



CORCORAN FRENCH

NEW ZEALAND ACTIVE INVESTOR PLUS VISA

A Guide for Corcoran French Immigration Clients

Building your future in New Zealand

The New Zealand Active Investor Plus Visa (AIP) is designed for investors who wish to obtain New Zealand residence through acceptable investment into the New Zealand economy.

At Corcoran French, the immigration team works closely with our corporate and property teams, as well as alongside financial advisers and business professionals to guide clients through every stage of the application process, and beyond.

Whether your goal is to move to New Zealand permanently or to have a viable plan B, we are with you all the way.

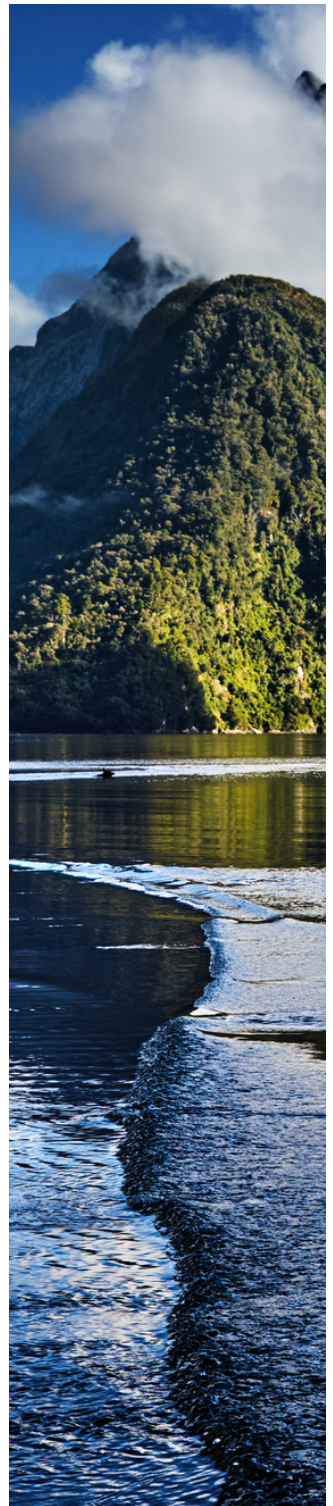
Our firm

Corcoran French is a multi-disciplined, diverse law firm with five teams of specialist lawyers across the firm. We are large enough to be full service, but small enough to offer personalised solutions that achieve the best outcomes.

Our team is made up of 12 partners and more than 90 legal and support staff who are committed to providing high quality legal services.

With a history in the region dating back to 1892, Corcoran French has a well established and close association with the communities and people of Christchurch, Canterbury, the West Coast, and the South Island.

In today's interconnected society, we readily act for clients throughout New Zealand and the wider world.



THE IMMIGRATION TEAM



Adele Mitchell

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

www.cflaw.co.nz

03 371 1063

adele.m@cflaw.co.nz

Since her admission to the bar in 2005, Adele has built an extensive career specialising in immigration law. Her experience spans both private and public practice, including boutique firms, large national firms, and a successful solo practice. Most recently she worked within Immigration New Zealand's Specialist Engagement Team providing advice to licensed immigration advisors and lawyers across New Zealand with professional education, guidance and stakeholder engagement. This diverse background gives Adele a unique perspective on New Zealand's immigration system and the practical challenges faced by migrants, employers and industry professionals.



Ching Zhang

ASSOCIATE

www.cflaw.co.nz

03 375 5418

ching@cflaw.co.nz

Ching is an Associate in Corcoran French's Commercial and Property team, based in the Kaiapoi and Christchurch offices. She also works alongside Adele to provide legal services to Asian clients. She specialises in residential and commercial property, business acquisitions and disposals, family trusts, and asset protection, and provides tailored estate planning advice to clients. Her fluency in English, Cantonese and Mandarin, coupled with her ability to work across cultures, has enabled her to build strong relationships with clients and colleagues from all backgrounds.

Why AIP?

The AIP visa provides a stable investment pathway to New Zealand for individuals and families seeking not only a relaxed lifestyle, but also a degree of protection against geopolitical uncertainty.

New Zealand is an island nation with beautiful outdoors, friendly people and is widely considered one of the safest places to sit out global uncertainty. With a 2026 Corruption Perception Index score of 81 (ranked 4th in the world), New Zealand is a credible plan B for those seeking long-term security for the people they care about most.

For families in the United States, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, that is precisely the appeal. The AIP is not about chasing a return. It is about:

Future mobility - *a genuine second base and freedom of movement, whatever changes in your home jurisdiction.*

Future optionality - *a residence pathway kept open and ready, so the choice is yours to make when the time is right.*

Family security - *a safe, stable, English-speaking country in which your children and grandchildren can live, study and thrive.*

Wealth preservation - *the reassurance of a stable, well-governed, rule-of-law economy in which to anchor part of your family's future.*

Long-term planning - *a considered, multi-generational decision, not a short-term play.*

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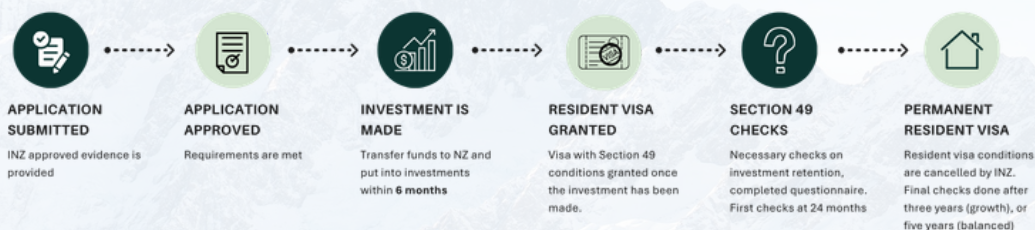


THE AIP PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

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The Active Investor Plus Visa is New Zealand's investor residence category designed to attract experienced investors who can contribute to New Zealand's economy through approved investments.

The Application Process:



Successful applicants can:

- *Live, work, and study in New Zealand*
- *Include their partner and dependent children in the application*
- *Access a pathway to permanent residence and if desired citizenship*
- *Invest into New Zealand businesses and growth opportunities*
- *Purchase a home in New Zealand*

The visa currently operates under two investment categories:



Which types of investments are most popular under each category?

For the financial year ending 31 March 2026:

66% of investors invested in New Zealand under the growth category. Most of those people, did so in managed funds (34%), and 16.6% into Discretionary Investment Management Services.

33% of investors invested in New Zealand under the balanced category. Most of those people did so in bonds (26.9%) with listed equities making up 4.5%, property development 1.5% and less than 1% diversified into managed funds.

What is the minimum amount of time I have to spend in New Zealand to get residence?

Investing under the balanced category (for 5 years), the minimum time to spend in NZ is reduced to 63 days when increasing the investment amount from \$10-\$13 million.

If investing under the growth category (3 years) the minimum time to spend is just 21 days.

Are my children able to live, study and work in NZ on this visa?

Yes. Your dependent children have the same rights as you to live and study in New Zealand. As they become adults they will also have the right to work, invest, and operate businesses of their own.

Can we travel to New Zealand before the resident visa is granted?

Yes, if you are from a visa waiver country like the United States, Singapore or Germany you can apply for a NZeTA

If you are from a non-visa waiver country like China, Taiwan, India or Vietnam you can apply for a Specific Purpose visa. Our team can advise you on the best visa for your circumstances and arrange this in consultation with you.

Can I buy a home even if I'm not permanently living in NZ?

Yes, on this visa investors who do not spend the majority of their time in New Zealand can still buy a home so long as the purchase price is over \$5 million dollars.

Am I able to get a New Zealand passport?

Yes, obtaining a NZ passport is an option for you and your family once you once you have had residence for 5 years. However, you will need to meet the presence requirements for the time spent in New Zealand to be eligible. Many countries allow dual nationality, including the United States.

Will you work in with my team?

Absolutely. We understand investors are often busy, globally mobile people. We will work in with your existing team to get the job done with discretion and care.

Do you work with professional advisers?

Yes. As lawyers we work with a number of financial and investment advisors, chartered accountants, banks, real estate agents and other professionals. We can ensure you are well supported through every step of your journey.

What is the INZ application fee and how long does the residence application take to decide?

The fee is \$27,470. Approximately 80% of applications are decided within 10 weeks.

What is the average processing time for permanent residence?

The average processing time once investment documentation has been provided is 36 working days.

What are your fees?

Our fees are industry competitive and reflect each investors aspirations in gaining residence. Please contact us for a consultation. We would be happy to provide you with a quote.