

Working Holidays for Irish citizens



January 2019

What are working holidays?

Working Holiday schemes are agreements made between governments of two countries to allow their citizens to **travel and work temporarily** in either country. The eligibility criteria and conditions differ from country to country, but usually working holiday schemes are aimed at **young adults** who wish to travel to another country for a holiday allowing them to find casual or temporary work while they are there.

Employment usually does not have to be arranged before travelling, although there may be restrictions on the type of work you can do and/or the length of time you can work for each employer. In general you are required to meet health and character requirements and hold private health insurance for the duration of your trip. You are also usually required to have proof of reasonable funds to support yourself, and hold a return ticket or enough funds to purchase one. You might need to provide police clearance certificates.

How old can I be to go on a working holiday?

The age range is different for each country but generally ranges from 18 - 30 or 35. The age limit for each country is given below on the relevant page.

What countries can I go to on a working holiday?

Ireland has Working Holiday Agreements with the governments of **Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea (South)** and **Taiwan**. These agreements allow citizens of Ireland who meet the criteria to apply for a Working Holiday visa to travel to any of these countries.

In addition to the Working Holidays, Irish citizens may be eligible to travel to the **USA** under the 12 month **Intern Work and Travel Programme** (IWT Programme) or to **Canada** under the 12 month **Internship Co-op** and/or the 24 month **Young Professionals** categories of the International Experience Canada (IEC).

I am not an Irish citizen. Can I apply for a working holiday visa to travel to another country?

The information in **this leaflet relates specifically to Irish citizens**. If you are not an Irish citizen you should contact the local Embassy of the country you are interested in going to and check if there is a Working Holiday agreement in place with your country.

Can I come to Ireland on a working holiday visa?

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 website of the Department of Foreign Affairs:
www.dfa.ie/travel/visas/working-holiday-visas/.

Argentina

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 35** inclusive to apply for this visa

Visa duration

The visa is valid for **twelve months** from the date of entrance into Argentina.

Conditions

- The main reason for travelling to Argentina must be for a holiday
- You can work temporarily
- You can study for up to 4 months
- You cannot engage in permanent employment
- You cannot be accompanied by a spouse or dependent children. Your spouse would need to apply separately for a transitory visa

Number of visas available

There are up to **200 visas** available per year

Application fee

€150.00

Processing time

It takes approximately two to three days for the visa to be authorised once all the required documents have been submitted and approved

How to apply

Contact the Embassy of Argentina in Dublin to obtain detailed requirements and an application form.

Further information

Embassy of Argentina, 15 Ailesbury Drive, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tel: 01 269 1546 or 01 269 1713

Email: secon_eirla@mrecic.gov.ar

Australia

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 35** (inclusive) to apply for this visa

Visa duration

You must enter Australia within twelve months from the date your visa is granted. Your visa is then valid for up to **twelve months** from the date you enter Australia. You may be eligible to apply for a second visa if you meet certain conditions when you are on your first visa

Conditions

- You can study up to four months
- You can work for up to six months with each employer
- You cannot be accompanied by a spouse or dependant children
- You must meet certain character requirements and health criteria
- You must have enough money to support yourself for the initial stage of your holiday (guide of 5,000 AUD, approximately €3,165)
- You can leave and re-enter Australia any number of times while the visa is valid

Number of visas available

There is no cap on the number of visas available

Application fee

450 AUD for online applications (approximately €285)

530 AUD for paper applications (approximately €336)

Processing time

Between 21 and 53 days

How to apply

You can **apply online** or **by post**.

Further information

Migration Branch, Australian High Commission, Strand, London, WC2B 4LA, UK

Tel: 0044 20 7420 3690

Email enquiry form: www.border.gov.au/about/contact/make-enquiry/general

Web: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/417-

Canada

The information below relates to the **Working Holiday category of the International Experience Canada (IEC)** only. For information on the IEC Young Professionals and International Co-op categories go to www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 35** (inclusive) to apply

Visa duration

Your Port of Entry letter will be valid for entry to Canada for twelve months from the date it is issued. You can stay in Canada for **twenty four months** from the date you enter

Conditions

- You must be a citizen of Ireland
- You must have a return ticket or enough funds to be able to purchase one
- You must have at least 2,500 CAD (approximately €1,700)
- You must not be accompanied by dependents
- You must have insurance cover for medical and healthcare expenses for the duration of your stay

Number of visas available

There are 10,700 visas available

Application fee

150 CAD (approximately €100)

Processing time

It takes approximately 8 weeks to process your application

How to apply

The application process normally opens early in the year and you only apply online

Further information

Web: www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/

You can also read our leaflet '**Applying for the International Experience Canada in 2019**' available at <https://www.migrantproject.ie/leaving-ireland/working-abroad/>

Chile

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 30** (inclusive) to apply for this visa

Visa duration

The duration of the visa is at the discretion of the Chilean Immigration Authorities but it will generally be **365 days** from date of entry into Chile. After the visa is issued, you will be informed about the length of time you have to enter Chile which is usually **just one month or two months**.

Conditions

- You must hold an Irish passport and be ordinarily resident in Ireland
- You must be aged between 18 and 30 (inclusive) at time of application
- Your main reason for travelling to Chile must be for a holiday
- You cannot be accompanied by a spouse or dependent children
- You must have a return ticket or enough money to buy one
- You must have enough money to maintain yourself for the duration of your stay and this amount is at the discretion of the Chilean authorities
- You cannot have a criminal record
- You must agree to hold medical and comprehensive hospitalization insurance, as well as liability insurance to cover you for the duration of your stay

Number of visas available

There are up to **100 visas** available to Irish applicants per year

Application fee

Free of charge

Processing time

It takes approximately two to four weeks after receipt of all required documentation

How to apply

Applicants should submit their applications to the Consulate of Chile, **44 Wellington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4**. The visa should be requested as a **Visa de Residencia Titular**, with the following documents: Passport, Recent passport photo, Garda Clearance Certificate, most recent Bank statement, Medical Certificate stating you suffer No Communicable Diseases of any kind, and a brief letter explaining your plans for the Work and Holiday programme.

Further information

Embassy of Chile, 44 Wellington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tel: 00 353 1 6675094

Email: dublin@consulado.gob.cl

Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 30** inclusive to apply for this visa

Visa duration

Your visa will be valid for up to **twelve months** from the date you enter Hong Kong

Conditions

- You must be an Irish citizen and be ordinarily resident in Ireland
- You must be able to show that you possess HK \$20,000 (approximately €2,382)
- You must provide evidence of a return ticket, or enough funds to purchase one
- You must hold valid medical, healthcare (including hospitalisation), repatriation and liability insurance for the duration of your stay
- Your primary intention should be to holiday in Hong Kong
- You cannot work for the same employer for more than three months
- You are not permitted to take part in study or training courses
- You must not be accompanied by dependents

Number of visas available

There are up to 200 visas available to Irish citizens per year

Application fee

Free of charge

Processing time

It will normally take two weeks to process your visa application.

How to apply

The application form and guidance notes are available online to download from www.immd.gov.hk/eng/forms/forms/id-e-940.html or from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Dublin

Further information

Web: www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/working_holiday_scheme.html

Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 40 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 219 6651

Employment and Visit Visas Section, Immigration Department, 24/F, Immigration Tower,
7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: 00852 2824 6111, Email: enquiry@immd.gov.hk

Japan

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 30** inclusive in order to apply for this visa. The upper age limit may be extended to 30 on agreement with the authorities of the Government of Japan

Visa duration

Your visa will be valid for a period of twelve months from the date of issue. When you enter Japan, you will normally be granted with permission to remain for up to **one year**

Conditions

- You must be an Irish citizen and you must be resident in the Republic of Ireland
- You must be able to show that you possess at least €3,200, or have a return or onward journey ticket and €1,600
- You must be in good health and have no criminal record
- You must have health insurance
- You must have travel insurance
- You must not be accompanied by dependents
- Your main reason for travelling to Japan must not be to work
- Your visa is valid for a single entry only. You must obtain a re-entry permit before leaving Japan if you plan to return

Number of visas available

There are up to 400 visas available to Irish citizens per year

Application fee

Free of charge

Processing time

It will normally take five working days to process your visa application

How to apply

Contact the Embassy of Japan in Dublin

Further information

Embassy of Japan in Ireland, Nutley Building, Merrion Centre, Nutley Lane, Dublin 4

Tel: 01 202 8300

Email: consular@ir.mofa.go.jp

Web: www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000070.html

New Zealand

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 30** inclusive to apply for this visa.

Visa duration

You must enter New Zealand within twelve months of the date the visa is issued.
Your visa is then valid for up to **twelve months** from the date you enter New Zealand.

Conditions

- You must be a citizen of Ireland with a passport valid for at least 3 months after your departure from New Zealand
- You must be able to show that you possess NZ \$4,200 (approximately €2,850)
- You must provide evidence of a return ticket, or enough funds to purchase one
- You must meet health and character requirements
- You can take part in study or training courses for up to three months
- You must not be accompanied by dependents
- You must not take up permanent employment

Number of visas available

There is no cap on the number of visas available

Application fee

NZ \$208 (approximately €142)

Processing time

Most are processed within 25 days.

How to apply

You can apply online at www.immigration.govt.nz/secure/default.htm. Only online applications are accepted.

Further information

Visa Application Centre, Burwood House, 14-16 Caxton Street, London, SW1H 0QY, UK
Tel: 0044 203 582 7499

Email: ttslondonnz@ttsvisas.com

Web:

www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/irelandworkingholidayshome.htm

Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 30** inclusive to apply for this visa.

Visa duration

Your visa is valid for twelve months from the date of issue. You may stay in Korea for a maximum of **twelve months** from the date you enter

Conditions

- You must be an Irish citizen
- You cannot be accompanied by a spouse or dependents
- You cannot engage in full-time permanent employment
- You may enroll in a course of study or training for a maximum of six months
- You must possess a return ticket or enough money to buy a return ticket
- You must be able to show that you possess sufficient funds
- You must agree to undertake a medical and you must have health insurance to cover your stay in Korea
- You must not have a criminal record
- You must register with a local immigration office or branch office within 90 days of arrival in Korea

Number of visas available

There are up to 400 visas available to Irish citizens per year

Application fee

€81

Processing time

Not stated

How to apply

Contact the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dublin for further information and an application form

Further information

Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 15 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tel: 01 660 8800 or 01 660 8053

Email: irekoremb@mofat.go.kr

Web: <http://irl.mofat.go.kr/english/eu/irl/visa/workingholiday/index.jsp>

Taiwan (Republic of China)

Age limit

You must be aged **18 to 30** inclusive to apply for this visa

Visa duration

You must enter Taiwan within 12 months of the date the visa was issued. Your initial visa is valid for a period of 180 days (**six months**), however you may apply to extend your visa for a further 180 days (six months) once you are in Taiwan

Conditions

- You must be an Irish citizen and be resident in Ireland
- Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your departure from Taiwan
- You must be able to show that you possess €4,000 (to cover living expenses and a return ticket) OR €2,500 and be in possession of a return ticket
- You can take part in training programs or courses for up to six months
- You must not have a criminal record
- You must have health insurance
- You cannot be accompanied by a spouse or dependents
- You cannot engage in full-time permanent employment

Number of visas available

There are up to 400 visas available to Irish citizens per year

Application fee

€86 paid by postal order or bank draft addressed to 'Taipei Representative Office in Ireland'

Processing time

Not stated

How to apply

You must complete the application form online at <https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw>. Print the completed form and then apply in person at the Taipei Representative Office. Call 01 678 5413 to make an appointment in advance

Further information

Taipei Representative Office, 8 Lower Hatch Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 678 5413

Web: <http://www.roc-taiwan.org/ie/>

United States of America (Intern Work and Travel Programme)

Age limit

You must be over 18

Visa duration

This visa allows you to stay in the United States for up to 12 months

Conditions

- You must be a citizen of Ireland
- You must be currently enrolled and participating in a post-secondary college or university course or a QQI course equivalent to or higher than Level 6 of the Irish Higher Education System; or you must have graduated from such a course within the last twelve months
- You must show that you have at least \$2,000
- If your internship is unpaid, you must also show that you have access to at least \$1,000/month for the duration of your stay
- You cannot be accompanied by a spouse or dependents
- While in the USA, you cannot hold any other employment apart from your internship

Number of visas available

There are 20,000 visas available to Irish citizens under this programme

Application fee

The fees vary depending on which sponsoring organisation you decide to use. In addition to the programme fee, you will also have to pay a SEVIS fee of US\$180 and a visa application fee of US\$160

Processing time

This may depend on which sponsoring organisation you use, but on average it takes approximately six to eight weeks to process your application

How to apply

You must make your application through an approved sponsoring organisation. It is not possible to apply directly through the US Embassy

Further information

Contact one of the sponsoring organisations for more information. Read our leaflet 'Intern Work and Travel Programme: 12 month US visa for Irish graduates' for details of these:

<https://www.migrantproject.ie/leaving-ireland/working-abroad/>

If you are considering going abroad on a working holiday
and would like some more information

contact us

call 01 873 2844

or

Email migrantproject@crosscare.ie

You can also see our website: www.migrantproject.ie

We would like to acknowledge the support of the
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Emigrant Support Program



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Disclaimer: This leaflet contains guidelines 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 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.