

Frequently Asked Questions – Working Holiday Visa

Who can apply for a Working Holiday Visa?

New Zealand citizens between the ages of 18 – 30 (inclusive) can apply for a Working Holiday Visa. You have to be 18 or over to apply for the visa and under 31 when you enter Germany.

Is the Working Holiday Visa also available for citizens from other countries?

If you are an Argentinian, Australian, Chilean, Israeli, Japanese or Uruguayan citizen between 18 – 30 and currently in New Zealand, you can also apply for this visa here.

Brazilian and Korean citizens, applicants from the SAR Hong Kong and Taiwan must apply in their respective home countries. (Consulates or Embassy in Brazil, German Embassy in Seoul, German Consulate General in Hong Kong or German Institute in Taipei)

Where can I apply for the visa?

You can either apply for the visa before you leave New Zealand or within 90 days of arrival in Germany at the local immigration office. Argentinians, Chileans and Uruguayans must apply BEFORE entry into Germany.

If you want to apply in New Zealand, you must do so in person at the German Embassy in Wellington. You may also apply in any other country that has a German Embassy or Consulate General accepting visa applications.

When does the visa become valid and how long is it valid for?

You can decide on the validity dates of your visa. Basically the visa is valid for a maximum of one year. You must make sure that your travel insurance validity dates correspond to the dates that you actually want to be in Germany, as the visa can only be issued according to the dates of your insurance cover.

Can the visa be extended?

No, once issued the Working Holiday Visa cannot be extended. That's why you must make sure that you apply for the **whole** period of time you intend to be in Germany.

Can I change from a Working Holiday Visa to another type of visa?

If you find a proper job or want to study in Germany, you can apply for the relevant visa while in Germany on your valid Working Holiday Visa at the local immigration office.

Can I do a German language course on a Working Holiday Visa?

Yes, this is possible

Is self-employed work allowed on the Working Holiday Visa?

Yes, self-employed work is allowed on a Working Holiday Visa

I want to be an Au-Pair. Is the Working Holiday Visa the correct type of visa to apply for?

No, in this case you have to apply for an "Au-Pair Visa".

Is there a quota for the Working Holiday Visa?

No, there is no quota.

Is the visa valid for any other European countries?

No, the Working Holiday Visa is a national visa and is only valid for Germany.

How long does it take to process the Visa?

Generally processing is 1 week for complete applications

Do I need to show evidence of a return flight ticket to New Zealand?

You can either show your return ticket or provide evidence that you have sufficient funds to purchase a return ticket.