Please make sure you apply with the appropriate German mission in the UK

If you reside in Scotland or certain parts of northern England you must apply at our Consulate-General in Edinburgh. If you are not sure whether to apply in London or Edinburgh, please check the consular district map [pdf, 1,346.08k]

Working Holiday Visa (WHP)

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 Hongkong, Taiwan and Uruguay, as well as a Youth Mobility Programme 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. Employment is permitted throughout the validity of the visa (max 12 months) but should remain of temporary character in order to facilitate additional financial means to your holiday travel intentions in Germany. German language skills and work experience are not condition to the visa process but likely to improve your chances of finding work.

Who can apply and where?

to be eligible to the Working Holiday Visa you must

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

These nationals may lodge an application at any consular post of the Federal Republic of Germany in any country of their choice.
to be eligible to the Youth Mobility Visa you must
- be a citizen of Canada
- be at least 18 years of age but not turned 35 yet when filing an application

Citizens of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and Israel are encouraged to apply for the WHV directly at the local authority (Ausländerbehörde) after having entered Germany. NB: work is not permitted without a valid WHV. You may participate once only.

Korean nationals can apply at the German Embassy in Seoul and Taiwanese citizens at the German Institute in Taipei only. Applicants holding a SAR Hongkong passport must apply at the Consulate General in Hongkong and Brazilian nationals with any German mission in Brazil only.

How much does a Working Holiday Visa (WHV) cost?
The Working Holiday Visa fee is € 75.00 to be paid in GBP only. Please contact the Visa Department for the correct amount in GBP as it may vary according to current exchange rates. Please note that credit card facilities are not available.

Which documents must I submit for my visa application?
The following documents are required either in original or certified copy only:
- completed residence permit application form in duplicate
- one recent passport size photograph (colour, white background)
- original passport (validity has to exceed your stay by at least 3 months)
- flight booking, inbound only
- proof of medical insurance valid in Germany for the duration of your stay
- proof of sufficient funds to cover your living expenses in Germany for the first 3 months of your stay, i.e. a monthly equivalent of € 720,00 in GBP. Accepted evidence of funds are recent bank statements or a formal sponsorship (Verpflichtungserklärung) with proof of income of your sponsor
- visa fee equivalent of € 75 in GBP

Argentinian nationals are also required to provide
- police conduct from either Argentina incl D.N.I. www.argentina.gob.ar/solicitar-certificado-de-antecedentes-penales or country of current residence issued within last 3 months
- CV (in English or German)
- flight booking confirmation to Germany and return ticket to Argentina 12 months later or proof of financial means, i.e. € 1.000 minimum. Evidence accepted in personal bank account statements only
- individual personalised motivation letter
- details about intended purpose of stay in Germany, i.e. job offer letter, proof of accommodation, e.g. hotel or similar reservation or host invitation incl passport/German RP copy
What else do I need to know? PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- Applicants are requested to apply well in advance to the intended date of departure. Application processing may take up to two weeks. This time frame may vary depending on the individual application. The Embassy does not accept responsibility for applications handed in on too short notice. Please apply in person.

- The Working Holiday Visa includes the Work Permit for Germany.

- There is no guarantee that a visa will be issued and we wish to point out that it is at the discretion of the Embassy always to request additional documents at any time while processing the visa.

- Upon arrival in Germany border authorities may assess whether the prerequisites to enter Germany are still applicable. This assessment is international practice. You might be refused entry although you are holding a valid visa. In order to facilitate admission formalities and avoid unnecessary delays we strongly recommend that you keep documents providing evidence about the nature of your stay on you particularly proof of sufficient funds and medical insurance.

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

How and where to find a holiday job in Germany?

You may obtain information on job availability from every local labour office (Agentur für Arbeit). However, this office can only be of assistance if you intend to work for the same employer at least several weeks. Or else you are advised to directly contact potential employers. For general information on employment in Germany please contact:

Zentrale Ausland- und Fachvermittlung (ZAV) der Bundesagentur für Arbeit in Bonn
phone: +49 911 12031010 (charges apply)
Mo-Fr, 8am – 6pm (NB: time zone difference)
Internet: www.arbeitsagentur.de

Opening hours of the Visa Section at the German Embassy in London
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 10.30 am

Please book an appointment online Appointment booking for residence permit

All statements made in this leaflet are based on best knowledge and experience of the Embassy/Consulate General at the time the leaflet was written. As far as correctness and completeness are concerned this information is supplied without liability.