

Working Holiday Visa for Japan

– Application Guidelines for 2023

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 those who meet the conditions to stay on holiday in Japan for up to one year and, secondarily, to take up employment there in order to supplement their travel funds. In 2023, Working Holiday Visa applications for Japan will be accepted in the following period with an annual quota of 1500 visas.

(Note) Employment is not the primary objective of the Working Holiday Visa. Employment is recognised as an activity that allows applicants to supplement their travel funds whilst they are on holiday in Japan. Work in the entertainment sector, such as in bars, pubs, cabarets, etc. or in the sex industry is not recognised as valid or permissible employment.

1 Visa Application Schedule

(1) First Period

Application period : 31 January 2023 (Tue) – 8 February 2023 (Wed)
Result announcement day : 1 March 2023 (Wed)
Visa issue period : 2 March 2023 (Thu) – 10 March 2023 (Fri)

(2) Second Period

Application period : 17 April 2023 (Mon) – 28 April 2023 (Fri)
Result announcement day : 2 June 2023 (Fri)
Visa issue period : 5 June 2023 (Mon) – 16 June 2023 (Fri)

(3) Third Period

Application period : 10 July 2023 (Mon) – 21 July 2023 (Fri)
Result announcement day : 1 September 2023 (Fri)
Visa issue period : 4 September 2023 (Mon) – 15 September 2023 (Fri)

(4) Fourth Period

Application period : 9 October 2023 (Mon) – 20 October 2023 (Fri)
Result announcement day : 1 December 2023 (Fri)
Visa issue period : 4 December 2023 (Mon) – 15 December 2023 (Fri)

2 Conditions for visa issuance

- ① Must be ordinarily resident in the HKSAR and also residing in the HKSAR at the time of Working Holiday Visa application;
- ② Must intend primarily to holiday in Japan for a period of up to one year from the date of first entry;
- ③ Must be aged between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years (inclusive) at the time of Working Holiday Visa application;
- ④ May not be accompanied by dependents, unless those dependents are in possession of their own Working Holiday Visa or other valid visa;
- ⑤ Must possess a valid HKSAR or BNO (British National Overseas) passport;
- ⑥ Must possess a return travel ticket or sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket;
- ⑦ Must possess reasonable funds to guarantee upkeep during the initial period of stay in Japan;
- ⑧ Must intend to leave Japan at the end of stay;
- ⑨ Must not previously have been issued with a Working Holiday Visa for Japan;
- ⑩ Must be in good health and have a sound background with no criminal record; and
- ⑪ Must have adequate insurance.

3 Necessary Documents

Please prepare the documents listed in “List of Basic Documents to be submitted for a Working Holiday Visa”.

- (Note 1) Applicants must submit their visa applications, along with the required documents, in person, at the Japan Visa Application Centre. Priority will be given to applicants with prior bookings. Walk-in applications will be accepted until 15:00. (Applications submitted at the Visa Section, Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong or by a proxy or by post will not be accepted.)
- (Note 2) Service charges will apply at the [Japan Visa Application Centre](#).
- (Note 3) In principle, we will accept all visa applications submitted during the application period. Those applications which have passed the application deadline will not be accepted for whatever reason.
- (Note 4) We will not contact applicants individually in the event that they do not submit all of the required documents mentioned above, nor will we accept additional documents after the visa application has been submitted. Therefore, please check carefully that you have included all of the required documents along with your visa application. We will contact applicants individually if the visa officer deems it necessary to request other documents in addition to the required documents mentioned above.
- (Note 5) We are unable to return any document once it has been submitted to us, even after completion of the application procedure.

4 Visa Examination Method

- (1) All applications will be carefully examined.
- (2) If necessary, applicants will be interviewed by a competent visa officer. In this event, we will contact the applicant individually to arrange an appointment. If an applicant does not attend an arranged interview appointment without good reason, their visa application will be considered as withdrawn.
 - (Note) The Working Holiday Scheme is intended for young people who are residing in the HKSAR. If you are studying overseas at the appointed time, this is not considered an acceptable reason for not attending the interview.
- (3) If the number of visa applications exceeds the quota of visas, the decision of selecting the most suitable candidates will only take into account those who meet both the principle and the purpose of the Working Holiday Scheme. Please note that applications will not be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (4) With regard to matters related to the visa examination process, e.g. selection criteria, reasons for issuing or not issuing a visa etc., we will not answer any questions or provide more details on the selection process or its results.
- (5) An applicant may only submit one visa application per application period. If an applicant submits multiple visa applications, they will all be invalidated.

5 Announcement of Results (Successful Applicants)

If the result of your visa application examination is successful, the visa issue acceptance number, (stamped on your “Receipt” when you submit your visa application), will be posted on our website and also displayed on the notice board of the [Japan Visa Application Centre](#) at the same time. Please note that we will not answer any enquiries regarding the result of the visa application.

6 Visa Issuance Procedure

Successful applicants are required to bring along the following three documents to the [Japan Visa Application Centre](#), in person, during the visa issuance period mentioned in part 1. A Working Holiday Visa with a validity of 3 months will be issued, (affixed inside your passport), after 2 working days.

- ① Passport. (original)
 - ② “Receipt”. (original)
 - ③ [The pledge \(Specific format\)](#) (original) that confirms that the successful applicant will apply for National Health Insurance in Japan.
 - or
 - Proof of purchase of travel insurance. (original and copy)
- (Note 1) For successful applicants who do not come to collect their visas during the visa issuance period, it will be assumed that they have decided not to take up the offer of a visa and their application will be cancelled.
 - (Note 2) The visa is valid for three months from the date of issue and will expire if the holder does not enter Japan within that period of validity. After receiving permission to enter from an immigration officer, the holder will be allowed to stay in Japan for a period of up to one year from the date of entry.

7 Other Information

The information contained in these guidelines is subject to change. Please check the updated information on our official website, both at the time you apply for the Working Holiday Visa and at the time the visa is issued. We also recommend that you read the “[Working holiday visa for Japan - Q&A](#)”, which is also posted on our website.

List of Basic Documents to be submitted for a Working Holiday Visa

Eligibility	Applications will be accepted from young people aged between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years (inclusive)
Necessary Documents	<p style="text-align: center;">To prevent congestion at the visa application counter, please submit all of the following documents in the order set out below. (For documents which require a photocopy, please use <u>A4-size paper and photocopy on one side only</u>. Both black-and-white and colour photocopies are acceptable.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please note that applicants may be requested to provide any other document deemed necessary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Visa Application Form to Enter Japan. (Specific format) ② Passport. (copy) ③ Statement. (original) ④ Résumé. (original) (Specific format) ⑤ Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card. (copy) ⑥ Letter from an educational institution or documents from your last educational institution. (copy) ⑦ Documents showing that you have sufficient funds to purchase a return ticket and reasonable funds to guarantee your upkeep during the initial period of your stay in Japan. (copy) ⑧ Other supporting documents. (copy)

Points to note for necessary documents

1 Visa Application Form to Enter Japan ([Specific format](#))

- (Note 1) Please attach one passport-size colour photo to the application form. It must have been taken within 6 months (45mm X 35mm, front-facing, without hat, without background).
- (Note 2) It is not necessary to provide the following information: “Guarantor or Reference in Japan” and “Inviter in Japan”.
- (Note 3) The application form must be signed by the applicant. (Same signature as the applicant’s passport.)

2 Passport (copy)

- (Note) Include copies of pages with bio-data, signature and all pages with immigration stamps of entry/departure to/from Japan, (if any).

3 Statement (original)

- (Note 1) Please provide a Statement detailing the reason why you are applying for a Working Holiday Visa and outline your planned activities in Japan. This statement must be written in Japanese, Chinese or English only.
- (Note 2) Please use A4-size paper on one side only. There is no limit on the number of pages you can use for your statement.
- (Note 3) Please state your name and HKID number and sign the statement at the end in ink. The statement can be typed, but you must sign your name.

4 Résumé (original) ([Specific format](#))

- (Note) Please complete in Japanese, Chinese or English only.

5 Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (copy)

- (Note) Please submit the copy of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (front only).

6 Letter from an educational institution or documents from your last educational institution (copy)

- (Note) Please submit a copy of your graduation certificate or other information.

7 Documents showing that you have sufficient funds to purchase a return ticket and reasonable funds to guarantee your upkeep during the initial period of stay in Japan (copy)

- (Note 1) Approximately HK\$22,000 or more in total, (i.e. HK\$6,000 for the return ticket and HK\$16,000 for the initial period of stay in Japan). If you are able to present a return ticket when the visa is issued, (an electronic ticket is acceptable, but an itinerary is not), you will only need to submit documents showing that you have reasonable funds to guarantee your upkeep during the initial period of stay in Japan. (i.e. equivalent to approximately HK\$16,000).
- (Note 2) Please present an original savings certificate or a copy of a bank book/bank statements in your (or your sponsor’s) name. For dependents who wish to present their sponsor’s documents, please also present a copy of documents providing proof of your relationship with that person.

8 Other supporting documents (copy)

- (Note) It is not compulsory to present other supporting documents, but you may wish to present copies of other documents that support your application, such as Japanese Language Proficiency Test certificates, certificates from Japanese language schools, certificates related to Japanese culture etc. (e.g. tea ceremony, ikebana, judo, kendo).