What Can I Expect From A Working Holiday In Hong Kong?

Hear From The Working Holidaymakers!
Hong Kong has hosted thousands of youths from its partner economies through the Working Holiday Scheme since its inception in 2001. As a dynamic Asian hub where East meets West, Hong Kong has everything to offer – from cosmopolitan lifestyle to mouthwatering delicacies and intriguing encounters – and is a perfect working holiday destination for all adventurers. Let’s hear what the working holidaymakers have in mind for the city and their experience here!

Sarah Allen from the United Kingdom, 2015-16 Hong Kong
“The visa application process was really smooth and easy. I settled in really quickly. It’s so easy to get to grips with the city and there are plenty of hikes and beaches for short journey away if you want to get in touch with nature. I’ve made some great friends for life here as the social scene is huge. It’s also a great base for exploring other parts of Asia if you have any space between your jobs. All in all, Hong Kong is an incredible place to spend a year of your life!”

Jonny Blair from Ireland, 2011-12 Hong Kong
“I love the whole working holiday experience. I am a big fan of Chinese culture and Hong Kong is a great place to be based as it has everything you need. You have great access to China and Macao and a huge airport to fly anywhere you want. You have hiking, street food, foreign influences and there is so much to see and do in Hong Kong.”

Useful Contacts And Links

Visa Application
• Immigration Department (www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/working_holiday_scheme.html)
  Enquiries: enquiry@immd.gov.hk

General Enquiry on the Working Holiday Scheme
• Working Holiday Scheme dedicated website (www.whs.gov.hk)
  Enquiries: whsu@labour.gov.hk

Job Searching in Hong Kong
• Labour Department Interactive Employment Service (www.jobs.gov.hk)

Visiting and Living in Hong Kong
• One-stop portal for information and services provided by HKSAR Government – GovHK (www.gov.hk/en/nonresidents/)
• Official travel guide from the Hong Kong Tourism Board – Discover Hong Kong (www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/)
• One-stop portal to provide information for people considering a move to Hong Kong – Hong Kong Welcomes You (www.hkwelcomesu.gov.hk/eng/)

Hong Kong Welcomes You!
Apply For A Working Holiday Visa Now And Start Your Journey In This Dynamic City!
What Is A Working Holiday Scheme?

Since 2001, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has established bilateral Working Holiday Scheme arrangements (the Scheme) with the Government of New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Germany, Japan, Canada, Korea, France, the United Kingdom, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, the Netherlands and Italy respectively. The Scheme not only facilitates cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and our partner economies, but also helps enhance bilateral cooperation and promotes tourism and development.

Under the Scheme, participants may stay in Hong Kong for an extended period. Successful applicants will be issued a working holiday visa by the HKSAR Immigration Department. During their stay, they can engage in short-term employment, or even enrol in short-term course(s) (except Ireland).

Through these first-hand living and working experiences, the youths from our partner economies will be able to acquire a better understanding of the cultural and social developments of Hong Kong.

Who Can Apply?

A national of Hong Kong’s partner economy who meets the following eligibility criteria may be granted a working holiday visa for participating in the Scheme:

- he/she is aged between 18 and 30 (both ages inclusive) at the time of making application;
- his/her primary intention is to holiday in Hong Kong;
- he/she must not be accompanied by any dependents during the journey;
- he/she holds a valid national passport issued by the partner economy and is ordinarily residing in that partner economy;
- he/she is able to produce financial proof of having an amount sufficient for his/her maintenance during his/her proposed stay in the HKSAR, e.g. bank statement, saving accounts passbooks, etc.;
- he/she holds a return air ticket or financial proof of having sufficient funds to purchase a return air ticket; and
- he/she agrees to hold medical, healthcare (including hospitalisation), repatriation and liability insurance to remain in force throughout his/her stay in the HKSAR.

There is an annual quota for nationals of each partner economy under the Scheme and qualified applications will be approved on a first-come-first-served basis. For detailed eligibility criteria and application method, please refer to the website of the HKSAR Immigration Department (www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/working_holiday_scheme.html).

How Can I Apply?

To apply for the working holiday visa, an applicant needs to complete a visa application form IDE940 which is obtainable from the website of the HKSAR Immigration Department (www.immd.gov.hk/eng/forms/forms/id-e-940.html) as well as Chinese diplomatic and consular missions (CDCMs) (www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/working_holiday_scheme.html#note6) in the partner economy.

Completed visa applications together with the necessary supporting documents may be submitted to the HKSAR Immigration Department direct by post or through a local connection. They may also be submitted to the CDCMs in the partner economy.