

PHOTOGRAPHERS



JOB PROSPECTS

At a glance



Chances of getting a job as a photographer are average due to a stable number of people graduating with photography qualifications each year competing for stable number of jobs.

Photographers tend to be self-employed, so income depends on how successful the photographer's business is, and how many hours they work.

Increasing numbers of people are employed as photographers on a part-time basis while working at another job, at least at the start of their career.

How to become a photographer

Photographers take photographs of people, places, products or events.

Qualifications needed

Photographers do not need qualifications to succeed, although they can be useful as a stepping stone into the industry.

Many tertiary institutions offer qualifications that can provide you with photography skills – for example, certificates or diplomas in photography, or degrees in graphic design specialising in photography. Note that gaining a qualification in photography will not guarantee you a job in the occupation.

Business skills are also seen as being key to successful self-employment as a photographer.

Cost of study

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography	Diploma in Photography
\$21,800 over three years	\$7,000 over one year

Average costs in 2016 for a domestic student. Costs vary between institutions. Some polytechnics may have a zero-fees scheme. Further costs include materials, textbooks, camera and accommodation.

Rents vary from place to place. Estimated market rents by region, city and suburb are available on the MBIE Tenancy Services website.

The StudyLink website provides general budget advice for students, and the Sorted website provides help with detailed budget planning.

- Tenancy Services: www.tenancy.govt.nz/
- StudyLink: www.studylink.govt.nz
- Sorted: www.sorted.org.nz/calculators/money-planner

Professional organisation

One way to improve your chances of being employed as a photographer is to join a professional body such as the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photography (NZIPP).

To apply for qualified professional status at NZIPP, you must submit a body of work for assessment. The NZIPP website provides more details.

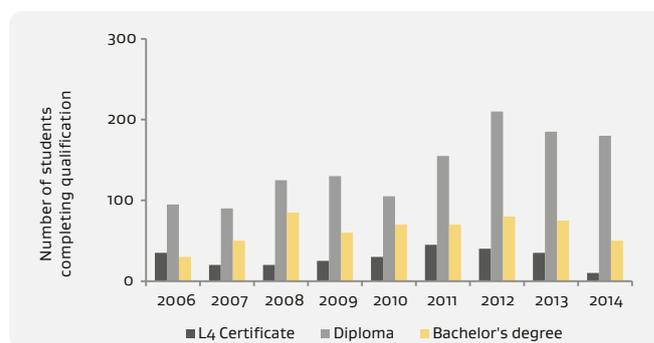
→ NZIPP: www.nzipp.org.nz/nzippweb/Default.aspx?tabid=61

Where to study

Photography courses are available at a range of tertiary institutions throughout New Zealand. Evening classes are also run at some community education centres.

Completed qualifications

The number of students completing photography qualifications fell from 330 in 2012 to 240 in 2014 (down 27%). The number of graduates has continually outstripped the number of new jobs in this occupation, meaning that many graduate photographers find work in other areas or travel overseas to find work.



Source: Ministry of Education

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Income and employment prospects

Income

Photographers are often self-employed, and can work on a pay per-photograph or per-day basis. Their incomes depend on the success of their businesses as well as how many hours they work.

In 2015, the average income for photographers is estimated to be \$40,700.

Estimated average income

\$40,700

Average income estimated from Statistics New Zealand's Census 2013 and Labour Cost Index data.

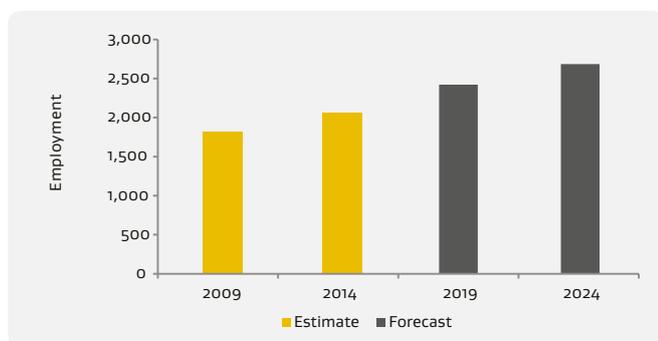
Employment and skill shortages

Photographers' employment

Current		Projected growth*	
2013	2014	2014-19	2019-24
1,950	2,100 up 5.6%	3.3% per year	2.1% per year

*Growth projections are for the broader category "Arts Professionals".

The number of people employed in photography has remained relatively stable over recent years. Because of the lack of movement in the occupation, many graduates may find it difficult to find jobs.



Source: MBIE Estimates

Medical photographers are on Immigration New Zealand's long-term skill shortage list. Medical photography is a specialised form of photography that is used to document patients and procedures in hospitals. It requires a high amount of technical knowledge and usually needs a photography degree.

If a job appears on the skill shortage list, it means the government is actively encouraging skilled people in the role to come and work in New Zealand. A full list is available on the Immigration New Zealand website.

→ Immigration NZ, skill shortage list: skillshortages.immigration.govt.nz

Where to find job vacancies

Photographer vacancies are advertised through public media such as the Trade Me Jobs and Seek websites, as well as The Big Idea website, which specialises in jobs in the creative industries.

However, many photography jobs are not advertised and are filled through a photographer's contacts.

→ Trade Me Jobs: www.trademe.co.nz/jobs

→ Seek: www.seek.co.nz

→ The Big Idea: www.thebigidea.co.nz/work/jobs-opportunities

Career path

One way to start as a photographer is to work as a photographer's assistant (usually at minimum or close to minimum wage).

Photographers may start their own photography business. They often specialise in a specific type of photography, such as weddings, portraits, or commercial.

People with experience in photography can move into many other occupations, such as a graphics designer, digital film technician, photojournalist, fine art photographer, photo retoucher, event photographer or gallery curator.

Other information

Links

More information on photographers is available on the Careers New Zealand website.

→ Careers New Zealand: www.careers.govt.nz