



RESOURCES FOR RELOCATION TO NEW ZEALAND

Moving your family across the world is complex and can be stressful. We are here to support you and connect you with the right people and resources. Don't hesitate to email us.

[Plan your move with this tool.](#)

Shipping belongings:

Companies like Luggagetoshop.com or Sendmybag.com are cheaper ways to ship belongings to NZ if you do not want to pay for a whole shipping container. They also arrive faster than a shipping container and great for sending outdoor clothing and equipment that can fit in a box.

Bringing your pets to NZ:

Bringing a dog or cat to New Zealand requires meticulous planning and adherence to strict biosecurity regulations. Many of the threats that exist to pets in the United States do not exist in New Zealand. You are required to work with a pet transport company, examples being [Starwood Pet Travel](#), [Avico Logistic Services](#), [Jet Pets](#), and [Pet Express](#). Please be aware that this is often quite costly and can take upwards of 6+ months to coordinate appropriately. The most important thing to ensure initially is that your pet is up to date on vaccinations, specifically rabies. If their rabies vaccine lapses by just one day they are ineligible to fly to NZ for a minimum of six months. Upon arrival in New Zealand, they will need to quarantine for 10 days. You will not be able to visit them during this time, but they usually post pictures on social media. This [website](#) goes into further details.

Decide how you want to handle U.S. mail.

There are several routes PAs have taken. Some options follow:

- **Set up a virtual mailbox.** This service will accept your mail. They will scan the front of the mail pieces and put them on a website for your review. You will have an option of having them open and scan the document, shred the document, recycle the document or forward it to NZ. There is a fee for each of these choices. Options are around \$20/month.
- **Change your address.** If you choose to set up a virtual mailbox, you'll still want to change your address to the virtual address. There are a limited number of address locations that you can have virtually. You should find the one that is closest to your hometown in the U.S. ●
- **Forward mail to a trusted family member.**

Accommodation:

Most common place to find rentals: www.trademe.co.nz. Rental prices are listed "per week." Many rental agents require you to have viewed the inside of the home before renting, but this can be accomplished via video walk through. Also know that is common in New Zealand that rentals do not come with whiteware (i.e. refrigerator, washing machine, dryer) and these will need to be purchased separately.

Airbnb is a good idea if you want a short-term rental while you look at long-term options. You are not allowed to buy a home/property unless you hold at least a resident visa and have been physically in NZ for at least 12 months.

Banking:

Some banks will allow you to set up an account/transfer money prior to physically being in NZ (i.e. [ANZ](#) and [ASB](#)) and then you must physically present to the bank with I.D. to activate your account. Also, talk to your US bank at least 3-6 months prior to moving to see if they have any specific requirements about money transfers overseas.

If they must send a verification code to your cell phone to complete an online transfer, make sure you keep your US phone service for a while once you get to NZ. Another option is to get a secure card from your bank before you move that generates unique numbers you can use for the “code”.

Banking in NZ and payments are all made electronically (no cheques) and all banks have an app. When you want to pay a bill or someone personally, you pay them directly through your bank app via their account number. Unlike the US, it is very common for people to share their account numbers with each other.

Here is one testimony about getting set-up with ASB while in the US:

“I contacted ASB about setting up a Streamline Intro account. <https://www.asb.co.nz/bank/accounts/streamline.html>

I got in touch via e-mail with someone that walked me through the steps since it was considered special circumstances. We filled out an application form, and submitted the following documents:

-Identification for Individuals – Current Passport

-Address Verification for Individuals – A Bank Statement showing the client’s full name and residential address, dated within 12 months or a Utility bill e.g. power, water, fixed phone line or broadband/fibre internet dated in the last 12 months, showing the client’s full name and residential address for service (Other options available if required)*

We then had to meet with a notary (trusted referee) in the U.S. to validate that our passports were authentic and sent a certification directly to the bank.

Then we did a wire transfer from our U.S. bank to ASB.

Once in NZ, you go to the bank in person to get debit cards and verify your account.”

[WISE](#) is a great option as well to transfer foreign income, although you cannot do more than \$50,000 USD per transfer; \$250,000 USD in a year. It is very easy to use the app, and the conversion rates are reasonable. Through WISE you can also get a debit card and transfer NZ currency to it before you depart the US. It’s a good option until you have a NZ bank account activated.

Getting a NZ phone number:

It is very easy to set up; you can get a new SIM card and phone number in the airport upon arrival. Keep in mind that any online accounts you have in the U.S. likely use your U.S. phone number to text security codes to verify it’s you. If you deactivate your US phone number without switching your verification process with these online accounts, it can be very difficult to try to change once you’re in NZ. I would concurrently keep both your U.S. and NZ phone numbers until everything can be switched to the NZ phone number or see if the account can be verified via email rather than by phone number. Also remember that international calling rates apply to any calls/texts going to the US once you have a NZ number. An easy/free way to keep in touch with loved ones in the US is by using apps like FaceTime (for Apple phones), WhatsApp, Signal, Facebook Messenger, Zoom, etc.

Documents for Travel

We recommend you print/carry the following physical documents with you:

1. Accredited Employer Work Visa
2. Passport
3. Tickets