



NEW ZEALAND
IMMIGRATION

Immigration Factsheets

Working holiday scheme

May 2021

- New Zealand has special working holiday agreements with many countries to encourage tourism and recognise long-standing relationships.
- New Zealand has agreements with 45 countries that allow young people aged between 18 and 30 (or 35 in some cases) the opportunity to travel around New Zealand and work temporarily while they are here.
- Currently the scheme includes the following countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Vietnam.
- Some schemes have a cap on the number of people who can visit New Zealand each year while other schemes have no cap.
- In most cases, eligible people will be given a 12-month visa. While some of the agreements allow working holiday makers to work for any one employer for a maximum of three months about 75 per cent of working holiday visa holders in New Zealand are allowed to work for a six month period with a single employer or have no work restrictions.
- Every working holiday agreement is negotiated between New Zealand and the individual country involved – this includes the relevant provisions such as any limit on the amount of time that a visa holder can work for an employer.
- Working holiday makers are a valuable source of labour for employers, particularly in sectors such as hospitality and agriculture. Surveys indicate they have a positive net impact on the economy as they spend more money than they earn. Working holiday makers are a low risk group from an immigration perspective and rarely overstay their visas or get deported.
- Working holiday makers also tend to take a positive view of New Zealand and this may generate benefits in the long term by translating into a preference for New Zealand in future travel or business.
- **Capped working holiday schemes have been postponed until further notice because of COVID-19 border restrictions.**