## **WORKING HOLIDAY VISA**



## Working Holiday in Hong Kong (applying whilst in Hong Kong as a visitor)

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## Applying For A Working Holiday Visa Whilst Visiting Hong Kong?

The Hong Kong Working Holiday Scheme is a program that allows young people from participating countries and territories to travel to Hong Kong and take up short-term employment while also experiencing the local culture.

This initiative is designed to promote cultural exchange and encourage tourism between Hong Kong and other countries. The program is open to individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who hold a valid passport from one of the participating countries or territories.

Family members must qualify for and hold Working Holiday Visas of their own if they wish to travel as a family and dependant visas are not available to a Working Holiday Visa holder as sponsor. These countries include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The duration of the program is 12 months, during which time participants are free to travel around Hong Kong and work for a period of up to six months with any one employer. They can also take up study or enrol in short-term courses, provided

that they do not exceed six months in duration. Participants are also free to engage in volunteer work during their stay.

To apply for the Working Holiday Scheme, interested individuals must submit an online application or offline direct to the Hong Kong Immigration Department using from ID(E)940 along with supporting documents such as a copy of their passport and a recent photograph. They must also provide evidence of financial support, such as a bank statement, and a return air ticket or sufficient funds to purchase one. Once the application is approved, participants are issued with a QR code Approval Letter, allowing them to enter Hong Kong and take up employment. or participate in short term studies. Permitted activities are allowed for certain lengths of time depending on the nationality of the visa holder.

The Hong Kong Working Holiday Scheme requires interested individuals to submit a valid passport from one of the participating countries or territories, a recent photograph, evidence of financial support such as a bank statement, a return air ticket or sufficient funds to purchase one, and comprehensive travel insurance that covers the entire period of stay in Hong Kong. Additional documents may also be required by the Immigration Department of Hong Kong depending on the individual circumstances of the applicant. It is important to note that the specific requirements may vary depending on the country or territory of the applicant's nationality. Technically, the rules associated with applying for a Working Holiday Visa denote that the applicant should apply for this visa whilst being physically situate in their home country but it appears ImmD have consistently exercised flexibility about this requirement and you can be physically present in Hong Kong on the day you apply for this visa. You will however need to exit Hong Kong and re-enter again in order to activate your Working Holiday Visa once the QR code Approval Letter has been granted to you.

If your Visitor visa is set to expire shortly, you must manage your Visitor status limit of stay separately as there is no provision by ImmD to automatically grant you an extension to your Visitor visa due merely to the fact that you have an application for a Working Holiday Visa pending. You may therefore need to undertake the Shenzhen Shuttle to remain compliant until your Working Holiday Visa approval comes in.

Useful Resource 1	Working Holiday in Hong Kong
Useful Resource 2	<u>Eligibility</u>
Useful Resource 3	<u>Partner Economy</u>
Useful Resource 4	Annual Quotas
Useful Resource 5	<u>Shenzhen Shuttle</u>
Hong Kong Visa Handbook Contents  Working Holiday Visa Information	
Online Forms	
Application and Enquiries	
Online Application	
<u>Various Scenarios</u>	