Last updated: 02/2025

Visa for a Working Holiday Visa

General information

The Working Holiday Visa Programme (WHP) is based on a bilateral agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, SAR Hong Kong, Taiwan and Uruguay, as well as a Youth Mobility Programme (YMP) with Canada. These programmes aim at enabling young people to gain insight into culture and daily life in the Federal Republic of Germany. The intention is to promote increased mutual understanding and the applicant's primary aim should be to visit Germany. The duration of the work permit depends on the nationality of the participant.
Citizens of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and Israel can apply for the WHV directly at the local aliens' authority (Ausländerbehörde) after having entered Germany.
Only citizen of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and Uruquay can apply at any missions outside of their own country – though there are different conditions depending on your citizenship. **Please check the requirements for the application at the webpage of our missions in the country of your citizenship.**

Basic information for visa applications (only valid for Japanese citizen)

- On the day of the application you must be not younger than 17 years and not older than 31 years.
- In order to apply, an appointment has to be booked via our appointment system in the category national visa at your competent mission - depending on where you reside in Japan - either at the Embassy Tokyo or at the Consulate General Osaka-Kobe. Japanese citizen may also apply directly in Germany at the Foreigner's office /Ausländerbehörde.
- Visa applications should be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the intended departure date.
- Visa applications can not be accepted more than 3 months prior to the intended departure date.
- Acceptance of an application does not guarantee that a visa will be issued.
- Documents must be submitted in English or German. A translation of the personal data page of the passport or bankbook is, however, not required.
- Processing time is approximately two weeks but can take longer in individual cases.
- Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.
- The Embassy/Consulate General reserves the right to request further documents.
- If the visa is approved, it will be issued for one year but can not be extended in Germany.
- With a national visa you may enter other Schengen countries for tourism purpose for up to 90 days within 180 days.
- If visa is approved, we recommend that you carry proof of living expenses and proof of insurance upon entering Germany.
- Participation in a language course is possible, if not more than 20 hours a week and not full time for the complete stay.
- In order to supplement your travel funds, you are allowed to work for the same employer for a maximum of one year in total – as part or full-time job. Vacation jobs are limited in their maximum duration. They can therefore take the form of both marginal employment (up to 603 Euro/month) and a short-term employment (up to 50 working days/year).
- The primary purpose of your entry and stay must be to spend your vacation in Germany! It is not a working visa!
- If your stay is for any other purpose you need to apply for the appropriate national visa.

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. All documents listed here are to be submitted in the requested **form and order** on the day of the application. Please do not send any documents in advance as we are not pre-evaluating visa applications and documents will not be assigned to the application.

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Visa application checklist

The following documents are to be submitted in following order:
☐ one (1) fully completed and signed applications including declarations pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act
☐ one (1) recent biometric passport photos (see specimen photos) – no modified photos
☐ Valid and personally signed passport – issued within the last 10 years, with at least two completely empty (visa) pages, valid at least three months after your intended year of stay
☐ one (1) uncertified A4-format copy of the data page of your valid passport
☐ proof of address in Japan, for example registration sheet or latest gas invoice
☐ personally written complete curriculum vitae in German or English
☐ letter of motivation (A4 page) free format in English or German, with statement that you wrote it by yourself – with detailed information about previous stays in Germany, specific plans and expectations of your stay and anticipated career and personal benefits, as well as future plans
☐ proof of financial means and ability to pay living expenses during your stay of at least equal to 2.000 EURO or if no return ticket is provided of 4.000 Euro ; for example original bank book in the name of the applicant with the last 3 months of entries or by blocked account in Germany.
☐ copy (A4 size) of the bank book pages with entries of the last 3 months and the latest entry made the day before the application is submitted and photocopy of the page with the name of the holder of the account (which should be the applicant) or
☐ in case of online banking, a printout of the last 3 months of entries made the day before or
☐ In case of blocked account, a printout of the account details
☐ proof of round-trip airline ticket reservation, or at least inbound ticket reservation
☐ proof of medical health insurance valid for Germany and Schengen countries for the entire stay hospital treatment and repatriation to Japan, dental care, as well pregnancy (for women) – must be included and coverage amount must be at least 30,000 Euro,
☐ proof of a liability /accident insurance valid for Germany - coverage of at least 30,000 Euro
☐ Letter pack 600 JPY (Japan post) with your return address or A4 size return envelope for return by courier cash on delivery to return your passport after evaluation of your visa application
Applicant of a nationality other than Japanese
☐ Proof of residence title/ permit of stay in Japan
Fee
☐ Visa fee for Japanese citizen : free of charge
☐ Visa fee for all other citizen: 75 Euro, payable in Japanese Yen in cash, or in Euro by Visa-/Master-Creditcard
Completeness of application
☐ The application is complete: ☐Yes ☐ No, the information/documents indicated above are lacking.
Declaration when applications are not complete: I have been informed that my application is not complete. I am aware that submitting an incomplete application can lead to the application being rejected. I would like to submit my application nevertheless. _____ place, date, signature