Should You Choose New Zealand?

Why & Why Not?

A Quick Guide To Work and Live in New Zealand For Filipino Registered Nurses

A REAL STORY OF A FILIPINO REGISTERED NURSE IN NEW ZEALAND

Written by

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Are you a Filipino Registered Nurse Who Wants to Work Abroad?

I know there’s so many nurses in the Philippines still wishing to go abroad and earn $$$. But many are not sure where to start or where to go?

I know a lot of nurses working as a Call Centre agents and some are working so hard in private and public hospitals on very low wages.

You’re looking for a great opportunity to be able to abroad there are so many questions and hesitations in their minds. Is there still nursing jobs available abroad? How much will I have to spend? Maybe I can’t afford it!

Since I started my blog site ‘The Truly Rich Lifestyle’ (www.crestinecarson.com) and shared about my life as an OFW/ immigrant, I received so many questions about opportunities here in New Zealand. I tried to answer the questions as much as I can but I just can’t keep up, so I thought I’ll share my story as a nurse and a simple guide to help other nurses through an ebook.

Is New Zealand the right country for you? Yes or No? Maybe?

At 24, I was blessed to have an opportunity to live and work as a Registered Nurse in New Zealand.

I graduated in 2006 from Southwestern University in Cebu City then I took and passed the Nurses Licensure Exam the same year. That was the year when there was a big controversy that there was a leakage when we took the nursing board exam. We were asked to take the board exam again, so I decided to take the board exam again and luckily I passed (again).

Like most Filipinos, I wanted to go to the US to work as a nurse. It’s the dream of most Filipino nurses, but because of the controversy in 2006, I was a bit hesitant to apply for the US. Fortunately, I’ve heard about New Zealand from a friend of my uncle and from one of our neighbour who’s working in New Zealand as a nurse.

I decided to weigh the pros and cons. To go to the US, I need to take and pass the NCLEX. At that time, I need at least a hundred thousand pesos just to take the exam, and I’m not even sure if I’ll pass the exam or not. My other option was to apply in New Zealand. I did not have to take a board exam except IELTS, but I have to study for a few weeks to become a Registered Nurse.
Nurse in NZ. So I decided to pursue New Zealand. At that time, I did not know anything about New Zealand, as all I want is to be able to get out of the Philippines to work abroad and look for a greener pasture. I have worked and lived in New Zealand for more than 7 years now, and I’m just so happy! I call New Zealand a piece of paradise! It’s literally a greener pasture! It’s a very beautiful and peaceful country. I’m very grateful to be here. I’m totally enjoying the simple yet luxurious lifestyle.

I must say that I enjoy the tax that I pay to the government. Beautiful parks and public amenities, free toilet paper in public toilets (I truly appreciate this), a safe road for short and long drives, efficient government services, a lot of free health care services and many more things. It’s one of the top least corrupt countries in the world.

New Zealand definitely opened a lot of great opportunities in my life, and I had experiences that taught me amazing lessons.

But hey! I’ll tell you something! Despite all the great things about New Zealand, not all citizens and immigrants are happy here!

Some are miserable!

I’m not sure why!

But maybe they’ve been through a lot of struggles and disappointments.

Maybe their plans did not go as planned.

Maybe they took the wrong pathway.

Sadly, there are some Filipinos who chose to study for a year and spend over a one million, they took Health Care Management, and they realized this course couldn’t help them become a Registered Nurse in New Zealand. And that’s one of the reasons I wrote this guide to inform you of the best pathway for nurses. I’m not saying taking Health Care Management or other business courses is wrong, but it’s a longer and more expensive path to do it.

I was also inspired by our Philippine NZ Ambassador Jesus Domingo aka Ambagary Domingo with his campaign about Universal Diplomacy and I thought of doing this to help other Filipinos through my stories.

Well, if I share my stories on how I started and how I got here! It’s like a tele nobela.

I’ve been through a lot of struggles and disappointments too!
One after another! I cried many times, I almost gave up my dream to go abroad. I thought it’s not for me!

Good thing I decided to keep on going and finally I got here! But the problems and challenges never stopped even when I started working.

I’m sure all OFWs/immigrants have their stories to tell. Nothing comes easy for sure.

Looking back, it just makes me smile now and makes me sing Kelly Clarkson’s song!

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, stronger
Just me, myself and I
What doesn't kill you makes you stronger
Stand a little taller
Doesn't mean I'm lonely when I'm alone

What doesn’t kill us makes us stronger for sure!

Did you know that one of the ingredients of SUCCESS are PROBLEMS? I’ve heard this from my mentor Bro. Bo Sanchez. I’m a big fan! I’m a member of the Truly Rich Club founded by him.

I’m a person with faith in God, and I’m a big believer that everything that happens in our lives has a great purpose. Sometimes or maybe most of the time, we don’t understand the reason behind those problems, but in the end, we realized it’s meant to do something great for us.

Initially, I had a big problem when I had my Medical Exam to come here to New Zealand, and I was devastated! I was about to give up, good thing I didn’t. In the end, it gave me a better opportunity.

I also believe that how we see things (our mind set and perception) is one of the biggest factors why some people are happy and grateful, and some are unhappy and miserable when they’re exactly in the same situation.

I have lived and worked in New Zealand for more than 7 years now and I am now a citizen of this country. It’s one of the best passports you can have in the world. NZ allows dual citizenship, so I kept my Philippine passport and I now call myself Kiwinoy or Piwi! :-)

I also met the love of my life here in New Zealand and I am now married to Andrew, an amazing Kiwi bloke.
To check if New Zealand is for you or not, I’ve written a Quick Guide on what you have to do to be able to work and live in New Zealand as a Registered Nurse.

A Quick Guide to Work and Live in New Zealand for Filipino Registered Nurses

1. Prepare yourself that you will commit to gather your requirements and prepare for the expenses.

Nursing Council Registration Fee- $650 NZD (payable through credit card only).

CAP Course Enrolment Fee – $6000NZD - $12,000 (depending on the school).

Immigration Fee for Visa Application.

Return Airline Tickets - $1200 return flight (one – way flight refundable).

Insurance – Travel Insurance and Student Insurance from NZNO.

Allowance Money for Cost of Living – $1000 per month required by NZ Immigration x 4 months minimum.

I made a survey recently about how much is the total cost to come to NZ and take the RN CAP pathway and it’s more or less P650,000. This is how much I spent 7 years ago including my consultant’s fee and another student who just came a few months ago – 2016-2017 also spent approximately the same amount.

What? 650,000 pesos? That’s a lot! But wait! Don’t freak out! You don’t need the whole amount straight away, so you’ll have time to save for it. If you can try not to loan money with interest, that’s much better.

One nurse I know shared to me his story and he said, he loaned the money from an agency because his family can’t afford it and he ended up spending over a million including interest but he’s slowly paying it off now. He said he’s thankful as it gave him a great opportunity to work and live in New Zealand. Otherwise, he will still be in the Philippines right now working as a nurse and
earning 10k-20k pesos. Now he’s earning 10 times or more and he’s able to pay his debts and help his family.

2. **Have your documents assessed by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.**

To be able to work as a Registered Nurse in New Zealand, you have to register with the Nursing Council of New Zealand. For internationally qualified nurses (IQN), you need to have your documents assessed by them then you have to study for 6-12 weeks for a Competency Assessment Programme (CAP). This is to ensure that you can work and practice safely as a nurse in New Zealand.

You can find all the information on their website. [ww.nursingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz).

**Minimum Requirements**

1. Must pass the Nurse’s Licensure Exam with valid PRC license.
2. Passed the IELTS with score no less than 7 in all bandwidth
3. Minimum of 2 years of nursing experience.

Here’s a direct link from the Nursing Council where you can do your assessment if you qualify.


3. **Look for a school for CAP.**

There are a few schools around New Zealand that offer this course. List for CAP approved by Nursing Council of New Zealand.


Check their website and inquire. Check the CAP schedule that suits your schedule and the budget for paying your tuition fee.

This may take longer as you need to inquire on each school and check their schedules.
4. Apply for your visa at the Immigration New Zealand. For more information, visit www.immigration.govt.nz

There are different visas offered by New Zealand Immigration for those who wants to come here.

When I came here, I applied for a Visitor’s Visa – this visa allowed me to study for my Competency Assessment Program for 6 weeks then after I finished my CAP and got a job, I applied for a working visa that allowed me to work here in New Zealand.


Before lodging your application, go through all the requirements first and get everything ready before you lodge your final application.

Once you get your visa approved, get yourself ready for a big adventure abroad!

God Bless!

Did I answer the question? Should you choose New Zealand? Why or Why not?

Well, it’s all up to you. It’s your life, your money and it’s your future. My aim is to inform you that if you want to come to New Zealand, please choose the best pathway through Competency Assessment Program (CAP) for nurses.

If you don’t qualify yet, it’s best to wait and work on the things that you need so you will qualify in my opinion. Start thinking long term rather than rush to come here and end up spending more money and not being able to qualify to work as a Registered Nurse and not qualify to become a permanent resident and eventually become a citizen.

I’m in the process of writing an ebook with a detailed version to help you step by step along the way if you choose to pursue New Zealand. I’ll let you know via email once it’s ready and I’ll be sending you some emails every now and then.¹

For now, I invite you to join a Facebook Group if you want to learn more and ask more questions about nursing and living in NZ.
Please click this link to join.

**Pinoy Nurses in New Zealand**  
**Pinoys in NZ Health Care Professionals/Workers**

PS: Please also visit my blog site The Truly Rich Lifestyle – Inspiring OFWS to live a happy, healthy and abundant life @ [www.crestinecarson.com](http://www.crestinecarson.com)
Nothing Worth Having Comes Easy

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