

A Guide to Working Holiday Schemes

August 2009

- **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.

- **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 and New Zealand. 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, Irish citizens may be eligible to travel to the US under the 12 month Work and Travel Programme.*

- **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 Argentina, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan and New Zealand 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 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>.

**The 12 month Work and Travel Programme is a new agreement that was signed in September 2008 between the Irish and US Government 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 other 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).*

Country	Age Limit	Visa duration	Conditions	No. of visas available	Application fee (*as of Aug 2009)	Processing Time	How to Apply	Further Information
Argentina	18-30 inclusive	Must enter Argentina within 12 months of the date of issue. Visa is valid for 6 months from the date of arrival in Argentina; renewable for a further 3 months	Employment can be full-time and in any sector - however cannot engage in permanent employment. Cannot be accompanied by spouse or dependents	Up to 100 visas per year	€40.00	Approximately 2 weeks	Can apply at any time throughout the year. Irish citizens should contact the Embassy of Argentina in Dublin to obtain an application form	Embassy of Argentina 15 Ailesbury Drive, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Telephone: 01 269 1546 Email: embassyofargentina@eircom.net
Australia	18-30 inclusive	Must enter Australia within 12 months of date of issue. Visa is valid for up to 12 months. May be eligible to apply for a 2nd visa if certain conditions are fulfilled.	Employment can be in any sector for a maximum of 6 months with each employer. Cannot be accompanied by spouse or dependants.	No limit on number available per year	\$230 AUD (approx. £115 GBP or €132)	Minimum 48 hours for online applications; up to 4 weeks for paper applications. Standard processing time is 6 days for a first Working Holiday visa, and 21 days for a second Working Holiday visa.	Can apply at any time throughout the year. Can apply online at www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/working-holiday.htm <i>or</i> Can apply by post. Application forms can be obtained at http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1150.pdf	Migration Branch, Australian High Commission, Strand, London WC2B 4LA Tel: +44 (0) 20 7856 1563 Email enquiry form: http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/europe/ Web: www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/417/

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Canada (2 separate Programmes exist for Canada - Student & Under-35s)	18-35 inclusive	Must travel before 31st December in the year the visa is issued. Visa is valid for a maximum of 12 months	To apply under the Student Programme an applicant must be registered as a full-time day student at a third level educational institution in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Must be a citizen of and resident in Ireland. Must not have any dependents.	Limited. Waiting list operates when the Programme is full.	€489	Approximately 8-10 weeks after submitting the full application.	Applications can only be made online via USIT at http://canada.usit.ie after the opening date. The opening date for the Student Programme is usually around late November each year; and early December for the Under-35 Programme. Applicants are advised to apply as soon as possible after the opening date as both Programmes tend to fill up each year.	Canadian High Commission London, Immigration Section, 38 Grosvenor Street, London W1K 4AA Web: www.unitedkingdom.gc.ca USIT, 19-21 Aston Quay, Dublin 2 Tel: 01 602 1906 Email: canada@usit.ie Web: http://canada.usit.ie/
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	Must be a citizen of and resident in Ireland. Must not be accompanied by dependents. Visa is valid for single entry only - must obtain a re-entry permit before leaving Japan if planning to return.	Up to 400 per year	Free of charge	Applications should be made at least 3 weeks before the planned departure date	Can apply at any time throughout the year. Application forms are available online at www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/apply-form.pdf or from the Embassy of Japan. Applications should be made in person at the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, and applicants may be interviewed.	Embassy of Japan in Ireland, Nutley Building, Merrion Centre, Nutley Lane, Dublin 4 Tel: 01 202 8300 Email: consular@embjp.ie Web: www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/Working%20Holiday%20(Info).htm

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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/ehtml/fholiday.htm, or from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.</p> <p>Applications can be sent by post directly to the Employment and Visit Visas Section, Immigration Department, 24/F Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong; or By post or in person to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.</p>	<p>Immigration Department, Government of Hong Kong S.A.R. Tel: +852 2864 6111 Email: enquiry@immd.gov.hk Web: www.immd.gov.hk/ehtml/hkvisas_holiday.htm</p> <p>Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ireland, 40 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel: 01 219 6644 or 01 219 6651 Email: chinaemb_ie@mfa.gov.cn or Web: http://ie.china-embassy.org</p>
New Zealand	18-30 inclusive	Up to 12 months	<p>Must be a citizen of Ireland.</p> <p>Must not be accompanied by dependents.</p> <p>Must not take up permanent employment.</p>	No limit on number available per year	£45 GBP (approx. €52)	Approx. 48 hours for online applications; up to 30 days for paper applications	<p>Can apply online at https://www.immigration.govt.nz/secure/default.htm, or Can apply by post via the London Branch of Immigration New Zealand.</p> <p>Application forms are available at http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/howdoiapply/default.htm</p>	<p>Immigration New Zealand, London Branch, Mezzanine Floor, NZ House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1 4TE Tel: +44 134 471 6199 Web: www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/irelandworkingholidayscheme.htm</p>

Country	Age Limit	Visa duration	Conditions	No. of visas available	Application fee (*as of Aug 2009)	Processing Time	How to Apply	Further Information
USA*	Must be over 18. No upper age limit as long as you are a current full-time third-level student or 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 in an accredited institution within the 32 counties of Ireland, or have graduated within the previous 12 months. May not be accompanied by dependents.	20,000	Varies as each sponsoring organisation is responsible for setting its own fees. All applicants must pay a programme application fee, a SEVIS fee, 12 months insurance, and a visa application /processing fee.	Approximately 6-8 weeks May depend on which sponsoring organisation is used	Can apply at any time throughout the year. Must apply via 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 www.migrantproject.ie for contact details. See also Embassy of the United States Dublin, 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel: 01 668 8777 Email: dublinvisainfounit@state.gov Web: http://dublin.usembassy.gov/general/twelve-month-intern-work-and-travel-pilot-program.html

**This information refers to the 12 month Intern Work and Travel Programme with the USA. See Crosscare Migrant Project website for more detailed factsheet: www.migrantproject.ie.*

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.