

A Guide to Working Holiday Schemes

February 2011

- **What are Working Holiday Schemes?**

Working Holiday schemes are reciprocal agreements made between governments of two countries to allow their citizens to travel and work temporarily in either country. The exact eligibility criteria and conditions differ from country to country, but usually the schemes are aimed at young adults who wish to travel to another country for up to one year and to find casual or temporary work in order to fund their stay.

Employment does not have to be arranged prior to travelling. In general, applicants are required to meet health and character requirements, and may be required to hold private health insurance for the duration of their trip and provide police certificates. Applicants are also generally required to have proof of reasonable funds to support themselves, and hold a return ticket or sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket.

- **What countries does Ireland have Working Holiday agreements with?**

Ireland has Working holiday agreements in place with the governments of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea (South). These agreements allow citizens of Ireland meeting the criteria to apply for a Working Holiday visa to travel to any of these countries.

In addition to the Working Holiday agreements, Irish citizens may be eligible to travel to the US under the 12 month Intern Work and Travel Programme (IWT Programme). This is an agreement that was signed in September 2008 between the Irish and US Governments that enables Irish and US citizens to work and travel in each other's countries for up to 12 months. The programme is different to the Working Holiday agreements in that in order to qualify for the programme participants should be either in post-secondary education or have recently graduated (i.e. within the last 12 months).

- **I am not an Irish citizen. Can I still apply for a Working Holiday visa to travel to another country?**

The information in this leaflet relates specifically to agreements made by the Irish Government to allow Irish citizens to travel and work in other countries. If you are not an Irish citizen you should contact the Embassy or Consulate of the particular country you are interested in going to, and check if there is a Working Holiday agreement in place with your country of citizenship.

- **Can I come to Ireland on a Working Holiday?**

Citizens of the countries listed above may be eligible to come to Ireland on a Working Holiday. In addition, US citizens may be eligible to travel to Ireland under the 12 month Intern Work and Travel Programme. For information on coming to Ireland on a Working Holiday you should contact the Irish Embassy or Consulate in your country. For an overview of Working Holidays schemes in Ireland see the Department of Foreign Affairs website:

<http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=80991>.

Country	Age Limit	Visa duration	Conditions	No. of visas available	Application fee (*as of Feb 2011)	Processing Time	How to Apply	Further Information
Argentina	18-30 inclusive	<p>Must enter Argentina within 12 months of the date of issue.</p> <p>Visa is valid for 6 months from the date of arrival in Argentina; renewable for a further 3 months at the Immigration Service Office in Argentina</p>	<p>Employment can be full-time and in any sector - however not permitted to engage in permanent employment.</p> <p>May register in study/training courses of no longer than 3 months duration.</p> <p>Cannot include spouse or dependents on the visa; spouses/dependents would need to apply separately for a transitory visa.</p>	Up to 100 visas per year	€40.00	Approximately 2 weeks	<p>Can apply at any time throughout the year.</p> <p>Contact the Embassy of Argentina in Dublin to obtain an application form</p>	<p>Embassy of Argentina 15 Ailesbury Drive, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.</p> <p>Tel: +353 (0)1 269 1546</p> <p>Email: embassyofargentina@eircom.net</p>
Australia	18-30 inclusive (i.e. must apply before your 31 st birthday)	<p>Must enter Australia within 12 months of date of issue.</p> <p>Visa is valid for up to 12 months from date of entry to Australia.</p> <p>May be eligible to apply for a 2nd visa if certain conditions are fulfilled.</p>	<p>Employment can be in any sector for a maximum of 6 months with each employer.</p> <p>Cannot be accompanied by spouse or dependants.</p>	Not capped	\$235 AUD (approx. £147 GBP or €172)	<p>Standard guide processing time is 6 days for a first Working Holiday visa, and 21 days for a second Working Holiday visa.</p> <p>At a minimum 48 hours for online applications; up to 4 weeks for paper applications.</p>	<p>Can apply at any time throughout the year.</p> <p>Can apply online at www.immi.gov.au/e-visa/working-holiday.htm</p> <p>or</p> <p>Can apply by post.</p> <p>If applying by post, application forms can be obtained at http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1150.pdf</p>	<p>Australian High Commission, Attn. Department of Immigration & Citizenship Suite 100, 43 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9HA, UK</p> <p>Tel: +44 (0) 20 7856 1563</p> <p>Email enquiry form: http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/europe/</p> <p>Web: www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/417/</p>

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Canada	18-35 inclusive	<p>Must enter Canada within 12 months of date of issue</p> <p>Work permit is valid for a maximum of 12 months from date of entry to Canada</p> <p>Possible to get a 2nd visa for another year</p>	<p>Must be a citizen of Ireland and must be physically residing Ireland for a period of at least three years full-time prior to applying (temporary absence for study or short-term work is permitted)</p> <p>Possible to apply if you have a spouse/partner/dependents</p> <p>Can work in any type of job. Can work for any number of employers within the 12 month period.</p>	5,000 (in 2011)	\$150 CDN (approx. €110)	Approximately 8 weeks after application is received at the Embassy of Canada in Paris, France.	<p>Applications may be made directly to the Government of Canada.</p> <p>Applicants must register online with International Experience Canada at www.canada.ie and provide an email address to access a personalised application kit.</p> <p>The completed application must then be sent by <u>post to the Embassy of Canada in France</u> for processing.</p> <p>USIT has also been allocated limited places for participants. See www.workincanada.ie for more information on the USIT scheme.</p>	<p>Embassy of Canada 7-8 Wilton Terrace Dublin 2</p> <p>Tel.: (+ 353 1) 234 4000</p> <p>Email: ldn.iec@international.gc.ca</p> <p>Web: www.canada.ie (International Experience Canada page)</p>
Japan	18-25 inclusive; may be extended to 30 on agreement with the authorities of the Government of Japan	Valid for up to 12 months from date of entry	<p>Must be a citizen of and resident in Ireland.</p> <p>Must not be accompanied by dependents.</p> <p>Visa is valid for single entry only - must obtain a re-entry permit before leaving Japan if planning to return.</p>	Up to 400 per year	Free of charge	Applications should be made at least 3 weeks before the planned departure date	<p>Can apply at any time throughout the year.</p> <p>Application forms are available online at http://www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/application%20form.pdf or from the Embassy of Japan.</p> <p>Applications should be made in person at the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, and applicants may be interviewed.</p>	<p>Embassy of Japan in Ireland, Nutley Building, Merrion Centre, Nutley Lane, Dublin 4</p> <p>Tel: 01 202 8300</p> <p>Email: consular@embjp.ie</p> <p>Web: www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/Working%20Holiday%20(Info).htm</p>

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Hong Kong	18-30 inclusive	Up to 12 months	<p>Must be a citizen of and resident in Ireland.</p> <p>Must not engage in permanent employment and should not work for the same employer for more than 3 months.</p> <p>Entry applications from dependent spouse/children to join the participants will not be considered</p>	Up to 100 visas per year	Free of charge	Approximately 2 weeks from receipt of full application	<p>Can apply at any time throughout the year.</p> <p>Guidelines and application forms can be obtained online at http://www.immd.gov.hk/eh/tml/fholiday.htm, or from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Dublin.</p> <p>Applications can be sent by post directly to the Immigration Department in Hong Kong; or By post or in person to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Dublin.</p>	<p>Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ireland 40 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel: 01 219 6651</p> <p>Email: chinaemb_ie@mfa.gov.cn Web: http://ie.china-embassy.org</p> <p>Immigration Department, Government of Hong Kong S.A.R. Tel: +852 2824 6111</p> <p>Email: enquiry@immd.gov.hk Web: www.immd.gov.hk/eh/tml/hkvisas_holiday.htm</p>
New Zealand	18-30 inclusive	<p>Must enter New Zealand within 12 months of date of issue.</p> <p>Visa is valid for up to 12 months from date of entry to New Zealand.</p>	<p>Must be a citizen of Ireland.</p> <p>Must not be accompanied by dependents.</p> <p>Must not take up permanent employment.</p>	Not capped	£70 GBP (approx. €80)	<p>Online applications processed more quickly than paper applications</p> <p>Response should be received in approx. 48 hours for online applications; up to 30 days for paper applications</p>	<p>Can apply online at https://www.immigration.govt.nz/secure/default.htm,</p> <p>or</p> <p>Can apply by post via the London Branch of Immigration New Zealand.</p> <p>If applying by post application forms are available at http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/howdoiapply/default.htm</p>	<p>Immigration New Zealand, Mezzanine Floor, NZ House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE UK</p> <p>Tel: +44 134 471 6199</p> <p>Web: www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/irelandworkingholidayscheme.htm</p>

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Republic of Korea (South Korea)	18-30 inclusive	Must enter South Korea within 12 months of date of issue May stay in South Korea for a maximum of 12 months from date of entry	Must be a citizen of Ireland Cannot be accompanied by spouses or dependents Should not engage in full-time permanent employment	400 annually	€64	Not stated	Must submit an application form and other required documents to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dublin	Embassy of the Republic of Korea 15 Clyde Road Ballsbridge Dublin 4 Tel: 01 668 8800 or 01 660 8053 Email: irekoremb@mofat.go.kr Web: http://irl.mofat.go.kr
USA* <i>*This information refers to the 12 month Intern Work and Travel Programme with the USA which allows entry to the United States to participate in internships and to travel independently for a period of up to 12 months.</i>	Must be over 18. No upper age limit as long as you are a current full-time or part-time third-level student or a recent graduate	Up to 12 months	Must be a citizen of Ireland Must be either currently enrolled and participating in a post-secondary college/university course recognised as the equivalent to or higher than Level 6 of the Irish Higher Education System, or have graduated within the previous 12 months. May not be accompanied by dependents. Do not have to have a placement/ internship lined up in advance	20,000	Each sponsoring organisation is responsible for setting its own programme fees (can vary from €480 - €700 approx) In addition, applicants must pay a SEVIS fee of \$180, a visa application fee of \$140 and 12 months insurance.	Approximately 6-8 weeks May depend on which sponsoring organisation is used.	Can apply at any time throughout the year. Must apply through an approved sponsoring organisation; cannot apply directly to a US Embassy/Consulate.	More detailed guidelines and application information is available from any of the sponsoring organisations. See http://www.migrantproject.ie/documents/New12MonthWorkandTravelVisatoUSA-CMPApril2009_000.pdf for contact details and a more detailed factsheet. Embassy of the United States 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel: 01 668 8777 Web: http://dublin.usembassy.gov/general/twelve-month-intern-work-and-travel-pilot-program.html

Disclaimer: This is a reference guide only. Crosscare Migrant Project has made every effort to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate; however, policies and legislation can change at any time. All information within should be clarified with the relevant government department or authority before any decision is made. Please contact Crosscare Migrant Project if you have any questions.