

Ireland

A Chance To Broaden Your Horizons

**A Guide for Applicants
in Hong Kong**

The Scheme

A Working Holiday Scheme was set up between Ireland and Hong Kong in 2005. Under the Scheme, young people of Hong Kong may apply for a Working Holiday Visa to Ireland. 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 Ireland and to supplement their funds through incidental employment.

Working Holiday Visa

Successful applicants will be issued an Irish Working Holiday Visa. A Working Holiday Visa is a multiple entry visa valid for a one-year stay in Ireland from the date of entry. During your stay, you can take up short-term employment of not more than three months with any one employer. There are currently 100 places per year available under this Scheme.

Eligibility

To obtain an Irish 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 visa issue, and have a valid HKSAR or BNO passport;
- > intend primarily to holiday in Ireland;
- > be aged between 18 and 30 and not be accompanied by dependant children;
- > have at least HK\$25,000 and have a return or onward ticket; or HK\$35,000 in the absence of a return or onward ticket when you arrive in Ireland; and
- > be of good health and of good character.

Preparing Your Application

To process your application, the Honorary Consulate of Ireland needs:

- > your completed visa application form and your passport. Your passport should be with a validity for at least 15 months from the issue date of the Working Holiday Visa;
- > photocopy of your HKID Card;
- > your curriculum vitae / resume and originals of your qualifications;
- > one current passport style photo with your name on reverse;
- > evidence of sufficient funds; and
- > evidence of medical and comprehensive hospitalization and liability insurance to remain in force throughout your stay in Ireland.

The visa application form, along with a complete and detailed list of documentation which must be submitted in support of your application, can be accessed on the website of the Honorary Consulate of Ireland - www.consulateofireland.hk/

The Honorary Consulate of Ireland can be contacted through their email address info@consulateofireland.hk, by phone +852 2527 4897 or by fax +852 2824 9127 if you have any inquiries.

Lodging Your Application

Applications (together with your passport) can be lodged personally or by your representative, or sent by mail to the Honorary Consulate of Ireland in Hong Kong. The address is:

The Honorary Consulate of Ireland

c/o Heidrick & Struggles, Suite 1408, Two Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong
Attn: Ireland/Hong Kong Working Holiday Scheme

Visa applicants are not normally required to attend an interview, however, the Visa Office reserves the right to request an applicant to attend for interview on a case-by-case basis.

Visa processing times vary. You will be notified by the Honorary Consulate of Ireland when a decision has been made on your application.

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

Finding Work While in Ireland



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.

To avoid the risk of misunderstanding or unrealistic expectations, applicants are advised that the market for short term casual work is highly competitive and is adequately supplied from the large number of school leavers and other young Irish people looking for work.

Many seasonal industries throughout Ireland seek people with Working Holiday Visas for casual employment. You can find out about work opportunities by visiting websites such as www.irishjobs.ie or by searching the "Ireland's National Training and Employment Authority" website – www.fas.ie. Applicants can also use the services of the many Youth Information Centres in Ireland.

For Information about tourism in Ireland and places to visit, please search the website of the Tourism Ireland - www.discoverireland.ie/