



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
PHILIPPINES  
PASUGUAN NG REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
WELLINGTON

**ADVISORY NO. JSD-2019-03**

***Guidelines on Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)  
registration and pre-departure clearance***

According to information provided to the Philippine Embassy by the CFO, all Filipinos leaving the country as emigrants or permanent residents abroad are required to register with the CFO and attend either the **Pre-departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS)** or the **Peer Counseling Program (PCP)** for emigrants 13 to 19 years old. CFO also conducts a **Guidance and Counseling Program (GCP)** in compliance with Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Order Nos. 28-94 and 11-97, as well as R.A. 10364 and R.A. 10906 otherwise known as the *Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act* and *Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act*, respectively.

Filipinos leaving the country with Work to Residence visas and their dependents; and Filipino dependents of New Zealand (NZ) permanent residents with work or student visas must also register and attend appropriate seminars at CFO. Filipino spouses and partners of foreign nationals or former Filipino citizens are required to attend GCP. Clients must secure an appointment through the *Reservation and Registration (R&R) online system* for PDOS and the *GCP Online Appointment System (GOAS)*, before going to the CFO. Please note that the CFO strictly implements a **No Walk-in Policy** (please see attached CFO press release).

The CFO has offices in Manila, Cebu City, Davao City, and Clark, Pampanga where clients can reserve and register for PDOS and PCP. The following links contain information about the reservation and registration procedures, requirements for registration, schedule of seminars and other information about the program:

- [https://cfo.ph/PDOS\\_Reservation\\_Manila/](https://cfo.ph/PDOS_Reservation_Manila/)
- [https://cfo.ph/PDOS\\_Reservation\\_Cebu/](https://cfo.ph/PDOS_Reservation_Cebu/)
- [https://cfo.ph/PDOS\\_Reservation\\_Clark/](https://cfo.ph/PDOS_Reservation_Clark/)
- [https://cfo.ph/PDOS\\_Reservation\\_Davao/](https://cfo.ph/PDOS_Reservation_Davao/)

The CFO has a desk office in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). However, it only caters to clients who are exempted from attending the seminar, i.e., emigrants 12 years old and below, 60 years old and above, and those residents /immigrants/emigrants who were able to stay in the destination country for an aggregate of two months.

The types of NZ visa holders required to attend CFO's pre-departure program are as follows:

VISA CATEGORY AND PROFILE OF CLIENT	DESCRIPTION OF TRAVELER	TITLE ON NZ VISA LABEL	REMARKS
1. Visitor visa – dependent of a worker	Partner / spouse is a holder of a temporary work visa in NZ	Visitor	If spouse or partner is non-Filipino or former Filipino, GCP attendance is required. <b>Please contact CFO.</b>

VISA CATEGORY AND PROFILE OF CLIENT	DESCRIPTION OF TRAVELER	TITLE ON NZ VISA LABEL	REMARKS
2. Visitor visa – dependent of NZ resident / citizen	Parents are NZ residents / citizens	Visitor	Attendance at PDOS / PCP is required. CFO registration sticker issued.
3. Visitor visa – partner / spouse of NZ resident	Partner / spouse is Filipino NZ resident	Visitor	Attendance at PDOS is required. CFO registration sticker issued.
4. Visitor visa – partner / spouse of NZ citizen	Partner / spouse is NZ citizen, former Filipino citizen and non-Filipino NZ resident	Visitor	Attendance at GCP is required. GCP certificate and CFO registration sticker issued.
5. Visitor visa – partner / spouse of NZ citizen or of non-Filipino NZ resident	Will not stay in NZ permanently, only a short visit declared to Immigration New Zealand (INZ).	Visitor	Attendance at GCP is required. GCP certificate issued. CFO registration is <b>not</b> required.
6. Limited visa – partner / spouse of NZ citizen or non-Filipino NZ resident	Restricted visa for limited time. Will stay with NZ boy / girlfriend or partner. Visa cannot be extended or changed. Will definitely have to return to PHL.	Limited visa	Attendance at GCP is required. GCP certificate issued. CFO registration sticker is <b>not</b> required.
7. Work visa – dependent of work visa holder	Partner / spouse is a work visa holder. Open visa. No employer listed.	Work	If spouse / partner is non-Filipino or former Filipino, then GCP attendance is required. <b>Please contact CFO.</b>
8. Work visa – dependent of a student	Partner / spouse is a student visa holder. Open visa. No employer listed.	Work	If spouse / partner is non-Filipino or former Filipino, GCP attendance is required. <b>Please contact CFO.</b>
9. Work visa – partnership	Partner / spouse is NZ citizen or non-Filipino NZ resident. Open visa. No employer listed.	Work	Attendance at GCP is required. GCP certificate and registration sticker issued.
10. Work visa – partnership	Partner / spouse is a Filipino NZ resident. Open visa. No employer listed.	Work	Attendance at PDOS is required. CFO registration sticker issued.

VISA CATEGORY AND PROFILE OF CLIENT	DESCRIPTION OF TRAVELER	TITLE ON NZ VISA LABEL	REMARKS
11. Work visa – Work To Residence (WTR) Job Search Visa (w/o employer or job offer).	With <b>pending Skilled Migrant Residence</b> (SMC or skilled migrant category) application, will travel to NZ to find a job for his residence application. Open Visa.	Work	Attendance at PDOS is required. CFO registration sticker issued.
12. <b>Work</b> / visitor / student – partner of WTR Job Search Visa holders  [Partners / spouses / dependent of WTR visa holders without job offer / employer.]	Open Visa. No employer or school listed.  Partner / spouse has a pending Skilled Migrant Residence Category application with NZ Embassy	Student or visitor	Attendance at PDOS / PCP is required. CFO registration sticker issued.
13. Residence visa holder	Residents of NZ. First time travelers to NZ after an application has been approved.	Residence	Attendance to PDOS is required. CFO registration sticker issued.

Also attached is a flyer on “**Steps to secure an appointment and register online**” for the reference. In addition, please contact the following CFO officials for further inquiries about CFO programs and services:

- Ms. Ivy D. Miravalles, Director, Migrant Integration and Education Division, Telephone No.: +63 2 552 4740, e-Mail: [imiravalles@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:imiravalles@cfo.gov.ph)
- Mr. Ariel T. Cruz, Senior Migrant Services Officer, Migrant Integration and Education Division, Telephone No.: +63 2 552 4745, e-Mail: [acruz@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:acruz@cfo.gov.ph)
- Ms. Iluminada A. Gunabe, Senior Migrant Services Officer, Migrant Integration and Education Division, Telephone No.: +63 2 552 4750, e-Mail: [igunabe@cfo.gov.ph](mailto:igunabe@cfo.gov.ph)

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