

Working Holidays for Irish citizens



January 2020

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

Six (6) months with the possibility of an additional extension of three (3) months

Conditions

- The main reason for travelling to Argentina must be for a holiday
- You can work temporarily only and cannot engage in permanent employment
- You can study for up to 3 months
- You cannot be accompanied by a spouse or dependent children. Your spouse would need to apply separately for a transitory visa
- You must not have any criminal convictions

Number of visas available

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

Application fee

€50.00

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

Download and complete the application form from

<https://eirla.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/content/working-holiday-visa> and present this to the Embassy of Argentina in Dublin along with the required documentation and fee.

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)
- 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

485 AUD

Processing time

Between 12 and 35 days

How to apply

Create an ImmiAccount and apply online at <https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>

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: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/first-working-holiday-417>

Canada

The information below relates to the **International Experience Canada (IEC)**, including the **Working Holiday, Young Professionals, and International Co-op (Internship)** pools

Age limit

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

Visa duration

For the **Working Holiday** and **Young Professionals** categories, you can stay in Canada for **twenty four months** from the date you enter Canada. For the **International Co-Op (Internship)** you can stay in Canada for **twelve months** from the date you enter Canada.

Conditions

- You must be a citizen of Ireland with an Irish passport valid for your stay in Canada
- You must have a return ticket or enough funds to be able to purchase one
- You must have at least 2,500 CAD (approximately €1,725)
- You must not be accompanied by dependents
- You must have health insurance cover for the duration of your stay
- You must not be [inadmissible](#) to Canada
- **Young Professionals category only:** have a signed letter of offer or contract of employment in Canada (this must be in your field of expertise and contribute to your professional development)
- **International Co-Op (Internship) category only:** be registered as a student at a post-secondary institution in Ireland, and have a signed letter of offer or a signed contract for a work placement or an internship in Canada that meets the requirements of your academic curriculum in Ireland

Number of visas available

Details pending (there were 10,700 visas available to Irish applicants in 2019)

Application fee

From 153 CAD (approximately €105)

Processing time

It takes from 10 weeks to process your application

How to apply

Before you can apply, you need to create an online profile expressing your interest in the IEC. Successful candidates are then be invited to complete an application for a work permit in one or more of the categories/pools, subject to eligibility and availability.

Further information

Web: www.cic.gc.ca/iec-iec/

Chile

Age limit

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

Visa duration

At the discretion of the Chilean Immigration Authorities (usually **365 days** from entry date).

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
- 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**.

Further information

For further information, please contact the Consulate of Chile in Ireland by email to echile.irlanda@minrel.gob.cl or by phone 01 667 5094 / 01667 5094

Web: <https://chile.gob.cl/irlanda/en/relacion-bilateral/solicitudes-presentadas-por-nacionales-irlandeses-en-relacion-con-el-memorando-de-entendimiento-entre-el-gobierno-de-la-republ/solicitudes-presentadas-por-nacionales-irlandeses-en-relacion-con-el>

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 €2,325)
- 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 and 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 800 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 €2,500)
- You must provide evidence of a return ticket, or enough funds to purchase one
- You must meet health and character requirements, and genuine intentions
- You can take part in study or training courses for up to six 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 \$280 (approximately €166)

Processing time

Most are processed within 27 days.

How to apply

Create account and apply online at <https://onlineservices.immigration.govt.nz/?WHS>

Further information

Contact details: www.immigration.govt.nz/contact

Web: www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/ireland-working-holiday-visa

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 hold medical and comprehensive hospitalization insurance to cover your stay
- 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 600 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://overseas.mofa.go.kr/ie-en/wpge/m_8216/contents.do

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 from your expected arrival date
- You must be able to show that you possess at least €4000, OR €2500 and a valid return or onward flight 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

For more information see: www.boca.gov.tw/cp-153-388-4761a-2.html and www.youthtaiwan.net/WorkingHolidayen/Default.aspx

Or contact the 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 sufficient funds for the duration of your stay and your return journey home
- 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** by phone on 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
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Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



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

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