**International Lifeguard Information**

**SLSNZ Paid Lifeguard Service**

**Introduction**

All international applicants for the Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) Paid Lifeguard Service should read and understand this information before submitting any application.

To find out more about Surf Lifesaving New Zealand please take a look through the [website](https://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/). You can find FAQs regarding the Paid Lifeguard Service below.

All International Surf Lifeguards employed by SLSNZ for the Paid Lifeguard Service need to legally be allowed to work in New Zealand. SLSNZ does not ‘sponsor’ any person’s application for a work visa. SLSNZ suggests that international lifeguards apply for working holiday visas if able.

**Visa information:**

Australian citizens and residents do not usually need a visa to travel to New Zealand. More information [here.](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/australian-resident-visa)

[United Kingdom Working Holiday Visa](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/united-kingdom-working-holiday-visa)

[USA Working Holiday Visa](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/united-states-of-america-working-holiday-visa)

[Other nationalities](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/work/explore-work-visa-options)

**SLSNZ Lifeguard qualifications:**

To work for SLSNZ as Paid Lifeguard the minimum qualifications are:

* SLSNZ Surf Lifeguard Award (or equivalent)

Other:

* [Driver’s Licence](https://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/new-residents-and-visitors/driving-on-nz-roads/)

Highly recommended:

* SLSNZ Senior Lifeguard – IRB Drivers (or equivalent as listed below)
* First Aid qualifications

For more information on SLSNZ wider award structure please click [here.](https://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/lifesaving/lifeguard-education)

The list of awards recognised by SLSNZ is listed below. For lifeguards who do not have any awards listed you cannot apply for a position with SLSNZ until you meet the minimum standards.

**Transfer of Lifeguard qualification awards:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Surf Lifeguard Award** |  |  |
| **Country** | **Organisation** | **Qualification** |
| Australia | Surf Life Saving Australia | Bronze Medallion (Currently Proficient) |
| Great Britain | Surf Life Saving Great Britain | Beach Lifeguard Award (Currently Proficient) |
| Great Britain | Royal Lifesaving Society UK | National Beach Lifeguard |
| UK | Combined Surf Lifesaving Great Britain, Surf Lifesaving Wales, Royal Lifesaving Society | National Vocational Beach Lifeguard Award |
| South Africa | Lifesaving South Africa | Beach Lifeguard Award |
| **IRB Crewpersons Module** |  |  |
| **Country** | **Organisation** | **Qualification** |
| Australia | Surf Life Saving Australia | Inflatable Rescue Boat Crew Certificate |
| Great Britain | Surf Life Saving Great Britain | Inshore Rescue Boat Crew (Surf Endorsed) |
| Great Britain | RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institute) | Inshore Rescue Boat Crew (Surf Endorsed) |
| **Senior Lifeguard Award - IRB Drivers** |  |  |
| **Country** | **Organisation** | **Qualification** |
| Australia | Surf Life Saving Australia | Inflatable Rescue Boat Driver (Silver Medallion) |
| Great Britain | Surf Life Saving Great Britain | Inshore Rescue Boat Driver (Surf Endorsed) |

**Application Process:**

The four SLSNZ regions, (Northern, Eastern, Central & Southern) all communicate on employment of international lifeguard so please don’t apply for a position in all areas.

Northern Region’s Application Process is slightly different (including timeline) to the other regions. You can find out more information by contacting one of the [Northern Region Operational Staff Members](https://lifesaving.org.nz/our-staff-new/).

If you are unsure of where about you should apply, please contact one of the [Regional Lifesaving Managers.](https://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/about-us/contact-us)

Submission of an application does not guarantee employment, applications close on the 5th September 2022.

Before your application can be considered you will need to:

* have a valid visa
* have the necessary SLSNZ awards
* complete the necessary employment paperwork

If accepted you will need to:

* Complete the necessary preseason inductions
* You become a member of SLSNZ through a SLSNZ affiliated club.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q. What do I need to be eligible to work in NZ?**

**A**. To be eligible to work in NZ you need to hold the appropriate work visa as per above. Additionally, to earn money in NZ you will need an [IRD Tax number](http://www.ird.govt.nz/how-to/irdnumbers/yourirdnumber.html) and a NZ bank account.

**Q. How do I apply to become a Paid Lifeguard?**

**A.** Firstly, you need to have a RPL and/or have joined a club and become a New Zealand Lifeguard. Secondly, applications will open early August 2022 and can be found above. You will need to complete the online applicant questionnaire on Q Jumpers, please ensure you fill this in correctly including the correct email address/contact details. Applicants will be shortlisted before being invited to the Assessment.

**Q. What is the difference between Surf Life Saving New Zealand and Surf Life Saving Northern Region?**

**A.** Surf Lifesaving Northern Region (SLSNR) is unique in comparison to the other regions as they have a governance Board of Directors and are an organisation within the SLSNZ umbrella. Therefore, NR are not directly managed by SLSNZ like the other regions (although NR adhere to SLSNZ standards and are strongly affiliated). The Northern Region covers the area of Auckland to the Far North, and as far south as Raglan on the west coast. To apply for a Paid Lifeguard role in Northern Region please talk to a [Northern Region Operational Staff Member.](https://lifesaving.org.nz/our-staff-new/)

**Q. Is my qualification recognised in New Zealand and how do I transfer it?**

**A.** Recognised qualifications are listed in the table above. Qualifications are transferred via the Recognition of Prior Learning process. To find more information regarding the RPL process and to download an RPL application form, please read through the information [here](https://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/lifesaving/lifeguard-education/recognition-of-prior-learning-rpl).

**Q. My RPL has been approved, what next?**

**A**. Once your RPL has been approved you will need to find a [surf club](https://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/join-us/find-a-surf-life-saving-club) and become a member.

**Q. My Surf Lifeguard award is not recognised by SLSNZ, what do I do?**

**A**. You will need to join a New Zealand Surf Life Saving club and complete your SLSNZ Surf Lifeguard Award through a club. You must be a recognised New Zealand Lifeguard before you can trial to become a Paid Lifeguard.

**Q. When is the Assessment and what does it involve?**

**A.** Competency is assessed in two parts; a Fitness Assessment (400m Swim and 3km Run as per the Prerequisites) and Induction/Job Specific Assessment. Paid Lifeguard Assessments for Competency One are held on during September and Competency Two at Induction. Please note that if you trial to become a Paid Lifeguard, it **does not** guarantee you a job as a Paid Lifeguard. International Applicants can arrange to complete Competency One off shore supervised by an accredited assessor.

**Q. My application is successful and I have been offered a job as a Paid Lifeguard, what's next?**

**A.** You must attend Paid Lifeguard Induction, complete corresponding modules and Employment Documentation. These are all conditions of your employment. More information will be given directly to you upon offer of employment.

**Q. When does the Paid Lifeguard season start?**

**A.** This differs slightly between the regions as is it dependent on community need. Induction is held immediately prior to the season (Late November/Early December). Typically Paid Lifeguards begin at the start of December and end beginning of March. However, the majority of Lifeguards will only be required over the peak season. The peak season operates for six weeks (Mid December till end of January).

Full season work is limited, only applicants who trial exceptionally well and have the required experience will receive work in the shoulder season.

**Q. Where will I stay while working as a Paid Lifeguard?**

**A**. Some surf lifesaving clubs have accommodation which can be made available to you upon negotiation with the club. In some areas, accommodation is very limited. It is important that you communicate with the Regional Lifesaving Mangers/Supervisors to discuss options as they do vary across the country.

**Q. What beach will I work at?**

**A.** After the assessment period, applicants are evaluated and if successful they are deployed where their skills can be most utilised. Managers do take into consideration what might work best for each individual however lifeguards will be allocated upon the needs of the service. You may be placed at one beach or a range of beaches across the season.

**Q. What other job opportunities are there within Surf Life Saving New Zealand / Northern Region?**

**A.** The Community Education program runs throughout Term Four and Term One of the School year (Oct-April). You will have to complete the same RPL process as the Paid Lifeguard Service however you will only need to complete this process once. Community Education includes the Beach Education programme, teaching school aged children at the beach, Surf to School, teaching school aged children at their school, and in Auckland City Nippers, teaching children aged 5 - 10 at popular city-based beaches where there are no Surf Life Saving Clubs. You can chat to Regional Community Education Coordinators for more information.

**Q. Is there an Induction Day for Community/Beach Education as well?**

**A**. Yes, attendance at the Community/Beach Education Induction Day is compulsory for Instructors.

**Q. Can work as a Paid Lifeguard and a Community Educator/Instructor?**

**A**. Yes, the Community Education program runs earlier and later than the Paid Lifeguard Service so there is a great opportunity to do both roles.