

# Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Justice  
Minister for Broadcasting and Media  
Minister of Immigration



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Anonymous

[fyi-request-17588-4b65d61d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17588-4b65d61d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the ineligibility of student visa holders for the 2021 Resident Visa, despite the impending graduation of some.

Not everyone will be eligible for the 2021 Resident Visa. The 2021 Resident Visa was designed to provide a pathway to residence for people who are primarily in New Zealand for the purpose of work and who hold a visa based on their skills.

Student visa holders are primarily in New Zealand to study. People holding visas based on partnership to a student are here primarily to accompany their partner, rather than for the purpose of work and therefore partnership-based visa holders are not eligible for this residence option.

However, this does not mean you will be ineligible for residence in the future. Skilled Migrant Category selections are expected to open again by August 2022 and you may be eligible depending on factors such as your work and qualifications.

There are also options to stay in New Zealand on work visas in the meantime. After a student has completed their study, they may go onto a post-study work visa and depending on their role, you may also qualify to remain in New Zealand on an Essential Skills work visa after that.

While I cannot comment on individual circumstances, I would like to acknowledge the contribution that international students make in our New Zealand education system.

Thank you for writing and take care.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kris Faafoi', written over a blue circular stamp.

Hon Kris Faafoi  
**Minister of Immigration**