

# Working holiday

## Ever thought about combining work and travel?

After graduating from university, there are many options to consider. Finding a job in the area of your study is a great start. However, some students consider taking a “gap” year in between graduating from university and entering the work force fulltime.

A Working Holiday is an excellent way of spending a substantial amount of time working and living in a foreign place and then branching out to travel and explore.

### Where can I go for a working holiday?

There are several countries who participate in a reciprocal Working Holiday Visa arrangement with Australia. These countries include:

- Belgium
- Canada
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Republic of Ireland
- Sweden
- Taiwan
- United Kingdom

### Things to consider

Taking a year out of your life to work and travel abroad can be a life-changing experience and may be one of the best decisions you ever make. You will meet some amazing people from all over the world and have memories to treasure for years to come. Having international work experience can really strengthen your resume and will show-case your adaptability, resourcefulness and determination - all positive employee attributes sought after by any employer. You may even discover a brand new and exciting career path during your travels.

On the downside, when you return home you may experience some trouble adjusting back to your regular and routine life. You may have returned with fabulous memories but a fading bank account. Meanwhile, some of your friends could have got their first full-time job in their chosen career, perhaps a new car and broadened their social network. After the initial excitement of your return fades, they will go back to work and their particular lifestyle and you may be left wondering where you fit in the scheme of things. Alternatively, you may view your old friends differently and seek out opportunities to extend your own networks. It is important not to lose heart. You need to assess your next plan of action.

### Assess and re-assess

When you return from your overseas working holiday, it is important to take sufficient time to recover from jet-lag, reacquaint yourself with family and friends and enjoy being home!

After that, the time comes to assess and re-assess your current priorities. Recognise that you will be a different person from the somewhat inexperienced and wide-eyed traveller who embarked upon a journey of a lifetime. Do you have a debt you need to attend to? Therefore, you may need to assess your career path in terms of a whole new range of factors or influences arising from your travel experience.

Whatever the outcome, celebrate the fact that you had the courage and initiative to step out of your comfort zone and experience a taste of what the world has to offer. Make a realistic plan, break it down into achievable steps and enjoy the next stage of your career journey!

### Ask yourself...

- Do you have the travel bug and want to undertake a working holiday in another part of the world?
- Do you want to work in your chosen field?
- Do you want to undertake postgraduate or further study in a specialist area?



## What type of work can I do overseas?

[Launchpad Australia](http://www.launchpadaustralia.com) ([www.launchpadaustralia.com](http://www.launchpadaustralia.com)) is a fantastic website that will give you great tips for different types of employment opportunities overseas.

Some of these include:

- Nursing
- Hospitality
- Nanny
- Ski Instructor
- Teaching English
- Teaching Overseas
- Volunteering

### Did you know?

'[Employment and Career Development](#)' holds an **International Careers Expo** each year for international employers to talk about internships, graduate entry programs and career pathway opportunities overseas. Go to our website for further information [www.careers.monash.edu.au/news/international-expo-student-guide.html](http://www.careers.monash.edu.au/news/international-expo-student-guide.html).

## How do I apply?

A working holiday visa is a travel permit which allows travellers to undertake employment in the country issuing the visa for the purpose of supplementing their travel funds.

Most working holiday visas are offered under reciprocal agreements between certain countries, to encourage travel and cultural exchange between their citizens.

There are often several restrictions on this type of visa:

- many are intended for young travellers, and as such have an age restriction (usually 18-30)
- there are usually limits on the type of employment taken, or the length of time the traveller can be employed
- the visa holder is expected to have sufficient funds to live on while they seek employment
- You will need to apply for the visa before you leave for overseas. Visas can be obtained from the embassy of the relevant country where you wish to undertake your working holiday. [Embassy World](http://www.embassyworld.com) ([www.embassyworld.com](http://www.embassyworld.com)) provides contact details of embassies worldwide

For Australia, embassies are normally located in Canberra so you will need to allow yourself sufficient time for sending your application form, passport (via registered post) and supporting documentation to Canberra for processing.

### Working holiday programs

[Working Holiday Guru](http://www.workingholidayguru.com/) ([www.workingholidayguru.com/](http://www.workingholidayguru.com/)) is a useful website which provides links to embassy details for each country participating in the Working Holiday program. From there, you will be able to find out the appropriate process to go through when applying for a Working Holiday Visa through a specific embassy.

## Other places to look for help

### Monash Alumni Program

- [www.monashalumni.com](http://www.monashalumni.com)

### Health Wellbeing and Development

- [www.adm.monash.edu.au/community-services](http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/community-services)
- Information for International Students (Student Advisors)
- Preparing for Culture Shock (Counselling)

**Contact us**

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This Information was current at the time of writing and is intended as a guide only.  
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