



Hong Kong, August 2017

WORKING HOLIDAY VISA

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 July 1st, 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 *Working Holiday Visa* allows them to travel to Germany for a stay of up to twelve (12) 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 (3) months each can be taken up with different employers of the visa holder's choice. The applicant may enrol on one training or study course of up to six (6) months during the course of their visit.

The visa application can only be submitted three months ahead of the planned departure.

As of July 1st, 2014, the quota has been increased to 300 *Working Holiday Visas* per year which will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a *German Working Holiday Visa*, the applicant must

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

PREPARING FOR THE 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 at the time of application:

1. Fully completed visa application form for a national German visa (“application for residence permit”)
2. **Two** recent passport photographs that can support biometric checks
3. HKSAR or BN(O) passport (valid at least three (3) months longer than your intended stay)
4. A copy of your return airline itinerary with confirmed reservation
5. Proof of address of accommodation (e.g., hotel confirmation) during the first week of your stay in Germany
6. Proof of medical insurance valid in Germany for the duration of the stay which covers hospitalisation and repatriation
7. Proof of sufficient funds (at least Euro 2,000.00) **in the past three months**. 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).
8. Visa fee in cash (Euro 75.00 to be paid in HKD at the time of application).

The application must be lodged no earlier than three months prior to departure.

Please note that further information and additional documents might be required. Visa processing time may vary but will in general be between one and two weeks.

Further information and the visa application forms are available on our website: www.hongkong.diplo.de.

Should you have any further questions please send us an e-mail (info@hongkong.diplo.de) or give us a call (+852-2105 8788 or 2105 8725).

LOOKING FOR A JOB IN GERMANY?

In all larger towns in Germany you can obtain information 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Working Holiday Visa 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.

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.

Please note that arrangement details for the Working Holiday Scheme may be adapted from time to time. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to check with the Consulate General before application.