

Ireland-Argentina Working Holiday Agreement **Frequently Asked Questions**

When will the Working Holiday Agreement begin to operate?

Applications will be accepted by both Ireland and Argentina from 1 October 2008.

I am an Irish citizen and I would like to work in Argentina. How do I apply?

Under the terms of the Working Holiday Agreement up to 100 visas annually will be issued to Irish Citizens aged 18 – 30 (inclusive) permitting them to work in Argentina for six months, with the possibility of renewal for a further 3 months if desired.

Applications should be made directly to the Embassy of Argentina, 15 Ailesbury Drive, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Telephone: 01 269 1546 or email embassyofargentina@eircom.net .

I am a citizen of Argentina and I would like to work in Ireland. How do I apply?

Applications from citizens of Argentina wishing to participate in the scheme should apply to the **Embassy of Ireland in Buenos Aires** (www.embassyofireland.org.ar). You will require a completed, signed **application form** and some particular documentation (see below).

What documents do I require?

The completed and signed application form should be presented at the Embassy of Ireland in Buenos Aires together with:

- Valid Argentine passport;
- 2 recent identical passport photographs with your name on the reverse;
- Current curriculum vitae (with references);
- Original bank statement showing that you have access to €1,500 (or equivalent) plus a return ticket; or €3,000 (or equivalent);
- Originals of any qualifications obtained or letter from school/college/university (where applicable);
- A Police Certificate of Good Conduct (*Certificado de Antecedentes*)

Once the Embassy is satisfied with the documentation above, the application will be approved in principle and the applicant notified. The Working Holiday Authorisation will be issued on submission by the applicant of:

- Return airline tickets;
- Certificate of medical/travel insurance valid for the duration of the trip (based on dates on tickets)
- Valid Argentine passport that is valid for the entirety of the trip to Ireland ie for a full year after their ticketed date of entry.

Can I lodge my application at another Irish Embassy or Consulate?

Applications can only be accepted at the Embassy of Ireland in Buenos Aires and it will not be possible to lodge an application at any other office.

How long will it take to process?

It is envisaged that applications lodged at the Embassy in Buenos Aires will be approved in principle within 15 working days if the documentation is complete. After that it would be intended that the working holiday authorisation would be issued

within 10 working days of the airline tickets, valid passport and travel insurance being presented at the Embassy. Incomplete applications will not be processed and applicants are reminded that the onus is on them to include all of the required backing documentation so that their application is not delayed.

What does it cost to apply?

There will be an application fee of €60 (AR\$275). In addition, participants should be aware that in common with all non-EU nationals who wish to remain in Ireland for longer than 90 days, they must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) within the time frame specified by the immigration officer at the port of entry. The current fee to register with the GNIB is €150.

Is there a limit on the number of Working Holiday Authorisations that will be issued?

The scheme is limited to 100 Argentine participants per year. If the quota is reached admissions will close, a message on the website will inform potential applicants and applications for the scheme will reopen in the next calendar year.

Are there any restrictions on the type of employment that I can take up?

The Working Holiday authorisation aims to facilitate work of a casual rather than strictly permanent nature. However, employment can be full time and can be in any sector. Employment that would lead to a qualification (such as a contract as a trainee accountant or apprentice solicitor) is outside the scope of this scheme.

Is there a limit on the length of time that I can spend working for a particular employer?

Within the twelve month stay permitted by the scheme there is no limit for Argentine participants on the length of time that can be spent working for a particular employer.

I am already in Ireland; can I make an application for a Working Holiday Authorisation?

Argentine nationals who are already in Ireland with an immigration status other than that based on a Working Holiday Authorisation may not convert to permission based on a Working Holiday Authorisation without leaving the State and re-entering on the basis of the valid Working Holiday Authorisation.

I would like to apply for a Working Holiday Authorisation; can I bring my spouse and dependent children with me?

Working Holiday Authorisations are issued on an individual basis. Holders of Working Holiday Authorisations shall not seek to be accompanied or joined by a spouse or dependents;

Will I be able to extend my Working Holiday Authorisation?

Permission granted to those entering Ireland on the basis of a Working Holiday Authorisation shall be valid for a maximum period of twelve (12) months from the date of entry into Ireland. Extensions to the period of validity of such permission shall not be granted. Participants must leave Ireland on the expiration of the permission, which cannot be extended, either under the authorisation itself, or through attempting to convert it to a different form of immigration status;

I have a criminal record. Can I apply for a Working Holiday Authorisation?

All applications must include an Argentine Police Certificate of Good Conduct (*Certificado de Antecedentes*). Where someone has a criminal record, they should include with their application a letter explaining the situation and including information on the nature of the offence. Individual cases will be examined on a case by case basis.