



Working Holiday Visa (WHV)

The Working Holiday Scheme is based on a mutual Declaration of Intent between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Hong Kong SAR, which entered into force on 1 July 2009. It aims to enable young citizens of Hong Kong to gain an insight into the culture and daily life in the Federal Republic of Germany. The WHV allows them to travel to Germany for a stay of up to twelve months. Since the Working Holiday Scheme is intended to promote greater mutual understanding, the applicant's primary aim should be to visit Germany. However, to help finance the stay, short-term employments of not more than three months can be taken up with different employers of the visa holder's choice. The applicant may enroll in one training or study course of up to six months during the course of their visit.

With effect of 1 July 2010 the quota has been increased to 150 WHVs which can be issued per year. The places are available on a first-come, first-served principle.

REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a German WHV, the applicant must:

- be in possession of a valid passport of the HKSAR or a British National (Overseas) Passport and be an ordinarily resident of the HKSAR at the time of application;
- intend primarily to holiday;
- be aged between 18 and 30 years inclusive at the time of application for the WHV and NOT be accompanied by dependent family members; and
- be in a good state of health.

PREPARING FOR APPLICATION

Applications have to be lodged in person with the German Consulate General in Hong Kong.

The following documents have to be submitted in original or as certified copies to the German Consulate General in Hong Kong:

- fully completed visa application form (for a national German visa “Application for residence permit”);
- one recent passport photograph that can support biometric checks;
- HKSAR or BN(O) passport (valid at least three months longer than your intended stay);
- copy of your return airline itinerary with confirmed reservation OR proof of sufficient funds with which to purchase such a ticket;
- proof of address of accommodation (e.g., hotel confirmation) during the first week of your stay in Germany;
- proof of medical insurance valid in Germany for the duration of your stay which covers hospitalization and repatriation;
- proof of sufficient funds (at least 2,000 euro); evidence of funds has to be provided (e.g., recent bank statements, savings account passbook or an official patronage declaration with proof of income of the patron);
- visa fee in cash (HKD equivalent to 60.00 euro)

Further information and additional documents may be required. Visa processing time may vary but will typically be between one and two weeks.

The address of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong is 21/F, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the following e-mail address: info@hongkong.diplo.de or by telephone on (+852) 2105-8788 or (+852) 2105 8725. Further information and visa application forms can be obtained via the Consulate’s website: www.hongkong.diplo.de.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- The WHV will already include the Work Permit for Germany.
- There is no guarantee that a visa will be issued.
- Border authorities may examine whether the prerequisites for your entry continue to apply. This examination is international practice. You might be refused entry even though you are in the possession of a valid visa if the prerequisites for entry no longer apply.
- In order to facilitate entry formalities and avoid unnecessary delays, we strongly recommend that you carry with you all documents providing evidence about the nature of your stay, particularly proof of sufficient funds and medical insurance.

Address:
21/F, United Centre
95 Queensway, Central, HK

Telephone:
(852) 2105-8788
(852) 2105-8777

Telefax: (852) 2865-2033
E-mail: info@hongkong.diplo.de
Website: www.hongkong.diplo.de

- Once you have obtained your visa please check carefully that all entries are correct and in accordance with your application. You should inform the Visa Section immediately of any mistakes.

HOW AND WHERE TO FIND A JOB IN GERMANY?

In all larger towns in Germany, you can obtain information (e.g., on available jobs) from the local employment office ("Agentur für Arbeit"). However, this office can only be of assistance if you want to spend at least several weeks working for the same employer. Otherwise, you are advised to establish direct contact with potential employers.

Please note:

Detailed arrangements for the Scheme may vary from time to time.

Applicants are therefore advised to check with the German Consulate General before application.