



Working Holiday Program

Last update: January 2024

The Working Holiday Visa Program is based on a bilateral agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the SAR Hong Kong, Taiwan and Uruguay, as well as the Youth Mobility program with Canada. These programs aim at enabling young people to gain insight into culture and daily life in Germany. The intention is to promote increased mutual understanding and the applicant's primary aim should be to visit Germany

To be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa and apply at the German Mission in Switzerland you should

- be a citizen either of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Israel, Japan, New Zealand or Uruguay
- be at least 18 years of age but have not turned 31 yet when filing your application
- not be accompanied by dependent family members (e.g. children) during your stay

To be eligible for a Youth Mobility Visa you should

- be a citizen of Canada
- be at least 18 years of age but have not turned 35 yet when filing your application

Employment is allowed throughout the validity of the visa but should remain of temporary character in order to facilitate additional financial means to your holiday travel intentions in Germany:

- Citizens of Argentina may work for a total of six months only
- Citizens of Australia, Chile, Japan, New Zealand and Uruguay may work for up to six months with the same employer. After that, employment maybe continued for a different or several other employers for the remaining time. Both fulltime and part-time employment are allowed
- For citizens of Canada please refer to the information provided by the German Missions to Canada
- Citizens of Israel may work for up to three months with the same employer. After three months, employment can be continued with a different employer

Argentinian, Australian, Japanese and New Zealand Citizen are not permitted to do self-employment or freelance work.

Please provide the following documents on your appointment day:

- Valid **passport** (original with one copy of the passport data page), which must contain two empty pages and sufficient validity
- **Application form** fully completed and signed including declaration to section 54 residence Act: [application form](#) with one copy
- One passport sized **photos** – no older than three months, according to biometric standards



- Evidence of **sufficient funds** to cover your living expenses in Germany for the first three months of your stay (personal bank statement, account statements of the last 3 months with 2200 EUR on) with one copy
OR [blocked account](#) holding minimum EUR 2200 (if applicable: return ticket to your country of residence) OR [formal obligation](#) by a sponsor resident in Germany with one copy
- Proof of travel **health insurance** for one year, min. coverage of 30.000 EUR with one copy
- Detailed personal **motivation letter** in German or English language explaining why you want to take part in a working holiday program and what you expect to through this with one copy
- Detailed personal **Curriculum vitae** in German or English language with one copy
- **Criminal record (Argentinian citizen only)** with one copy
- Detailed **curriculum vitae** in German or English language with one copy
- Visa **fee** of 75 Euro payable by cash in Swiss Francs, by Visa or MasterCard (information [here](#))

The German Embassy Bern reserve the right to ask for additional documents at any time during the processing of your application whenever deemed appropriate.

Please prepare **one set** of application documents with all of the indicated documents. Original documents will be return to you while a copy per set will be required. Please note that incomplete applications will be decide based on the documents submitted.

In this visa category, most applications are typically processed within 2-3 weeks. Please do not contact the mission abroad to check the status of your application during the normal processing period. Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa department and cannot be answered. We will contact you by email as soon as the decision has been made.

Although we will provide you with a file number, please understand that we cannot respond to questions regarding the status of your visa application. Should we have any questions or should we require additional documentation to process your application, we will contact you.

The working holiday visa is a national visa type D and allows its holder to travel in Schengen for 90 days per half year.

Please note: Although the information in this information sheet has been prepared with utmost care, we cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.