

Japan

A Chance To Broaden Your Horizons

**A Guide for Applicants
in Hong Kong**

The Scheme

The Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong takes effect on 1 January 2010. Under the Scheme, young people of Hong Kong may apply for a Working Holiday Visa to Japan. 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 abroad and to supplement their funds through incidental employment.

Working Holiday Visa

Successful applicants will be issued a Working Holiday Visa. During the stay, the holidaymakers can take up employment in order to supplement their travel funds and short-term courses. There are currently 250 places per year under this Scheme. In 2010, visa applications will only be accepted during two limited periods, with the first one in January, and the second in May. Please note that applications will not be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligibility

To obtain a Working Holiday Visa to Japan, the applicants must:

- > be ordinarily resident in the HKSAR, holding a valid HKSAR or BNO passport;
- > intend primarily to holiday in Japan;
- > be aged between 18 and 30 and not be accompanied by dependent family members;
- > possess a return travel ticket or sufficient funds with which to purchase such a ticket, and sufficient funds (to provide financial proof of at least 200,000 Yen) for their maintenance during the period of initial stay in Japan;
- > hold sufficient medical insurance for the duration of stay; and
- > fulfill other relevant criteria.

For details, please visit the website of the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong at <http://www.hk.emb-japan.go.jp>

Preparing Your Application

The following documents have to be submitted to the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong:

- > One completed "Visa Application Form to Enter Japan" with photo attached;
- > Photocopy of passport;
- > Statement;
- > Résumé;
- > Photocopy of Hong Kong permanent identity card;
- > Education qualifications;
- > Financial proof; and
- > Other documents to support your application.

Please refer to the website of the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong for details.

Lodging Your Application

In 2010, visa applications will only be accepted during two limited periods, in January and May. The Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong will receive all application forms submitted during the two application periods.

The address of the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong is 46/F, One Exchange Square, 8 Connaught Place, Central, Hong Kong. Further information and visa application forms can be accessed via their website.

Remarks: Detailed arrangements for the Scheme may vary from time to time. Applicants are advised to check with the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong before application.

Finding Work While in Japan

With the aim of giving young Hong Kong people the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the culture and general way of life of Japan, the Working Holiday Scheme will allow applicants to holiday in Japan for up to 12 months and to take up employment there in order to supplement their travel funds. However, work in the entertainment sector, such as in bars, pubs, cabarets, etc., is not recognized as valid or permissible employment. For further details, please visit the website of the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong.

For information about living, tourism and job opportunities in Japan, please visit the following websites:

www.japantravelinfo.com

www.jnto.go.jp

www.jawhm.or.jp/eng/index.html