

(Press release)

Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong  
Announcement of results for the first 2012 application period

28 May 2012

Consulate-General of Japan, Hong Kong

1. The Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong was launched in January 2010, and the results of the first application period for this year will be announced on 29 May. At that time, the successful applicants' individual application numbers will be posted on our website and displayed at the consulate's Visa Section.
2. The annual quota for the Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong is set at 250 visas for each side. Applications are accepted by our consulate during two periods each year, with a view to issuing 125 visas for each period. This year, the first working holiday visa application period ran from 16 to 27 April and a total of 191 applications were received during this period. (The second period will take place in October).
3. All of the visa applications received by the consulate have been subject to careful examination and 125 applications received during the first 2012 period have been approved. Successful applicants will be able to collect their visas during the period from Wednesday, 30 May, 2012 to Friday, 31 August, 2012 (Saturdays, Sundays and consulate holidays excluded). Working holiday visas are issued free of charge.
4. The 191 working holiday visa applications received during the first 2012 application period represented a 58% increase on the 121 applications received during the first 2011 application period. And the quota for the first period (125) was exceeded by the total number of applications (191) by a ratio of 1:1.5.

The following is a comparative breakdown of this year's (first period) and last year's (first & second periods) application figures

( 1 ) The number of working holiday visa applicants & the number of successful applicants

	2011			2012
	First period	Second period	Total	First period
No. of Visa applicants	121	178	299	191
No. of successful applicants	121	145	266	125

Compared with the number of applications received in the first 2011 period (121), there was a 58% increase in the number received during the first period of 2012 (191).

( 2 ) Gender

	2011						2012		
	First period			Second period			First period		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No. of Visa applicants	38 (31.4%)	83 (68.6%)	121	65 (36.5%)	113 (63.5%)	178	82 (42.9%)	109 (57.1%)	191
No. of successful applicants	38 (31.4%)	83 (68.6%)	121	46 (31.7%)	99 (68.3%)	145	43 (34.4%)	82 (65.6%)	125

It is clear from the above figures that in all three periods the group of successful applicants included a higher percentage of female, as opposed to male, applicants.

( 3 ) Age group

	2011 (First & Second periods)				2012 (First period)			
	18-22	23-26	27-30	Total	18-22	23-26	27-30	Total
No. of Visa applicants	45 (15.0%)	112 (37.5%)	142 (47.5%)	299	34 (17.8%)	75 (39.3%)	82 (42.9%)	191
No. of successful applicants	41 (15.4%)	99 (37.2%)	126 (47.4%)	266	22 (17.6%)	51 (40.8%)	52 (41.6%)	125

This year, compared with 2011, the proportion of successful applicants in the 27-30 age group was down by approximately 5 percentage points. It was up by approximately 2 percentage points in the 18-22 age group; and by 3 percentage points in the 23-26 age group.

(NOTE) In the first period of 2011, due to the impact of the 11 March earthquake and tsunami on the timing of the application process, we made a special case and accepted one application from an applicant who was 31 years of age. For the purposes of simplicity, this application is included in the 27-30 age group in the above table.

( 4 ) Academic level

	2011 (First & Second periods)			2012 (First period)		
	University or higher	Others	Total	University or higher	Others	Total
No. of Visa applicants	143 (47.8%)	156 (52.26%)	299	78 (40.8%)	113 (59.2%)	191
No. of successful applicants	134 (50.4%)	132 (49.6%)	266	61 (48.8%)	64 (51.2%)	125

In 2011, a slightly higher percentage of successful applicants were in the “University or higher” category than in the “Others” category. But the opposite was true in the first 2012 period, when slightly more successful applicants (51.2%) were in the “Others” category.

(NOTE) The statistics above include those who are attending but have not yet graduated from their university or school etc.

5. The consulate is very grateful for the interest shown in working holiday visas and pleased to note that the total number of applications received during the first 2012 period exceeded half of the annual quota. We sincerely hope that an even larger number of young Hong Kong people apply for working holiday visas in the second period of 2012.
6. The working holiday visa application schedule for the second period of 2012 is as follows (Saturdays and Sundays excluded):

**Application period:** Monday, 8 October 2012 – Friday, 19 October 2012

**Announcement of results (successful applicants):** Tuesday, 20 November 2012

**Second visa issue period (successful applicants):** Wednesday, 21 November 2012 – Friday, 22 February 2013

(NOTE) The working holiday visa is valid for three months from the date of issue. When the holder arrives in Japan, an immigration officer will examine whether the holder can be granted permission to land and stay in Japan. After receiving permission to land from the immigration officer, the holder will be allowed to stay in Japan for a period of up to one year from that date.

For enquiries about this press release:

Visa Section

Consulate-General of Japan, Hong Kong

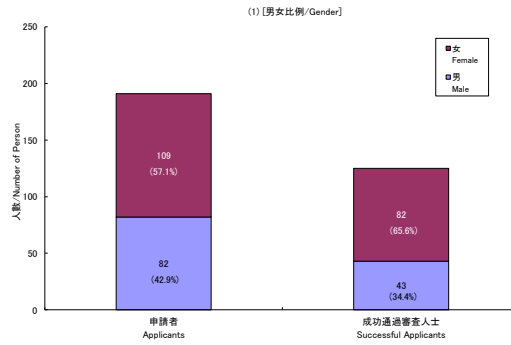
Tel. 2522 1184

2012年第1期工作假期申請者概況/Working Holiday Visa Applicants for the First Period in 2012

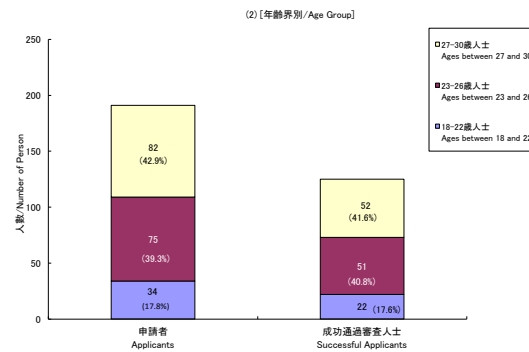
〔人數/Number of Person〕(%)	男 Male	女 Female	總人數 Total
申請者 Applicants	82	109	191
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	43	82	125

〔人數/Number of Person〕(%)	18-22歲人士 Ages between 18 and 22	23-26歲人士 Ages between 23 and 26	27-30歲人士 Ages between 27 and 30
申請者 Applicants	34	75	82
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	22	51	52

〔人數/Number of Person〕(%)	大學或以上程度 University graduated and above	其他學歷 Others
申請者 Applicants	78	113
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	61	64



<申請者男女比例約為 4:6 /  
Male-to-female ratio of applicants is approximately 4:6>



<20歲後期申請者占整體近半成 (特別是29及30歲人士近截止前之申請) /  
Late-20s applicants account for nearly half of the total number of applicants.  
Many included last-minute applications submitted by those aged 29 & 30.>

