

Residence permit of the Working Holiday Program (WHP) or Working Holiday Scheme (WHS)

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The Working Holiday Program (WHP) or Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) is a cultural exchange programme. Adolescents between 18 and 30 years of age can apply for a residence permit to live in one of the participating countries for a maximum of 1 year. The WHP/WHS can also be used by exchange students.

The Netherlands currently has an agreement with the following countries:

- Canada
- Australia
- New Zealand
- South Korea
- Hong Kong (SAR)
- Argentina

[Why apply for the residence permit of the WHP/WHS?](#)

There are two reasons to apply for a WHP/WHS residence permit instead of a regular residence permit: it is cheaper (€57 instead of €250) and it allows you to work during your stay here without an additional work permit.

There are two things to consider when deciding on whether to make use of this option. 1. You are allowed to apply for the WHP/WHS residence permit only once. If you are considering returning to the Netherlands at some point in the future, you might want to save this option for that occasion. 2. You have to apply for this residence permit yourself. However, the procedure is very simple and you can still ask for assistance from the VU International Office if needed.

As with a regular residence permit, the WHP residence permit allows you to travel (for maximum 90 days) within the [Schengen Area](#) without a visa.

The WHP residence permit is valid for one year. It means that you can stay in the Netherlands some 6 months longer after the end of your exchange. Of course you will have to leave the accommodation arranged for you by VU Amsterdam by the end of your exchange semester.

[Application by exchange students from Canada, Australia, New-Zealand](#)

You do not need an entry visa (MVV) to travel to the Netherlands: you are allowed to stay here 90 days without a residence permit (VVR).

There is no limit to the number of nationals from your country who can take part in the WHP/WHS. You only have to meet the conditions. See for a [list of conditions](#) the website of the Dutch Immigration Service IND.

You can apply for the residence permit in two ways:

- **You apply to the Dutch representation in your own country or the country of continuous residence.**

You submit the application to the Dutch representation (embassy or consulate). The Dutch representation forwards your application to the IND. After you have submitted the application, you will get a letter from the Dutch representation stating how the fees are to be paid. For the application form and information on how to apply and how to pay the fees, please contact the Dutch representation. Use the button Apply online [here](#). You need to upload the following documents: 1) a scan of your passport (signed by you as passport holder and including all stamped pages); 2) a scan of your return ticket or a bank statement showing you have enough money to buy one; 3) a digital signature.

- **You apply in the Netherlands.**

You can also submit the application to the IND after your arrival in the Netherlands. In this case please use this [form](#) and send it to the IND together with the required documents.

For WHP these are the appropriate boxes to tick: Question 1: box 3, Question 2: box 2 (no TB test needed), Question 3: the only available box, Question 4: the only available box, Question 8: Amsterdam box.

After the application has been received, the IND sends a letter stating how the fees are to be paid. After the receipt of this letter, please make [an appointment online](#) within 2 weeks to visit an IND Desk to provide your biometric information (fingerprints and facial image).

Application by exchange students from South Korea, Hong Kong, Argentina

The number of nationals from your country who can participate in the WHP/WHS program is limited to 100 participants. So our experience is that very few exchange students are able to make use of this option.

You have to apply at the Dutch embassy/consulate in your country: South Korea, Hong Kong, Argentina. No online application is possible. Please find more detailed information on the website of the Dutch Immigration Service IND. Note: nationals from South Korea do not need an entry visa (MVV) to enter the Netherlands. Nationals from Hong Kong and Argentina do need one.

Steps to be taken at VU

- Inform VU International Office that you want to apply for a WHP/WHS by sending an email to studentimmigration@vu.nl.
- After being fully admitted, you are able to confirm your participation in VUnet (the VU intranet) and to indicate that you will apply for a WHP/WHS residence permit. In this case you will not be asked to pay a visa fee to VU Amsterdam (as you will pay your visa fee to the IND yourself) and you will not be asked to upload any visa documents in VU (as you will send them yourself to the IND directly).
- After you have received your residence card (during the first month of your exchange), send a scan of both sides of the card to studentimmigration@vu.nl.

More information

- [WHP information of Dutch Immigration Service IND](#)
- [Contact page of the Dutch Immigration Service IND](#)
- Telephone of Dutch Immigration Service IND: From abroad you can call +31 88 043 04 30. From the Netherlands: 088 043 04 30
- Contact the Services team of VU International Office by sending an email to studentimmigration@vu.nl