas.

The South Island is anchored by Christchurch, the region's largest city and a centre for construction, technology, and advanced manufacturing. Dunedin and Invercargill sit further south, offering strong education, logistics, and primary-sector opportunities.



Steps of Visa Process:



Documents Requirement

There are a range of documents you must provide at the different stages of your application to the institute and, subsequently, to immigration authorities. Immigration authorities use these documents for identity verification and to verify that you meet the eligibility and affordability criteria.

1. Copy of Passport
2. Language Proficiency Test Result
3. Academic School records including Marksheet, Certificates and Transcripts
4. Academic University records including Marksheet, Certificates and Transcripts in case of Post Graduation Program
5. Resume for Postgraduate Students or experienced professional
6. Self Identity Documents
7. Family Identity Documents
8. Financial Documents showing funds availability and sources
9. Income proofs for Principal applicant and the sponsors.
10. Digital Photograph
11. SOP

Eligibility

New Zealand educational institutions have a good reputation worldwide. These institutions have some strict assessment criteria to maintain their quality and standard of education.

Applicants must meet academic score criteria and the linguistic proficiency requirements to get admission to their desired institute.

The academic scores criteria for courses after graduation are generally around 60% for community college and university admissions. Some colleges accept lower scores, subject to the other factors of a student's profile.

English proficiency is critical for a student's academic success; a good command of English will ensure that the students make the most of the learning opportunities. English Language proficiency criteria depend on the institutes and course selection.

For Postgraduate diplomas and master's programmes at universities or polytechnics, the required scores are a minimum of 6.5 overall and no less than in any test modules.

Generally, for graduate diploma courses, the requirement is 6.0 overall, not less than 5.5 in each module, i.e. reading, writing, listening and speaking.

IELTS equivalent tests, such as PTE and TOEFL are also recognised to meet the eligibility criteria.



Note:

For Post graduate diplomas and master's programmes at universities or polytechnics , the required scores are minimum 6.5 overall and no less than 6 in any of the test modules.



Note:

IELTS equivalent tests such as PTE and TOEFL are also recognized to meet the eligibility criteria.

Affordability

Studying in New Zealand is a meaningful investment. Your total cost has two parts: tuition fees and living expenses. You must also show Immigration New Zealand that your funds are genuine and available, whether through family savings, asset sales, or education loans. INZ will check the trail of funds to confirm affordability.

On Average, the tuition fees are as detailed below:

Typical Tuition Costs :

For L7 Graduate Diploma Courses (Polytechnics/ITPs) -

NZ\$25K to NZ\$32K per year

For L8 Post-Grad Diploma Courses (ITPs) -

NZ\$25K-NZ\$32K per year

Masters Degree (ITPs) -

NZ\$27K to NZ\$32K per year,
Usually 1.5 years in duration

University Postgraduate & Master's Programmes:

Higher Fee range, Usually
NZ\$45k to NZ\$60K
(in total depending on programme length,
institution, and location)

Living Expenses:

INZ requires proof of NZ\$20,000 per year of study for living costs. A 1.5-year programme means showing NZ\$30,000.

Average weekly expenses range from NZ\$450-\$500, covering accommodation, food, transport, and utilities. Most students flat together to manage costs.

FTS (Funds Transfer scheme)

In rare cases, students may be asked to use the Funds Transfer Scheme (FTS), where NZ\$20,000 is deposited into a New Zealand bank account and released in 12 equal instalments to support living expenses.

Planning Your Finances

We use a structured financial planning tool that helps students map out:

- Initial outgoings and acceptable fund sources
- Earning potential during studies (part-time work rights)
- Income opportunities after graduation on a post-study work visa
- Additional household income if a partner accompanies the student with full-time work rights



Post-Study Work Visa

New Zealand's Post-Study Work Visa lets you turn your qualification into real-world experience and build a pathway toward residency. The length and conditions of your PSW depend on the level of your course and whether it is on Immigration New Zealand's approved lists.

Key PSW settings for students

Master's degree (Level 9):

Eligible for a 3-year PSW, provided you study full-time in New Zealand for at least 30 weeks.

Postgraduate Diploma (Level 8):

Most Level 8 PGDips that meet INZ's study-length rules are eligible for a PSW matching the duration of your study.

Graduate Diplomas (non-degree Level 7):

PSW is only available if your specific Graduate Diploma is linked to **Green List occupations**.

Across study and work, many students can realistically spend up to five years in New Zealand, combining education, skilled experience, and steps toward residence.

If you are coming to New Zealand with your partner, they may be able to apply for a Partner of a Student Work Visa, which usually gives full-time open work rights for the same duration as your student visa, if you are studying a Master's (Level 9),

This allows couples to plan their finances and careers together, while keeping the main focus on the student's study-to-settle journey.

1+3
2+3
1+1+3



Our Navigator program helps international students maximize their work experience opportunities. Our focus is to enhance the employability of fresh graduates, which is achieved through education, industry engagement, and real-world experience. We empower you, so you complete your study and settle abroad goals promptly.

PR Pathways

After completing your course qualification and utilising your PGWP, you will plan for a Permanent Residency in New Zealand. Local Employers prefer students with previous study and job experience in NZ because of the outstanding education of NZ institutions.

NZ is eager to retain International students who can contribute to the economy. For foreign students in New Zealand, there are the following categories in which they can apply for Permanent Residency :

1. Skilled Migrant Category

2. Greenlist Residence Pathway

i) Straight to Residence Pathway

ii) Work to Residence Pathway

Qualification



ANZSCO Aligned Jobs



The NZ government manages all these categories to support and provide the skilled workforce required by local businesses and industry sectors.

1. Skilled Migrant Category

This is a point-based system where the points are allocated for employability factors such as qualifications and experience. A critical factor is having a SKILLED job offer aligned with NOL by an accredited employer. This visa is for people with skills contributing to New Zealand's economic growth. Before the applicant can apply, they will need to lodge an expression of interest (EOI) with their work experience and qualifications details. Please refer to this link to calculate the points.

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/visas/skilled-migrant-cat>

2. Green List Pathway to NZ Residency

The Green List covers occupations New Zealand considers in demand, with defined pathways to residence. If your role is on the list and you meet the exact qualification, experience, registration, and pay requirements, and your employer is accredited, the residency process can be more straightforward.

But a Green List job or a work visa does not guarantee residency. You must still meet all role-specific criteria and standard checks, including health, character, age, and English.

In reality, residency depends on three things aligning: the role being on the Green List, you meeting INZ's requirements for that role, and your employer meeting accreditation rules.

Our Role in your SUCCESS

We use world-renowned scientific career discovery tools to help you connect with your true calling and career paths.

We recognize that obtaining your visa can be challenging, but by enhancing your profile with targeted skills and certifications, we ensure your visa application stands out.

Once we've helped you make informed career choices and secure your dream visa, our Career Integration Plans ensure your success by preparing you for every critical stage of your journey from student visa to PR. This program provides industry insights, enabling you to gain work experience early in your studies so that by the time you graduate, you'll have a strong combination of practical experience and a quality education to enhance your career prospects.

Our scientific & holistic approach of **5A's** is the key, seamlessly connecting each phase of your journey for optimal results.

Don't let opportunities pass you by.

Seize the success you deserve by leveraging our exceptional services and support.

EmployAbility

AIM

ASSESS

ALIGN

ACT

ACHIEVE

THE
5A
APPROACH

CliftonStrengths



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WHY US?

At EMPENHANZ, we're building something bigger than courses or consultations. We bring the whole journey together career clarity, operational excellence, skill-building, employability, and real pathways into New Zealand's evolving workforce. Our approach comes from **25 years of practical industry experience**, so everything we offer is grounded, relevant, and aligned with where the future of work is heading.

We don't treat your future as a checklist of rules, regulations, and policy steps. The process matters, but it's not the starting point.

What we focus on first is helping you connect with your passion and build your real potential. Once that foundation is strong, the process tends to fall into place.

At its heart, this is about helping capable people stop getting overlooked, start showing their true strengths, and move into careers that offer stability and long-term growth. It feels more like a partnership than a service because our goal is to create opportunities that last and support lives that genuinely move forward.



25 YEARS
Overseas Experience

EMPENHANZ
PASSION | POTENTIAL | PROCESS



To ensure your success, please reach us at:

 www.empenhanz.life

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Zariya "The chain that changes"

In partnership with all our students of **SKILLS TO SUCCEED** program, we sponsor the study of an underprivileged child. Let's become Zariya of each other.

