

# Germany

# A Chance To Broaden Your Horizons

## A Guide for Applicants in Hong Kong

### The Scheme

A Working Holiday Scheme was set up between Germany and Hong Kong in July 2009. Under the Scheme, young people of Hong Kong may apply for a Working Holiday Visa to Germany. 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 Germany and to supplement their funds through incidental employment.

### Working Holiday Visa

Successful applicants will be issued a German Working Holiday Visa. During the stay, the holidaymakers can take up short-term employment of not more than three months with any one employer and can enroll in one training or study course of up to six months during their visit. There are currently 100 places per year under this Scheme. Qualified applications will be approved on a first-come first-served basis.

## Eligibility

To obtain a German Working Holiday Visa, the applicants 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 Germany;
- > be aged between 18 and 30 and not be accompanied by dependent family members;
- > have at least Euro 2,000 and a return air ticket; and
- > hold comprehensive liability and medical insurance for the duration of stay.

## Preparing Your Application

The following documents have to be submitted as originals or as certified copies at the German Consulate General in Hong Kong:

- > fully completed visa application form (“Application for a Residence Permit”);
- > one recent passport photograph that can support biometric checks;
- > HKSAR or BNO passport (valid at least three months longer than your intended stay);
- > a copy of your flight itinerary with confirmed reservation or a copy of your airline ticket;
- > proof of medical insurance valid in Germany for the duration of your stay;
- > proof of sufficient funds (at least Euro 2,000) for example by recent bank statements, savings account or an official sponsorship declaration with proof of income of the sponsor; and
- > applicants may be required to provide additional documents.

Please note that the visa fee in the equivalent of Euro 60 has to be paid in cash when applying. Visa processing times can vary but will typically be between one to two weeks.

## Lodging Your Application

Applications have to be lodged in person with the German Consulate General in Hong Kong.

The address of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong is 21/F, United Centre, 95 Queensway. Its e-mail address is [info@hongkong.diplo.de](mailto:info@hongkong.diplo.de) and phone numbers are 2105 8788 / 2105 8745. Further information and visa application forms can be accessed via the website [www.hongkong.diplo.de](http://www.hongkong.diplo.de).

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

## Finding Work While in Germany

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.

You can find out more on the work opportunities in Germany by visiting the website of:

Zentralstelle für Arbeitsvermittlung der Bundesagentur für Arbeit (ZAV)  
(Central Employment Agency of Germany)  
53107 Bonn  
Phone: +49/228/713-0  
Fax: +49/228/713-1111  
Internet: [www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de) (in German only)  
Email: [bonn-zav.weltweit@arbeitsagentur.de](mailto:bonn-zav.weltweit@arbeitsagentur.de)

For information about tourism in Germany and places to visit, please refer to the websites below:  
[www.germany-tourism.de](http://www.germany-tourism.de) / [www.deutschland.de](http://www.deutschland.de) / [www.young-germany.de](http://www.young-germany.de)