

WORKING HOLIDAY VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

A. WORKING HOLIDAY VISA

Applications for “working holiday visas” to Italy may be lodged at the Consular Representations of Italy in Australia (i.e. the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney, the Consulates in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth, the Consular Section of the Embassy of Italy in Canberra) by Australian citizens who are ordinarily resident in Australia. Interested persons must apply directly to the Consular Representation with jurisdiction in his/her place of residence (see under Embassy/Consular Network).

The applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. be resident in Australia;
2. be aged between 18 and 30 years inclusive at the time of application for the visa;
3. not include any minor dependents in the application;
4. have not previously taken part in the Working Holiday scheme;
5. hold a valid Australian passport;
6. hold a valid return travel ticket or sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket;
7. possess sufficient funds to support oneself during the period of stay in Italy (equivalent of at least € 3.500 for a stay of one year). The applicant’s proof of financial means is to be demonstrated by showing the funds themselves or by bank surety or insurance guaranteed policy or equivalent instrument of credit or with instruments of prepaid services or with definite proof of the availability of sources of income in Italy.
8. health insurance policy with a minimum coverage of \$30,000 to cover medical, pharmaceutical and hospitalization costs in case of accident or disease.

Application for the “working holiday” visa is to be made by completing an application form (attaching a photograph), which the aforementioned diplomatic/consular offices will make available, and mentioning one’s intention to spend a holiday period in Italy. This will be subject to the intention to undertake temporary work activities not exceeding a total of six months and not more than three months with the same employer.

Cost of the visa is currently set at Euro 90.00.

B. RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR ‘WORKING HOLIDAYS’

Before proceeding, working holiday visa holders must be aware that, due to the high number of requests by foreigners), they may experience long queues and delays at the Italian *Questura* (Police station) in order to get the “residence permit”.

1. Within 8 working days of arrival in Italy, the holder of the “working holiday” visa must go to the Questura (Police Station) in the province where the applicant intends to reside in order to apply for the “permesso di soggiorno”(residence permit).
2. The application for residence permit is to be made using the special application form available at the Questura and must contain the following:
 - personal data;
 - place where the applicant intends to reside;

- reason for the stay (“working holiday”);
- 4 photographs;
- photocopy of the passport and of the “working holidays” visa.

3. When applying, the application the following documents are to be presented:

- the passport endorsed with the entry visa for “working holidays”
- the documentation showing proof of the necessary financial means, which will have already been presented to the diplomatic/consular office where the visa was issued.

4. After having examined the documentation and ascertained the identity of the applicant, the officer assigned with processing the applications will issue the applicant with a confirmation of receipt of the application, indicating the day on which the “permesso di soggiorno” can be collected. It should be noted that this confirmation of receipt is sufficient to initiate the file with the “Direzione Provinciale del Lavoro” [Provincial Labour Office].

5. After the validity period of the “permesso di soggiorno” has expired, the holder of a “working holiday” visa must leave the country: the “permesso di soggiorno” is in fact not renewable, nor able to be converted to another type of “permesso di soggiorno”.

C. WORK PERMIT

The work permit is issued by the Direzione Provinciale del Lavoro (Provincial Labour Office which is a branch office of the Ministry of Labour in each Provincial capital) competent for the area in which the work activities will be undertaken. Processing of the work permit is to be commenced after the foreign national has arrived in Italy, and after obtaining the “permesso di soggiorno”.

The holder of a “working holiday” visa is permitted to work for a total period not exceeding six months during his stay in Italy and for not more than three months with the same employer. The permit to work is issued on the request of the employer.

To obtain this permit to work, the employer is to present to the Provincial Labour Office a request which must contain:

- 1) all information regarding the company or employer;
- 2) all data on the Australian worker to be employed;
- 3) the undertaking to ensure that the Australian citizen will be remunerated and covered by the pertinent insurance as set down in the current legislation and in the pertinent national collective labour contracts;
- 4) the address of the company where the employment will be carried out;
- 5) indication of the type of accommodation.

The employer must further attach to the application:

- 1) his Chamber of Commerce registration certificate;
- 2) copy of the employment contract and of the documentation drawn up for fiscal purposes confirming the employer’s financial viability.

When the abovementioned requirements have been met, the work permit is issued within 20 days from receipt of the application.