

NZ-Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme: Information for Vietnamese 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 5am Viet Nam 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 labour or employment scheme. Nor is it a study abroad scheme. New Zealand offers study and permanent employment opportunities to Vietnamese citizens as well; but not under the WHS.

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 Vietnamese participants

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

Criteria for Vietnamese WHS applicants

To be eligible to participate in the NZ – Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme, Vietnamese 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 Vietnamese passport;
- Possess a tertiary education qualification granted in respect of at least 3 years of full-time university study (ie usually an undergraduate degree) – a notarised copy will be required;
- Show proof of ‘functional’ English ability by producing an IELTS certificate showing achievement of an average level of 4.5 over the four components of the test. (The IELTS certificate must be no more than two years old at the time the WHS application is lodged) – a photocopy only will be required;
- Hold an air ticket for departure from New Zealand; or show proof of sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket;
- Additionally, show proof of a minimum of NZ\$4,200 available to support their holiday – notarised proof will be required;
- Agree to hold comprehensive medical and hospitalisation insurance for the duration of their stay; and
- Comply with New Zealand’s health and character requirements under the WHS. (Vietnamese citizens intending to stay in New Zealand for over six months will need to submit an x-ray certificate – see below. An original certificate will be required.)
- Not be accompanied by family dependents;
- Not have participated in the NZ-Viet Nam WHS previously.

Notes on finding employment in New Zealand

Vietnamese WHS Participants will be expected to search for job opportunities in New Zealand 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 some restrictions of the duration of employment.

In general, many seasonal employment opportunities in the horticulture sector are available over the New Zealand summer (from about November to February).

Other employment could be available year-round: for example in the tourism and hospitality or food and beverage sectors.

The Immigration New Zealand website contains some ideas for searching for jobs: please visit <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/workopportunities/>.

Some participants may also be able to use personal or family links to the Vietnamese community in New Zealand to identify employment opportunities.

The Vietnamese Embassy in Wellington may also be able to suggest employment options:

Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in New Zealand
Address: Level 21 Grand Plimmer Tower, 2-6 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington 6011
Tel: (+64 4) 473 5912
Fax: (+64 4) 4 473 5913
Email: embassyvn@clear.net.nz
Web: www.vietnamembassy-newzealand.org/vi/
Open: 09.00 - 12.00 and 14.00 – 17.00, Monday – Friday

Notes on studying in New Zealand

Many Vietnamese students now study in New Zealand each year. Within the three month maximum limit for study under the Working Holiday Scheme there are many short course options. These include English language courses, and other technical courses in many areas.

The website www.newzealandeducated.com is a good source of general information on New Zealand education options. You may wish to search 'short course' options to better understand the range available.

New Zealand education institutions set their own English language and academic criteria for the courses they offer. Advance payment of course fees will generally be required to secure enrolment.

How to apply to participate in the Working Holiday Scheme

If quota places for the current year are still available, Vietnamese WHS applicants can apply online, or by submitting a paper application.

We strongly recommend that interested applicants check first whether places on the scheme are still available for the year in question (100 places maximum). Applicants can do this by checking (<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/>); or by contacting Immigration New Zealand in Ho Chi Minh City. Announcements will also be placed on the websites of the New Zealand Embassy in Ha Noi (www.nzembassy.com/viet-nam) and Immigration New Zealand Ho Chi Minh City (www.immigration.govt.nz/branch/hochiminh/) when the annual quota is filled.

Immigration New Zealand Ho Chi Minh City can also receive general enquiries regarding Vietnamese participation in the WHS, email hochiminhcity@dol.govt.nz or tel (08) 3827-2745.

Immigration New Zealand anticipates that 90 per cent of applications will be processed within 25 days of receiving the required documentation. This timeframe may be extended if an applicant has any health issues or further verification is required. Applicants are encouraged to ensure that they submit all the required documentation in a timely manner.

Online applications

There are several benefits to applying online:

- Applicants are more likely to secure one of the available quota places;
- The timeframe for assessment is likely to be quicker;
- Payment can be made online by credit card.

Online applications can be made at:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/>

Once an online application has been submitted, applicants will be sent a letter by email explaining what additional documents they need to submit, and where they should be sent to.

Hard copy applications

Applicants who wish to submit a hard copy application must complete an application form and other required documents, and pay the prescribed application fee. A WHS Work Visa Application form (INZ 1085) can be downloaded from the Immigration New Zealand website:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/formsandfees/formsandguides/work.htm>

Relevant medical forms can also be downloaded from the Immigration New Zealand website at

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/formsandfees/formsandguides/healthcharacter.htm>

All hard copy applications, including supporting documentation and application fee, should be delivered or couriered to:

Immigration New Zealand
Level 8 Metropolitan Building, 235 Dong Khoi St
Ho Chi Minh City
Tel (08) 3827-2745

The New Zealand Embassy in Ha Noi will not accept paper WHS applications.

Fees

Both online and hard copy Vietnamese applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee at time of application. The fee is NZ\$165 for online applications or US\$140 for hard-copy applications.

Applicants residing in a third country or already in New Zealand

It is possible for Vietnamese citizens to apply when residing in a third country, or already in New Zealand on a different type of visa.

In both cases, online applications are strongly recommended, as above.

Applicants already in New Zealand can also visit their local Immigration New Zealand office to submit a hard copy application. Contact details for all Immigration New Zealand locations can be found at

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/aboutnzis/contactus/>.

Next steps

Successful applicants will receive an electronic work visa, valid for the period that the applicant has requested up to a maximum of 12 months. An electronic work visa works in exactly the same way as a visa issued in a passport, except that instead of it being a label in the passport, it is a printed version which the applicant keeps with their passport.

When an application is approved, the successful applicant will receive an e-mail notifying them that their visa has been approved. This email will either contain an approval letter, or details on how to log on to the Immigration New Zealand website to view and print a visa. The letter or visa should be kept with the applicant's passport at all times and used at the airport when checking in to travel to New Zealand.

The electronic work visa will include personal details, conditions of employment, conditions of the work visa and its length of validity.

For successful applicants who apply from outside New Zealand, first entry to New Zealand must be made within 12 months of the visa being granted.