

(Press release)

Working Holiday Scheme between Japan and Hong Kong
Announcement of results for the first 2015 application period

1 June 2015

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 2 June. 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 second working holiday visa application period ran from 17 to 30 April and a total of 390 applications were received during this period.
3. All of the visa applications received by the consulate have been subject to careful examination and 125 applications received during the First 2015 period have been approved. Successful applicants will be able to collect their visas during the period from Wednesday, 3 June, 2015 to Friday, 4 Sept, 2015 (Saturdays, Sundays and consulate holidays excluded). Working holiday visas are issued free of charge.
4. The 390 working holiday visa applications received during the First 2015 application period represented an 39.8% increase on the 279 applications received during the First 2014 period. The quota for the first period (125) exceeded the number of applications received (390) by a ratio of 1:3.1.

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

	2014			2015
	First period	Second period	Total	First period
No. of Visa Applicants	279	374	653	390
No. of successful applicants	125	131	256	125

Compared with the number of applications received in the first period of 2014, there was an 39.8% increase in the number received in the same period of 2015 (i.e. 111 more applications).

(2) Gender

	2014						2015		
	First Period			Second Period			First Period		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No. of Visa applicants	118 (42.3%)	161 (57.7%)	279 (100%)	146 (39.0%)	228 (61.0%)	374 (100%)	151 (38.7%)	239 (61.3%)	390 (100%)
No. of successful applicants	38 (30.4%)	87 (69.6%)	125 (100%)	40 (30.5%)	91 (69.5%)	131 (100%)	29 (23.2%)	96 (76.8%)	125 (100%)

It is clear from the above figures that in 2015, as in 2014, the group of successful applicants included a higher percentage of female, as opposed to male, applicants.

(3) Age group

	2014 First & Second Period				2015 First Period				
	18-22	23-26	27-30	Total	18-22	23-26	27-30	31-	Total
No. of Visa applicants	94 (14.4%)	266 (40.7%)	293 (44.9%)	653 (100%)	65 (16.7%)	134 (34.5%)	190 (48.7%)	1 (0.1%)	390 (100%)
No. of successful applicants	31 (12.1%)	115 (44.9%)	110 (43.0%)	256 (100%)	11 (8.8%)	50 (40.0%)	64 (51.2%)	0 (0.0%)	125 (100%)

This year, compared with 2014, the proportion of successful applicants in the 18-22 age groups was down by approximately 3 percentage points; and by approximately 5 percentage points in the 23-26 age group. It was up by approximately 8 percentage points in the 27-30 age groups.

(4) Academic level

	2014 First & Second Period			2015 First Period		
	University or higher	Others	Total	University or higher	Others	Total
No. of Visa applicants	308 (47.2%)	345 (52.8%)	653 (100%)	157 (40.3%)	233 (59.7%)	390 (100%)
No. of successful applicants	147 (57.4%)	109 (42.6%)	256 (100%)	67 (53.6%)	58 (46.4%)	125 (100%)

In 2015, there was a similar percentage of applicants (and successful applicants) in each category, i.e. around half were “university educated or higher”, and around half came under the “Others” category. (NOTE) The statistics above include those who are attending but have not yet graduated from their university or school, etc.

- The Consulate-General 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 2015 period was more than 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 2015.

6. The working holiday visa application schedule for the second period of 2015 is as follows (Saturdays and Sundays excluded):

Application period: Monday, 5 October 2015 – Friday, 16 October 2015

Announcement of results (successful applicants): Tuesday, 24 November 2015

Second visa issue period (successful applicants): Wednesday, 25 November 2015 –
Friday, 26 February 2016

(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

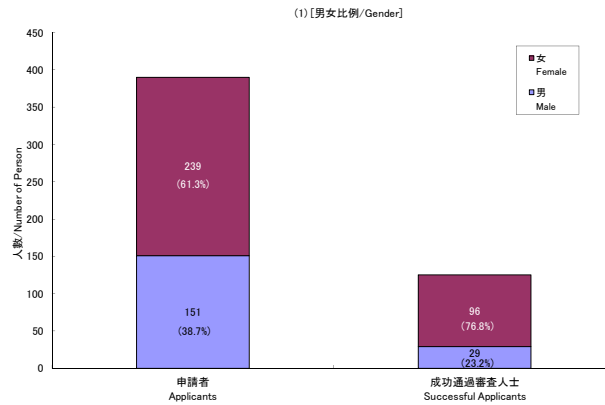
Tel. 2522 1184

2015年第1期工作假期申請者概況/Working Holiday Visa Applicants for the First Period in 2015

〔人數/Number of Person〕 (%)	男 Male	女 Female	總人數 Total
申請者 Applicants	151	239	390
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	29	96	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	65	134	190
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	11	50	64

〔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	157	233
成功通過審查人士 Successful Applicants	67	58



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

