

FAQ Frequently asked questions about the Working Holiday Visa (WH Visa)

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1 Application procedure in general

Q: I am currently abroad/ living outside of Germany and would like to apply for a WH Visa. Can I apply for it at a Japanese embassy abroad?

A: No. The WH Visa can only be applied for at the [Japanese embassy or Japanese consulates general based in Germany](#). Exceptions are not possible.

Q: I possess a German passport, but do not have residency in Germany. Can I still apply for a WH visa in Germany?

A: Yes. You can choose [one of the Japanese diplomatic missions in Germany](#) to apply for it. **Please note:** Usually, applicants must show up in person at least one time. Please clarify all further questions directly with the diplomatic mission you have chosen.

Q: I am already in Japan. Can I get the WH Visa here?

A: No. The WH visa can only be applied for at the [Japanese diplomatic missions based in Germany](#). You need to re-enter Japan with the visa (entry stamp required in order to activate the visa).

Q: Is proof of a flight ticket to Japan required when applying for the WH Visa?

A: No, applicants can also show sufficient financial funds alternatively (see on our [WH visa page](#)).

If you do not have a flight ticket yet, please write an estimated arrival date on the application form and travel itinerary. After receiving the visa, the departure date can be changed.

Q: Do I need a “Certificate of Eligibility CoE” or a “guarantor/inviter” in Japan to apply for the WH visa?

A: No. Both fields on the application form can be left blank.

Q: When can I apply for a WH Visa? When will the visa be valid, e.g. the duration of stay start?

A: WH visa can be applied for up to 1 year before departure to Japan at the earliest. From the date of issue the visa holder needs to enter Japan within 1 year. Upon entry to Japan 1 year duration of stay will start automatically.

Q: I am already 30 years old. Can I still apply for the WH Visa?

A: Yes. The application can be submitted before one's 31st birthday. After receiving the visa, one can be older than 30 years and still enter Japan with it.

Q: I am older than 31 years. Can I get an exemption and still apply for the WH Visa?

A: No. Unfortunately, exceptions to the age limit are not possible.

2 Application for a second WH visa (NEW since January 2025)

Q: Besides German nationality, I also possess another nationality which also would allow a WH stay in Japan. How often can I apply for a WH visa?

A: In total, you are allowed to participate in a WH program in Japan only twice in your lifetime.

Q: What are the conditions to apply for a second WH visa?

A:

- Applications can only be submitted at the [Japanese diplomatic missions](#) based in Germany.
- The first WH stay must be verifiably terminated or no longer valid.
- Applicants must not be older than 30 years on the day of application.

Q: I am currently in Japan on a WH visa. Can I already apply for the second WH visa during my first WH stay?

A: No. The first WH stay must be verifiably terminated or no longer valid when applying for the second WH visa.

Q: I have travelled to Japan with a WH Visa in the past but had to cancel my stay earlier as planned. Can I get a WH Visa again?

A: Yes. Since January 2025, WH visa can be applied for a second stay (see above).

Q: I received a WH visa but was unable to enter Japan and start my stay. Can I get a new WH Visa?

A: Yes. Since January 2025, WH visa can be applied for a second stay (see above).

In general, applications for a second WH visa will be re-examined and re-evaluated. There is no general guarantee that the visa will be issued a second time.

For further information, please contact the [respective Japanese embassy or consulate general](#).

3 Entry to Japan/ Staying in Japan

Q: I am currently in Japan on a WH visa and would like to leave and re-enter Japan during my stay. Is this possible?

A: Yes. You can obtain a residence card when you enter Japan/ at the nearest [Immigration Services Agency](#). With this card it is possible to leave and re-enter Japan. **Please note:** When leaving the country, you must obtain a re-entry permit at the airport so that your WH status remains valid!

Q: I am currently in Japan on a WH Visa. Can I extend my stay?

A: The WH visa itself cannot be extended. However, it is possible to apply at the [Immigration Services Agency](#) for a change of status, e.g. tourist visa or other long-term visa (a guarantor, e.g. employer, language school etc. is usually required).

Alternatively, since January 2025 it is possible to apply for a second WH visa (see above at point 2).