

NZ-Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme: Information for New Zealand participants
New Zealand Embassy, Ha Noi, July 2012

In December 2011 New Zealand and Viet Nam concluded an arrangement to establish a bilateral Working Holiday Scheme (WHS). The WHS will be implemented from 10am New Zealand time on Tuesday 31 July 2012.

New Zealand has concluded over 30 WHS arrangements with other governments. But the New Zealand – Viet Nam WHS is significant as Viet Nam's first such scheme with any other country.

What is a Working Holiday Scheme?

A Working Holiday Scheme enables young people aged 18-30 from one country to holiday in the other, with some incidental work or study possible. It is not a full-time labour or employment scheme. Nor is it a study abroad scheme.

Working Holidaymakers around the world use WHS schemes to see the world, improve their knowledge of foreign languages and cultures, and gain valuable life experience, in an affordable way.

Main features of the NZ – Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme for New Zealand participants

- Up to 100 New Zealand citizens may participate in the Scheme each year (the first year will run from 31 July 2012 to 30 July 2013);
- Places on the scheme will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis to New Zealand applicants who meet the WHS criteria;
- Successful NZ applicants will receive a visa to enable them to stay in Viet Nam for up to 12 months; and a working holiday permit to enable them to work in Viet Nam (in compliance with WHS terms and conditions) during their stay. It will be possible to exit and re-enter Viet Nam during that period;
- Participants may not engage in permanent employment in Viet Nam during their visit;
- Nor may participants work for the same employer in Viet Nam for more than three months during their visit;
- Participants may enrol in study or training courses in Viet Nam not exceeding a total of three months duration during their visit;

Criteria for New Zealand WHS applicants

To be eligible to participate in the NZ – Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme, New Zealand applicants must:

- Have a primary intention to holiday rather than work or study;
- Be aged between 18 and 30 years old inclusive, at the time of application;
- Hold a valid New Zealand passport;
- Possess a ticket for departure from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, or sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket;

- Show proof of a minimum of NZ\$4,200 available to support their holiday, in a New Zealand bank account;
- Pay the fees for visa as regulated by the law of Vietnam and fees for work permit issuance (permit issuance fee is 600,000 VND per person, permit re-issuance fee is 500.000 VND per person);
- Hold a National Certificate of Education Achievement (NCEA) Level 2 or above;
- Comply with Viet Nam's health and character requirements under the WHS: Applicants will have to produce a medical certificate confirming good health issued not more than 180 days prior to application;
- Agree to hold medical and comprehensive hospitalisation insurance that will remain in force throughout the WHS participant's stay in Viet Nam.
- Participants must not be accompanied by family dependents;
- Participants must not have participated in the NZ-Viet Nam WHS previously.

Notes on finding employment in Viet Nam

New Zealand WHS Participants will be expected to search for job opportunities in Viet Nam themselves, on the open employment market.

It is important to approach the WHS with realistic expectations - the job search could take time, there is no guarantee of finding employment, and as noted there are restrictions of the duration of employment for WHS participants. Furthermore, salaries are not high in Viet Nam compared to New Zealand and many other Asian countries.

Viet Nam has a strong demand for English teachers, especially those with formal (eg TOEFL) qualifications. Other employment options could exist in the tourism and hospitality or food and beverage sectors in centres such as Hoi An, Da Nang and Nha Trang as well as Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi. Some participants may also be able to secure internships with multinational companies, especially in Ho Chi Minh City, although advance contact and preparation in good time will probably be required.

Some useful websites for foreigners searching for employment in Viet Nam include:

- *The New Hanoian*, www.tnhvietnam.xemzi.com: A very useful expat website including jobs section (tip: click on the 'Ha Noi' drop down menu at the top of the homepage and access info on other parts of the country also);
- *Vietnamworks*, www.vietnamworks.com: A reliable general job-search site;
- *Dave's ESL Café*, www.eslcafe.com/joblist/index.cgi?index: An international English language teaching job site. Users can search for jobs in specific locations including Viet Nam;
- Employment Service Center in Ha Noi: 285 Trung Kinh Street, Cau Giay, Ha Noi, Tel: 00 84 4 38691401 (ext: 25 – Ms Lieu, Head of Consultant service Division)
- Employment Service Center in Hai Phong city: 735 Nguyen Van Linh Street, Le Chan, Hai Phong City, Tel: 0084 313 701661 (Ms. Hoat)
- Employment Service Center in Da Nang City: 21 Phan Chu Trinh Street, Hai Chau, Da Nang City, Tel: 0084 511 3825606 (Ms. Hong)
- Employment Service Center in Ho Chi Minh City: 153 Xo Viet Nghe Tinh Street, Binh Thanh, Ho Chi Minh City, Tel: 0084 8 35147484 (Ms. Suong).

- Employment Service Center in Can Tho City: 95-97 Tran Hung Dao Street, Ninh Kieu, Can Tho City, Tel: 0084 710 3832055 (Ms. Uyen)

Notes on studying in Viet Nam

A growing number of foreign students now study in Viet Nam each year. Most study Vietnamese language, or specific aspects of Vietnamese culture. Within the three month maximum limit for study under the Working Holiday Scheme there are various short course options in these areas.

How to apply to participate in the Working Holiday Scheme

We strongly recommend that interested applicants check first whether places on the scheme are still available for the year in question. This information will be available from the Vietnamese Embassy in Wellington. An announcement will also be placed on the website of the New Zealand Embassy in Ha Noi (www.nzembassy.com/viet-nam) when the annual quota is filled.

New Zealand WHS applicants must post or hand-deliver applications to the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Wellington, New Zealand:

Address: Level 21 Grand Plimmer Tower, 2-6 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington 6011
Tel: 04 473 5912
Fax: 04 473 5913
Email: embassyvn@clear.net.nz
Web: www.vietnamembassy-newzealand.org
Open: 09.00 - 12.00 and 14.00 – 17.00, Monday – Friday

(Other Vietnamese embassies overseas cannot process NZ-Viet Nam WHS visa/permit applications.)

An application dossier should contain:

- a) A completed application form, available from <http://www.vieclamvietnam.gov.vn>
- b) A photocopy of NZ passport with an expiry date of at least one month beyond the duration of stay in Viet Nam that is applied for;
- c) A medical certificate issued by a registered New Zealand doctor (GP), stating that applicant is in good health and able to undertake employment under the laws and regulations of New Zealand, issued not more than 180 days prior to the date of application (original, or a notarised copy);
- d) A National Certificate of Education Achievement (NCEA) Level 2 or higher (original, or a notarised copy);
- e) A document proving that the applicant has opened a bank account in New Zealand that can be accessed through banks in Viet Nam, with a balance of not less than NZ\$4,200 (original, or a notarised copy);
- f) Three hard copies and one soft copy of a colour passport photo (3cm x 4cm);
- g) Pay the fees for visa as regulated by the law of Vietnam and fees for work permit issuance (permit issuance fee is 600,000 Viet Nam Dong (VND) per person, permit re-issuance fee is 500.000 VND per person);

The anticipated time required to process a complete WHS application is approximately 30 days from date of submission. Applicants should factor this in to their travel planning.

Next steps

Successful applicants will receive a Vietnamese visa in their passports with validity as requested by the applicant up to a maximum of 12 months. They will also receive written confirmation that they are entitled to receive a Vietnamese working holiday permit after arrival in Viet Nam.

On arrival in Viet Nam immigration officers will grant WHS participants a certificate of temporary residence with the same validity as the visa.

Within five days of first entry into Viet Nam, the WHS participant must also visit a Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs office in Ha Noi or Ho Chi Minh City to receive a working holiday permit. Office addresses are:

Office of the Employment Bureau, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
Bureau of employment, MOLISA,
12 Ngo Quyen Street, Ha Noi,
Tel: 0084 4 38269517 (ext: 331 or 332);

Employment Service Centre, Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
Employment Service Center in Ho Chi Minh City:
153 Xo Viet Nghe Tinh Street, Binh Thanh, Ho Chi Minh City,
Tel: 0084 8 35147484 (Ms. Suong).

When a WHS participant finds employment, he/she must ask the employer to complete the relevant page in the working holiday permit booklet, and send a photocopy to the Office of the Employment Bureau, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, by post, fax or email. Contact details are:

Bureau of employment, MOLISA,
12 Ngo Quyen Street, Ha Noi,
Tel: 0084 4 38269517 (ext: 331 or 332);
Fax: 0084 4 38269520

The above contact details can also be provided to employers who wish to verify the WHS participant's eligibility to work legally in Viet Nam under the Working Holiday Scheme.

New Zealand Embassy, Ha Noi

If you require advice or assistance regarding the Working Holiday Scheme when in Viet Nam, the New Zealand Embassy in Ha Noi can be contacted:

Address: Level 5, 63 Ly Thai To Street, Hoan Kiem District, Ha Noi
Tel: (+84 4) 3824-1481
Fax: (+84 4) 3824-1480
Email: nzembassy.hanoi@mft.net.nz
Web: www.nzembassy.com/viet-nam
Open: 08.30 - 12.00 and 13.00 – 17.00, Monday – Friday