



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM

International
Office

INFORMATION SHEET WORKING HOLIDAY PROGRAM/WORKING HOLIDAY SCHEME

Applicable to students from Argentina, Australia, Canada, New-Zealand and South-Korea

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INFORMATION WHP/WHS

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Zealand and South-Korea**

What is the Working Holiday Program (WHP) and Working Holiday Scheme (WHS)?

The Working Holiday Program (WHP) and Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) are special types of residence permits which allow citizens from certain nationalities to participate in a cultural exchange (study and work alike). Exchange students and students who are enrolled in a one-year Master's programme who hold the Argentine, Australian, Canadian, New-Zealand or South-Korean nationality have the possibility to apply for a WHP/WHS type of residence permit. You can apply for this type of residence permit instead of a residence permit for study purposes.

We strongly advise students who are eligible for this type of residence permit to apply for WHP/WHS instead of a residence permit for study purposes. The reason for this is twofold; firstly, the WHP/WHS procedure is much cheaper than the residence permit procedure (€51 versus €350*) and secondly, the WHP/WHS allows you to work during your stay here; a regular residence permit requires a work permit should you like to work.

*Fees are subject to change.

N.B. that in case you have dual citizenship of a Non-EU and EU/EEA country as well, you do not need to apply for a residence permit as you can study here on your European passport. If this is the case, please notify the International Office

of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam at
studentimmigration@vu.nl.

What does it cost?

The fee for the WHP/WHS permit is around €51 (whereas a residence permit for study purposes costs €350). You pay this fee directly to the IND. The IND will send you a confirmation of receipt and a letter containing payment instructions for the visa fee as soon as they have received your application. If you already transferred the visa fee of €350 to us, but decide later on that you do wish to apply for WHP/WHS, then we can refund the visa fee to you.

What conditions do you have to meet in order to be eligible for WHP or WHS?

You wish to come to the Netherlands for longer than three months as part of a programme at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (**for a maximum one year**). The general conditions:

- You are a national from Argentina, Australia, Canada, New-Zealand or South-Korea;
- You have a valid passport;
- You come to the Netherlands for a maximum period of one year;
- You are 18 or older, but are younger than 31;
- You have health insurance that also covers health expenses in the Netherlands;
- You have enough funds for your maintenance during the period of initial stay in The Netherlands;
- You have a return ticket or sufficient funds to purchase one;
- You have no criminal conviction.

Please note that you are only allowed to apply for WHP/WHS once. Please keep this in mind when you make your decision. It also means that you are not eligible for this type of permit if you have been granted one before.



Although you are not required to provide proof of sufficient means of financial support, the Dutch Immigration Service (IND) strongly recommends that you have at least € 900 per month available (plus return ticket) in the Netherlands as employment is not guaranteed.

Please read the detailed information concerning the requirements on the website of the [Dutch Immigration Service \(IND\)](#).

How to apply for WHP/WHS?

Argentine and South-Korean nationals

For both Argentina and South-Korea goes that only 100 young nationals per year can take part in the Working Holiday Programme/Working Holiday Scheme (WHP/WHS). As this type of WHP/WHS is limited to 100 participants per year, we cannot guarantee that it will be possible to arrange a WHP. Also the application procedure for Argentine and South-Korean students differs from the procedure applicable to Australian, Canadian and New-Zealand students. The applications for Argentine and South-Korean students have to be submitted at the Dutch Embassy in Buenos Aires and Seoul respectively. The Dutch Embassy will monitor the quota of 100 participants.

Should you wish to apply for WHP/WHS, please find all relevant information on the website of the [Dutch Embassy in Buenos Aires](#) and [Dutch Embassy in Seoul](#). Please notify Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam that you wish to apply for the Working Holiday Programme by selecting this option in VUnet and send us an e-mail to studentimmigration@vu.nl. You can also contact us via that e-mail address should you have any questions about the WHP.

Australian, Canadian and New-Zealand nationals

You can apply for the WHP/WHS residence permit by submitting the application by post. Please download the [application form from the website of the IND](#). Fill out the form correctly by following the instructions on the form. Luckily the form is quite straightforward so as long as you follow the instructions, nothing should go wrong with your application. Here are some points though to pay extra attention to:

- You are required to send, along with the application form, proof of financial means. For the WHP/WHS residence permit this entails you can send proof of either **a)** a copy of your return ticket or **b)** a copy of a bank statement showing that you have sufficient means of your own to purchase a return ticket.
- Don't forget to complete the Antecedents Certificate and attach it to your application.
- Add a copy of your passport including the page containing your signature and any stamped pages.

You can send the required forms to the IND by mail to the following address:

**Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst
Postbus 5
9560 AA Ter Apel
The Netherlands**

What happens after I submitted my application?

The IND will send you a confirmation of receipt and a letter containing payment instructions for

the visa fee as soon as they have received your application. The confirmation of receipt also informs you by when you may expect the approval of your application.

Within two week of receiving the confirmation of receipt, you need to go to the IND office to provide your biometrics (fingerprints and photograph), which are needed in order to make the residence permit (see page 7 of the application form for more information). It is advisable [to book an appointment](#) to give your biometrics.

As you are exempted from an entry visa, you can stay in the Netherlands for 90 days on your passport. As soon as you have submitted your application to the IND you have legal stay in the Netherlands, even when the decision period exceeds the 90 days. Should the IND take longer than those 90 days to make their decision, you can get a so-called [endorsement sticker](#) at the IND office to prove your legal stay. In case you already wish to look for a job before the approval of the application has reached you, you also need to collect this sticker; without the sticker you are not allowed to work.

Approval of application

The IND will inform you by letter that your application has been approved and will inform you when your residence permit is ready to be collected as well. **Please e-mail us a PDF copy of your WHP/WHS residence permit to studentimmigration@vu.nl as soon as you have it so we can verify it.**