



**NEW ZEALAND
IMMIGRATION**

Culturally Arranged Marriage (CAM) Visitor Visa

October 2022



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĀKINA WHAKATUTUKI

New Zealand Government

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Introduction & background



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Alex – TA in Hamilton. Currently the immigration officers main point of contact with regards to CAM visa applications.

What is a Culturally Arranged Marriage?

- Culturally arranged marriage is a type of marital union where the bride and groom are selected by individuals other than the couple themselves, particularly by family members such as the parents, sometimes with the help of a matchmaker.
- This is not just a union between the bride and groom but an alliance between the two families.
- Culturally arranged marriages require consent from both the bride and groom.

Overview

- The Culturally Arranged Marriage (CAM) visitor visa (V3.35) allows for an applicant who is already married, or is intending to marry in New Zealand, to be granted a three-month visitor visa.
- It is a requirement that the marriage must be culturally arranged by someone other than the applicant or their partner and follows an 'identified cultural tradition'.
- Applicants can apply under two scenarios; one being when they are already married and make an application within 3 months of their wedding and the other being when they intend to marry in New Zealand.
- If an applicant is granted a CAM visitor visa, they may be able to apply for a partnership visa once they have lived with their partner in New Zealand.



I'll talk more on the specific requirements for a partnership visa. We expect that most applicants granted a CAM visa will later apply for a partnership visa.

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CAM visitor visa requirements and application process



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Key requirements

- The marriage must be arranged by someone other than the applicant or their supporting partner and follow an identified and recognised cultural tradition.
- The applicant and supporting partner intends that the marriage will be maintained on a long term and exclusive basis.
- There is no legal impediment to the intended marriage.
- The supporting partner is a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder and the supporting partner:
 - Supports the application
 - Is eligible to support a residence class visa under partnership
 - Meets character requirements for supporting partners.



No legal impediment: for example not already married.

Eligible to support a residence class visa – meaning he hasn't acted twice already as a partner in a successful residence application.

Character requirements – temporary instructions E7.45 – must not have been convicted of any offence involving family violence or of a sexual nature.

Key requirements (cont.)

- If an applicant intends to come to New Zealand to get married, their wedding must be within three-months of arriving in New Zealand. In the event the marriage does not take place, the applicant must satisfy INZ that s/he will leave New Zealand.
- If an applicant has already married outside of New Zealand, they must submit an application within three-months of their wedding.



Supporting partners must complete INZ 1146



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It is the applicant's responsibility to provide information that demonstrates that they meet the requirements of instructions.

Consider RFI for applicants to provide further evidence to test their eligibility against the requirements where the decision may not be a 100% decline



We may take steps to verify information where incomplete, however an IO may decide an application based on the information provided and is not required or obliged to seek further information in every case.

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Evidence of a cultural marriage

Substantive evidence must be provided to demonstrate that the marriage follows an identified and recognised cultural tradition.

Examples of evidence may include:

- communication between the parents of the couple, or a person acting as a go-between or matchmaker, or both;
- other documents indicating public recognition of the arrangement, or ceremony, or both;
- confirmation from independent sources that such arrangements or ceremonies, or both, are in accordance with the cultural custom of the parties concerned.

With substantive evidence, we expect/require applicants to provide evidence that establishes and satisfies us that stated events have occurred."



As a CAM application evidence of a cultural marriage is important and the evidential requirements are quite prescriptive - this includes evidence of the selection process such as screenshots of message trails, screens shots of call records, etc.

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Application process

- CAM visitor visas can be lodged either online or using a paper form.
- For online applications, the form will ask applicants to confirm whether they are applying for a CAM visitor visa.
- All CAM visitor visa applications are processed at the Hamilton Branch.
- The current timeframe to process CAM visitor visa applications is **2-4 months**.
- Successful CAM visa applicants are granted a six-months 'first entry before' date to allow them time to prepare for their travel to New Zealand.



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Applying for CAM online

Explore NZ visa options **Apply for a visa** Waiting for a visa Already have a visa

Information about Culturally Arranged Marriage Visitor Visa

You can visit New Zealand to marry a New Zealand citizen or resident or a nationally arranged marriage, or live with them if you get married overseas. Once you live with your partner you can apply for a 3-month work visa.

NOTE Temporary visa applications from outside New Zealand or a separate fee band zone are generally suspended, unless you are exempt.
→ New Zealand border entry requirements
[Submit my details](#)

Overview
Up to 3 months
[All conditions](#)

With this visa you can

- Come to live overseas to get married
- Come to live together after getting married overseas
- Apply for a permanent visa once you live with your partner in New Zealand

Things to note

- The marriage must be arranged by someone other than you or your partner (the sponsor) and follow an approved process.
- You cannot get married in New Zealand (you need to get married overseas).
- You must apply for this visa within 3 months of your wedding.

[APPLY NOW](#)

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/culturally-arranged-marriage-visitor-visa>



This is what applicants will see once they have found the CAM visa on our website.

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Applying for CAM online

Are you outside New Zealand?
 Yes No

What type of visa do you want to apply for?
Visitor

Are you a citizen or permanent resident of Australia or a citizen of a visa waiver country?
Passport holders of some countries and territories do not have to apply for a visa before they travel to New Zealand, but may need to hold an NZETA (New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority).
 Yes No

Select the purpose of your visit
Refer to the INZ website for detailed information about visitor visa options.
Family

Why do you want to visit New Zealand?
You may be required to upload evidence to show that you meet the requirements of the type of visa you are applying for.
For a culturally arranged marriage

C Culturally Arranged Marriage Visitor Visa

This visa allows you to enter New Zealand to marry a New Zealand citizen or resident in a culturally arranged marriage, or to live with them if you got married overseas. The marriage must be arranged by someone other than you or your partner (like a family member or a matehetao) and follow an identified cultural tradition.

If you come to get married in New Zealand your wedding must be within 3 months of arriving if you got married outside New Zealand you must apply for your visa within 3 months of your wedding.

Select Visiting family and friends if you are attending a culturally arranged marriage in New Zealand.

[→ Further information about this visa](#)

START MY APPLICATION



Once they've selected that they want to apply now, this is what the visa application looks like.

This will end up in an ADEPT application which our officers will be processing in Hamilton.

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Resources for customers

- Partnership-Based Temporary Visa Guide (INZ 1199)
- Immigration website www.immigration.govt.nz search “culturally arranged marriage” or “partnership visa”
- Phone contact centre on 0508 558 855 (within New Zealand)
- Seek advice from a licensed immigration adviser or person exempt from licensing such as Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Law Centre, or lawyer



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Questions this far?

Next: CAM visitor visa versus other partnership based visas



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Pause for questions.

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Purpose

Partnership

Applicants who are living in a genuine and stable partnership with a New Zealander

CAM

Someone whose marriage has been arranged in a recognized cultural tradition

Visitor visa – general

Applicants who are travelling to NZ for a lawful purpose, including family & social visits

3 different streams to facilitate partners travelling to NZ.

Slides

Couple's who have had a cultural marriage but don't meet the requirements of CAM, may be eligible for a partnership or a general visitor visa.

For example when the partners were involved in the facilitation of the initial selection, or when the three months requirements is past.

Specific requirements

Partnership	CAM	Visitor visa - General
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Credibility• Living together• Genuine partnership• Stable partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three-month timeframe• Met physically before making the application• The marriage is arranged by a third party	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants who have not lived with their partner may still apply• Meet the requirement to be a 'bona fide applicant' intending a temporary stay

This means to have met in person as adults and is also a requirement for the partnership cat.

E4.5.15 Minimum requirements for recognition of partnerships

For the purposes of these instructions, a partnership meets the minimum requirements for recognition of partnerships if an immigration officer is satisfied that:

- i. the couple were both aged 18 years or older at the time the application for a temporary entry class visa was made, or if aged 16 or 17 years old have their parent'(s) or guardian'(s) support for the application being lodged; and
- ii. the couple have met prior to the application being made; and
- iii. they are not close relatives (see [F2.15\(d\)](#)).

Specific evidence required

Partnership	CAM	Visitor visa - General
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of living together is required (examples are listed in Immigration instructions E.4.5.35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of the arrangement and selection process, e.g.:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Communications between the parents of the couple, or the matchmaker</i>• <i>Documents indicating public recognition of the arrangement</i>• <i>Witness statements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of the relationship and the genuine intent and lawful purpose.

Not an exhaustive list of evidence for these categories, there will be other evidential requirements. These are examples of different evidence.

Can consider periods of separation, the couple must have lived together prior to the separation. We would look at factors such as the duration of the partnership, reason for the separation etc.

There is no living together requirements for CAM applications and there are no specific living together requirements for VVGs.

Witness statements may be provided for CAM, but INZ will likely require additional evidence that supports these statements.

To meet the requirements of a VVG we would like to see evidence of the formation of the relationship and evidence that the partnership is credible and genuine.

Common question

Does an applicant need to be offshore to submit a culturally arranged visitor visa application?

No. The instructions do not prohibit an applicant who is already in New Zealand from applying for a CAM visitor visa. If an applicant is already in New Zealand when applying, they may be eligible for a visa for a maximum of three months from the date of their arrival in New Zealand.

V3.35b: If applicants are already in New Zealand when applying, the visa will be current for a maximum of 3 months from their date of arrival in New Zealand.

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Common question

Do the applicant and supporting partner need to have met prior to submitting a CAM application?

Yes. In order for the partnership to be recognised, both the applicant and the supporting partner need to have met prior to submitting an application. Virtual meetings will not meet this requirement.

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- b. the couple have met prior to the application being made; and
- c. they are not close relatives (see [F2.15\(d\)](#)).

VisaPak 240 – from December 2015.

Although the parties involved with visitor visa applications made under V3.35 are not yet partners, because that is their intention the intended New Zealand supporting partner must meet the requirements below which mirror those for partnership based visa applications providing a pathway to residence.

Meeting the minimum requirements for recognition of partnerships in includes a requirement for the couple to have met prior to the application being made. In this context 'to have met' means to have physically met at least once when the couple were adults.

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Common question

Do “love” arranged marriages meet the criteria for a CAM Visitor Visa?

No. Persons who are not parties to the marriage must arrange the selection process. This means that a love marriage driven by the couple with parental support would not meet this requirement.

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Common question

Are applicants eligible to apply for a CAM visitor visa if three months have passed since they entered into a culturally arranged marriage offshore?

Yes, an applicant may submit a CAM visitor visa application. However, as it is a requirement that the application is made within three months of the wedding it is unlikely the applicant will meet this requirement.

In these circumstances, INZ would need to consider granting an exception to instructions (ETI). Whilst INZ takes a facilitative approach when visa holders were unable to travel due to the current border restrictions, **the threshold to be granted an exception is high**. All applications will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

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Common question

What requirements do supporting partners need to meet?

Supporting partners need to be the holder of a residence class visa or be a New Zealand citizen.

In addition, they will also need to:

- Support the application
- Meet partner character requirements.
- Be eligible to support a future residence application under partnership category.
- Comply with the minimum requirements for recognition of partnerships

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s 9(2)(a)

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