



**SKI INSTRUCTOR
ACADEMY**

JAPAN

VISA GUIDE

Working Holiday Program Visa Information

Congratulations on your pending employment this winter season in Japan. As you are aware, a condition of your Job Guarantee and employment you will need to obtain a working holiday permit in your country of residence.

A link can be found below to the immigration website that will have all the information needed for a successful application.

[Working Holiday Visa - Japan Embassy Link](#)

The information detailed below is a great guide, however, each country's embassy application process varies slightly, so please check the embassy website of your country of residence for their exact application process.

You will need to apply to the Japanese embassy in your country of residence, in person. Sometimes there are exceptions to this, however you will have to research this yourself, as each embassy rules vary.

You will be able to download the application form from the specific Japanese embassy you are applying to. Ensure you have the correct form as each Japanese embassy may also have slightly different forms.

Some General Information and Tips

It is important that throughout the application process that you **do not say you have a Job arranged**. The aim of the Japanese WHV is to encourage tourism, by making it possible for visitors to work and engage with the culture during their stay. Technically, you must have the visa approved and stamped in your passport, before you apply for a job. Once in Japan you are entitled to work full-time for any amount of time within the time frame of your visa.

The working holiday visa is designed as an opportunity to experience the culture and history of Japan. It is designed so that you can travel in Japan and take up work assignments that will be used to aid your travel and education of Japan.

It is therefore imperative that you spend time researching your time in Japan to show that you have a desire to visit different places and learn things and **NOT** just to come to Niseko, ride powder and then head straight home.

Some applications in the past have been denied without an opportunity to re-apply in that year because the applicant did not show enough desire to learn about the culture of Japan.

To submit your visa application you will need;

- 1) **Completed application form.**
- 2) **Identical photograph x 2 (45mm-45mm) glued to the form.**
- 3) **Resume / CV** showing educational background, work experience, hobbies, other interests etc.

Important: Treat this resume submission as you would any other job application, as they will be reviewing you for your employability.

- 4) **Outline of planned activities in Japan.**

Important: This is where you will put together a schedule of activities for your trip, with the purpose of your cultural education. It is important to list your travels, before, during and after your time in Niseko. You will not be held to this itinerary, however it is important to show you do not intend to only travel to Niseko. Your Itinerary doesn't have to be complicated, but should show you have a solid plan and have researched Japan. Have at least two or three places for each month of your stay, and be able to describe why you want to visit and stay there. It will pay off in the long run to make this plan good, as it will give you a much better idea of what you want to do with your time in Japan, remember the Visa is valid for a year!

5) **Statement of reason on A4 paper (typed)**

Important: Again, it is best here to focus on your desire to learn about the Japanese Culture, Tradition, Food, People, Language and your strong desire to always spend some time learning in Japan, and NOT your strong desire to experience the powder culture of Niseko. Your reason for visit doesn't have to be a full page essay, just a few short paragraphs detailing why you want to visit Japan. You could talk about the culture, the food, the snow, the geology or many other reasons.

6) **Proof of Travel Funds** - This is your return plane ticket back to your home country. Immigration at times ask you to have this at the time of your application **OR** you must show additional funds to buy you plain ticket. Depending on procedure at your local office, you may be required to purchase this prior to the visa being approved, if this is the case it would be best to ask the officer if all other elements of your application are in order.

7) **Proof of Initial Funds** - You must show proof of USD \$2000 in your account, sometimes you may be required to show a bank statement that proved the funds are not miraculously dropped into your account only to be retracted after your visa is approved. If you would be borrowing the money from family or friends as proof of finances, you will need an accompanying letter from them saying they will be lending you the money, and copies of their bank statements.

Application Procedure

Once you have all your completed documents you will need to submit it in person at your closest Japanese Consulate General.

Processing time: Is a minimum of three weeks before your departure date, however it is recommended that you submit the application between 2-3 mths before you departure date. (So for seasonal staff please submit the visa ASAP after ending your winter season in October.)

Please ensure you take the time to visit and read all the pointers on the immigration site provided, including the additional information section.

Having your visa extended so you are able to work another winter season

Australian residents are able to have their visa extended to 18 months of work within Japan. To be eligible to extend your visa you must

- 1) Have already been in Japan (and on your visa) for three months
- 2) Have registered with your local municipality
- 3) Applied in your local immigration office (Otaru) for an extension.
- 4) Apply for a special re-entry permit before departing Japan.(or your visa will be cancelled upon exit to Australia)

If you have any questions we encourage you to first, read the information readily available on the immigration site provided and then contact us if you need further help.

It is important to remember that while we are here to help, we can take no responsibility if immigration refuses your application for a WHP Visa, however you can speak to us to see what alternatives are available to you as part of your training course such as other locations for your job guarantee.

Good Luck!

- The SIA Team

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