Responsibilities

As a New Zealand citizen, there are things that you must do. These include:

• Obey the laws of New Zealand.
• Not act in a way that is against the interests of New Zealand.
• Register to vote.
• Pay tax.
• Contribute to the defence of the nation if able to.

Privileges

Being a New Zealand citizen gives you a range of privileges. Citizenship lets you:

• Have the unfettered right to live in New Zealand and come and go as you please.
• Travel overseas and return to New Zealand on a New Zealand passport.
• Stand for Parliament or local councils.
• Have full access to education (for example, only New Zealand citizens qualify for some scholarships and awards).
• Have full access to economic rights (for example, some public service positions may only be held by New Zealand citizens and ownership of some rural land can be more difficult for people who are not New Zealand citizens).
• Represent New Zealand in many international sports (for example, some sports require that international players are citizens of the country they represent).

The New Zealand Flag is New Zealand’s national symbol. Its royal blue background represents the blue sea and sky surrounding us, and the stars of the Southern Cross signify our place in the South Pacific Ocean. The Union Flag recognises our historical foundations and that New Zealand was once a British colony and dominion. The New Zealand Flag can be flown any day of the year, especially on days of national commemoration, such as Anzac Day, and other important occasions. The New Zealand Flag represents the people of New Zealand and should be treated with respect. To use, display, destroy, or damage the Flag in or within view of a public place with the intention of dishonouring it is an offence. It’s also an offence to place any letter, emblem, or representation on the Flag, with the exception of some advertising contexts.