

Working Holiday Agreement between Norway and Japan (requirements for Norwegian nationals)

Note Verbale

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan presents its compliments to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Japan and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of Japan, in a spirit of promoting closer co-operative relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Norway, desirous of providing wider opportunities for nationals of the Kingdom of Norway, particularly young people of the Kingdom of Norway, to experience the culture and general way of life in Japan for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the Kingdom of Norway, and wishing to provide arrangements for working holidays which are intended to make it possible for nationals of the Kingdom of Norway to enter Japan primarily for a holiday for an extended period and also engage in employment as an incidental aspect of their holiday in order to supplement their travel funds, is prepared to take, on a reciprocal basis, from 1 February 2013 the following measures with respect to the entry of nationals of the Kingdom of Norway into Japan, subject to the relevant laws and regulations of Japan:

1. The Government of Japan will issue a working holiday visa valid for a period of three (3) months from the date of issue on application from a national of the Kingdom of Norway who satisfies all of the following requirements:

(i) is a national of the Kingdom of Norway who is resident in the Kingdom of Norway at the time of the application for the said visa;

(ii) intends primarily to holiday in Japan for a period of up to one (1) year from the date of entry;

(iii) is aged between eighteen (18) and thirty (30) years both inclusive at the time of application for the said visa;

(iv) is not accompanied by dependents unless those dependents are also in possession of the said visa or otherwise;

(v) possesses a valid passport of the Kingdom of Norway and a return travel ticket or sufficient funds with which to purchase such a ticket;

(vi) possesses reasonable funds for his or her maintenance during the period of initial stay in Japan;

(vii) intends to leave Japan at the end of his or her stay;

(viii) has not previously been issued the said visa; and

(ix) has adequate medical insurance and good health.

2. Application for the visa mentioned in paragraph 1 above will be required to be submitted to the Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Norway in accordance with procedures specific to these arrangements. When necessary, applicants will be interviewed by the representatives of the Embassy to determine their eligibility.

3. Applicants will not be refused the visa mentioned in paragraph 1 above solely on the grounds of their lack of knowledge of the Japanese language.

4. The Government of Japan will grant nationals of the Kingdom of Norway who have the visa mentioned in paragraph 1 above permission to stay in Japan for up to one (1) year from the date of entry. They may not extend their stay beyond the period authorized, or alter their immigration status during their stay.

5. Participants from the Kingdom of Norway in these arrangements will, during their stay in Japan, be able to take work incidental to their holiday in order to supplement their travel funds.

6. The Government of Japan will require nationals of the Kingdom of Norway who have entered Japan under these arrangements to comply with the laws and regulations of Japan and not to engage in employment that is contrary to the purpose of these arrangements.

7. Participants from the Kingdom of Norway in these arrangements may, subject to the relevant laws and regulations of Japan, enroll in short-term language courses and/or similar courses for the purpose of learning the culture and general way of life in Japan.

8. The Government of Japan may suspend the foregoing measures in whole or in part temporarily for reasons of public security, public order, public health or immigration risk. Any such suspension will be notified immediately to the Government of the Kingdom of Norway through diplomatic channels.

9. The Government of Japan may terminate the foregoing measures by giving three (3) months' written notice to the Government of the Kingdom of Norway.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Japan the assurances of its highest considerations.

Tokyo, 2 November 2012