

EXPATS SAY NEW ZEALAND'S BEST FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Big improvements in the work-life balance for migrants to New Zealand is making the country a leading destination for those seeking a new life overseas.

An annual survey by international banking giant HSBC, which has included New Zealand for the first time, shows the country as the best of the 31 countries covered for expats' improved work-life balance.

HSBC's Expat Explorer gathered information about expats' quality of life in their new country. Although half of expats questioned in New Zealand said the country's economy had declined since the beginning of 2011, 55 per cent said they intended to stay in New Zealand – double the survey average.

Expats living in New Zealand revealed they had experienced the greatest improvement in their work-life balance and said they had integrated quickly with their communities. The country was also rated as the easiest in which to organise finances, power and other utilities and also ranked highly for enrolling families for education and healthcare.

New Zealand is always on the lookout for skilled migrants. Not only does the country need doctors, nurses and ICT professionals, it also has skills shortages in industries including creative, trade and professional occupations such as engineers, architects, animators and electricians.

New Zealand's skill shortage lists are updated twice annually and currently feature 65 occupations on the long-term skill shortage list and 71 occupations on the immediate skill shortage list (the lists are available at www.immigration.govt.nz).

The country also has an investor visa, which seeks to attract high net worth individuals. Migrating investors will be able to take advantage of

New Zealand's lower taxes (the highest band of income tax stands at 33 per cent) and no capital gains or inheritance tax. Eligible candidates will need to have a net worth of at least NZ\$2.5 million and be prepared to invest at least NZ\$1.5 million in NZ. Further details can be seen at www.investmentnow.govt.nz.

Further media information

For more information on working and living in New Zealand, please visit www.newzealandnow.govt.nz. You can also call Immigration NZ on 09069 100 100 (calls cost £1 per minute).

For media information, please contact Jenny Groutage or Amelia Astley Birtwistle at The Saltmarsh Partnership on 020 7928 1600 or email jenny/amelia@saltmarshpr.co.uk