

Australia

A Chance To Broaden Your Horizons

A Guide for Applicants
in Hong Kong

The Scheme

A Working Holiday Scheme was set up between Australia and Hong Kong in 2001. Under the Scheme, young people of Hong Kong may apply for a Working Holiday Visa to Australia. The purpose of the Scheme is to broaden the horizons of young people. It provides an opportunity for young people to gain first-hand living experience in a foreign culture while they are on holiday in Australia and to supplement their funds through incidental employment.

Working Holiday Visa

Successful applicants will be issued an Australian Working Holiday Visa. A Working Holiday Visa is a multiple entry visa valid for a one-year stay in Australia from the date of entry. During your stay, you can take up short-term employment of not more than six months with any one employer and can engage in any studies or training for up to four months. There are currently 1,000 places per year available under this Scheme.

Eligibility

To obtain an Australian Working Holiday Visa, you must:

- > be a resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), and be ordinarily resident in the HKSAR at the time of application, and have a valid HKSAR or BNO passport;
- > intend primarily to holiday in Australia;
- > be aged between 18 and 30 and not be accompanied by dependant children;
- > have at least AU\$5,000 and have a return or onward ticket when you arrive in Australia; and
- > be of good health and of good character.

Preparing Your Application

You may apply for a Working Holiday Visa through Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website - www.immi.gov.au

Applications (together with your passport) can also be lodged in person, or sent by mail to the Australian Consulate General in Hong Kong, or lodged online at www.immi.gov.au.

The application includes:

- > a completed Form 1150 "Application for a Working Holiday visa" and your passport, preferably with a validity for the entire period of your intended stay in Australia;
- > an application fee of AU\$195 (subject to change due to currency fluctuation, please check the exact application fee in Hong Kong dollars from DIAC website). EPS and credit card payments (Mastercard and Visa) are accepted;
- > evidence of sufficient funds for a return or onward fare. You should also provide evidence of sufficient funds (AU\$5,000) for the initial stage of your working holiday (e.g. bank statements or savings book); and
- > relevant medical reports where necessary (you may be required to undergo a medical examination undertaken by panel doctors and radiologists chosen by the Australian Government at your own expense).

The Australian Consulate General can be contacted through their email address immigration.hongkong@dfat.gov.au, by phone +852 2827 8881 or by fax +852 2585 4459 if you have any inquiries. Further information and visa application forms can be accessed via the Australian Consulate General's website – www.hongkong.china.embassy.gov.au/ or the website of the DIAC – www.immi.gov.au

Lodging Your Application

Applications lodged online may be processed within two working days.

Applications lodged in Hong Kong may be lodged in person or mailed to the Visa Office of the Australian Consulate General and may take up to four weeks. The address is:

Visa Office, Australian Consulate General

24/F, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Attn: Australia/Hong Kong Working Holiday Scheme

Applicants may be interviewed when necessary by representatives of the Australian Government to determine the eligibility for the granting of a visa.

Visa processing times vary. You will be notified by DIAC when a decision has been made on your application. If the visa is not granted, there is no provision to refund the charge.

Remarks: Detailed arrangements for the Scheme may vary from time to time. Applicants are advised to check with the Australian Consulate General before application.

Finding Work While in Australia

There are no restrictions on the type of employment undertaken by working holidaymakers. Employment in a profession, however, is dependent upon recognition of qualifications and any rules of registration for practice in that profession.

Many seasonal industries throughout Australia seek people with Working Holiday Visas for casual employment. You can find out about work opportunities by visiting the Centrelink offices located all around Australia, or by searching the "Australian Job Search" website – www.jobsearch.gov.au

Working Holidaymakers who are employed for three months in specified work in regional Australia may be eligible for a second Working Holiday Visa and can apply online in Australia or outside Australia.

For information about tourism in Australia and places to visit, please search the website of Tourism Australia – www.australia.com