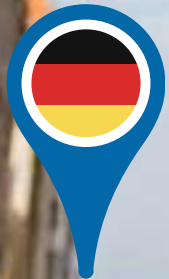


WanderWork:

A Guide to Working and Traveling Abroad



Germany Edition

The Benefits of Working and Traveling in Germany as a Canadian



Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime, but the thought of figuring out the visa process and finding a job abroad is making your head spin?

Do you have questions about where to go, how to get the work visa, how to get a job overseas?

Have you started to book your trip and need some travel suggestions and advice?

In this guide to working abroad in Germany you will find detailed information about jobs, housing, travel, safety and much more!

At GO International we understand what you are going through and we are here to help.

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An Introduction to International Experience Canada (IEC)

Are you ready to turn your travels into a life-changing experience? Did you know there's a government program that makes it possible for you to work in over 35 countries while you explore the world? It's true!

As a Recognized Organization (RO) of IEC, GO International has been designated a partner in raising awareness and providing support services to foreign national and Canadian youth. The Government of Canada works with key stakeholders like GO International in Canada and abroad to raise awareness of the program, promote the benefits of international experience, and to equip Canadian youth with information to successfully embark on international work and travel experiences through IEC.

What is International Experience Canada?

International Experience Canada (IEC) is the Government of Canada's flagship youth mobility program, facilitating work and travel opportunities for thousands of Canadian and foreign youth each year. Although Canadian citizens enjoy passports that provide visa-free access to many countries around the world, most do not allow easy access to labor markets, making it difficult to obtain international work experience without specialized, in-demand skills.

Through the negotiation of youth mobility arrangements, IEC facilitates international work experience opportunities for youth aged 18-35 in partner countries and territories around the world.

Originating in 1951 as a cultural youth exchange initiative following World War II, the program now has more than 30 active youth mobility arrangements with country and territory partners across Europe, East Asia, Oceania, and the Americas.

Its primary objectives include building the global competencies of Canadian and foreign national youth and leveraging youth mobility arrangements as a strategic tool in diplomatic relations to strengthen global relationships.



"Traveling allows you to become so many different versions of yourself."

How does it work?

IEC has three program streams through which foreign youth may work and travel in Canada:

Working Holiday

The Working Holiday stream facilitates work and travel through an open work permit that allows foreign youth to work for virtually any employer in any location in Canada.

International Co-op & Young Professionals

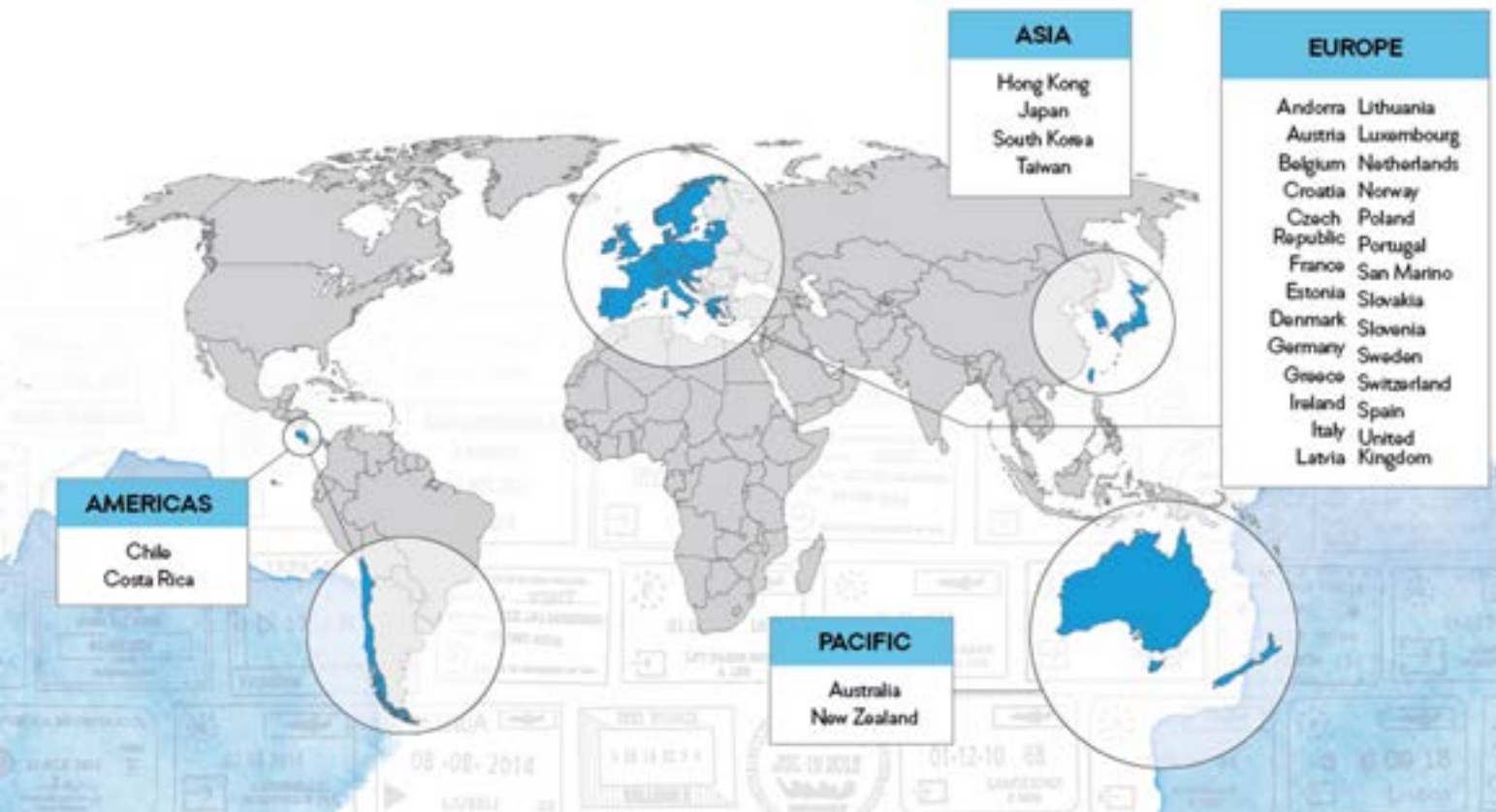
The International Co-op and Young Professionals streams facilitate internships and professional work experience through employer-specific work permits.

Similarly, Canadian youth can access a variety of work-travel program streams in partner countries and territories. Access to specific work permit streams depends on the negotiated arrangement between Canada and each of its partners.



IEC Partner Countries

The following countries have reciprocal Youth Mobility Agreements (YMA) with Canada. This means, that as a Canadian citizen, you can get a Youth Mobility visa / Working Holiday visa for any of these destinations - always depending on the agreement between Canada and the IEC country.



Planning Your Trip: How to Budget and Plan Your Itinerary for Germany

Travel to Germany for your Working Holiday adventure!

If you are already packing your bags, why not travel to Germany?

Germany is a popular destination for working holiday travelers because of its rich culture, stunning landscapes, and diverse job opportunities. By embarking on a working holiday in Germany, you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in the local way of life, learn a new language, and gain valuable work experience in fields such as hospitality, agriculture, and teaching. You can also earn money to fund your travels, which will allow you to explore all that Germany has to offer.

Requirements for Traveling and Working in Germany as a Canadian

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM:

- You must be a Canadian citizen and resident with a valid Canadian Passport (valid for at a minimum of three months past the end date of the visit and issued within the last 10 years)
- You must be between the ages of 18 and 35 years (inclusive)
- You must be in good health
- You must have a clean Police Record
- You must provide proof of financial resources 3,000 EUR (approx. \$4,400 CAD) to provide for any initial expenses at the start of your stay and to allow you to leave the country at any time during your stay in Germany
- You must submit all the documents necessary to support your visa request
- You have not held a Working Holiday Visa (category d) for Germany before

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

Must-See Sights to Visit on Your Trip



Brandenburg Gate

The Brandenburg Gate is a neoclassical monument built in the late 18th century in Berlin, Germany. It has become a symbol of peace, unity, and freedom, and is one of the most famous landmarks in the world. The gate has witnessed many significant events throughout history, including the division and reunification of Germany, and continues to be a popular tourist destination and a venue for various public events.

Cologne Cathedral



The Cologne Cathedral is a stunning Gothic cathedral located in Cologne, Germany, and is one of the most famous landmarks in the country. It took over 600 years to complete and is renowned for its impressive size, intricate architecture, and beautiful stained-glass windows.

Europa Park



Europa-Park is one of the largest and most popular theme parks in Europe, located in Rust, Germany. It features over 100 attractions and shows inspired by different European countries, as well as numerous roller coasters, water rides, and other thrilling experiences.



HALLO UND WILLKOMMEN TO **GERMANY** THE COUNTRY OF POETS AND THINKERS!

NORTHERN GERMANY

Bordering Denmark and the Baltic Sea, Northern Germany consists of beach resorts, bustling cities and medieval towns. It boasts an array of lesser known, yet all the more travel-worthy destinations like the port city Rostock, the bustling metropolis Hamburg and the popular resort islands Stralsund, Helgoland, Rügen and Sylt.



ROSTOCK

WESTERN GERMANY

Western Germany is known for its big and busy cities, such as Cologne, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt. However, there is so much more than just urban jungle! Visit Trier, the oldest city in Germany, take in the atmosphere in Marburg, which influenced the famous Brother Grimm tales and relax in one of the recreational Roman Thermal baths in Aachen.



RIVER RHINE

EASTERN GERMANY

From the Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes, to the remarkable Romanesque and half-timber architecture in Saxony-Anhalt to the many old town centers in Quedlinburg, Dresden and Bautzen. Also try dishes unique to East Germany like Königsberger Klopse (German meatballs), Spreewald pickles and the various sausages (Mettwurst, Rotwurst, Leberwurst...).



DRESDEN



HALLO UND WILLKOMMEN TO **GERMANY** THE COUNTRY OF POETS AND THINKERS!

SOUTHERN GERMANY

Take a cogwheel train to the highest peak in Germany – the Zugspitze. Walk around the beautiful harbor city of Lindau on the shore of Constance Lake with its colorful storybook houses. Visit the culturally significant University towns of Regensburg, Freiburg or Heidelberg. And it's a quick trip over the border into Austria, Italy or Switzerland!



ZUGSPITZE

THE CAPITAL: BERLIN

We recommend having a refreshing dip into the water at the Badeschiff, taking a historic city tour into the Underground (Berliner Unterwelten), or visiting the impressive Reichstag building (German Parliament). Start your Working Holiday adventure in the capital of Germany. It will definitely be one of the most diverse places you will surely visit!



FERNSEHTURM

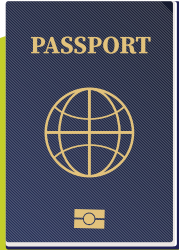
DID YOU KNOW?

From 1949-1990 Germany was formerly split into two independent nations: the Federal Republic of Germany, allied to the Western democracies, and the German Democratic Republic, allied to the Soviet Union

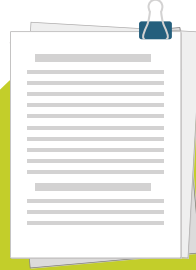


DEM DEUTSCHEN VOLK

What to pack for your Carry-on Luggage



Passport



POE Letter



Health Insurance



Credit or Debit Card



Cash



Emergency Contacts



Travel Pillow



Charger & Adapter



Important Documents



Electronics



Snacks & Water



Change of Clothes



Check the carry-on rules for your airline!

Travel Preparation Checklist



Travel Preparation

- Renew/Check passport
- Book medical insurance
- Change CAD to local currency
- Check flight status, online check-in, & seat reservation
- Download offline maps
- Print important documents
- Make copies to give to parents or someone you trust
- Get a credit card
- Write down important contact numbers
- Visit doctor (e.g. dentist)
- Apply for an international driving permit
- Check vaccination requirements
- Prepare a general resume
- Check that your cellphone is unlocked
- _____

Home Preparation

- Organize plant & pet care
- Empty the fridge of perishables
- Forward or hold mail
- Give keys to a relative/friend
- Cancel contracts/subscriptions



Packing Checklist

Clothing

- Shirts / T-shirts
- Pants / Jeans
- Shorts
- Socks
- Sweater
- Hat
- Underwear & Pajamas
- Bras
- Dress / Skirt
- Pantyhose
- Collar Shirt
- _____
- _____

Cold Weather Clothing

- Jacket (Wind breaker)
- Gloves
- Hat
- Scarf
- _____
- _____

Optional Clothing

- Belt
- Raincoat
- Umbrella
- Jewelry
- Glasses / Contact lens kit
- Smart interview outfit
- _____

Beach Gear

- Swimsuit
- Sunglasses
- Sunblock
- Beach towel
- _____
- _____

Shoes

- Runners / Walking shoes
- Sandals
- Dress shoes / Heels
- Shower shoes
- _____

Electronics

- Cellphone / Charger
- Extra batteries
- Power bank
- Laptop
- Watch
- Headphones
- Travel adapter
- _____

Luggage

- Backpack
- Carry-on bag
- Suitcase
- Safety pins
- _____

Personal Hygiene

- Toiletry bag
- Hair Brush / Comb
- Razor / Electric Shaver
- Toothbrush / Tooth Paste
- Dental floss
- Soap/ Cleansers
- Shampoo/ Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Moisturizer
- Lip Balm
- Quick-dry towel
- Make-up
- Feminine products
- _____
- _____

Health & Medications

- Prescription medicine
- Contraception/ Condoms
- Motion sickness pills
- Pain/ Aspirin medication
- Antibiotic ointment
- Laxative/ Diarrhea medicine
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent
- Band-aids
- _____

Quick Packing Tips



1 Don't overpack!

Pack only as if you'll be gone for 3 weeks and take just your favorites.

2 Pack smart

Use packing cubes or the rolling technique so you won't lose any suitcase space.

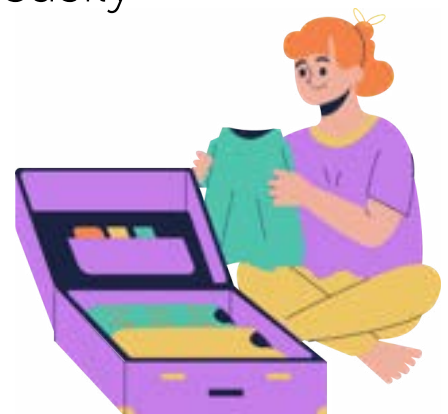
3 Be wise, carry travel size

Bring travel size items like shampoo, sunscreen, etc., and buy bigger packages at your destination.

4 Easily access certain items

Pack these items so they are easily accessible in your carry-on:

- Medication
- Change of clothing
- Important documents
- Liquids bag



Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

1) Supporting Documents

You don't prepare your supporting documents before starting your application.

2) Check Visa Application

You forget to check your visa application for mistakes before submitting it. It is extremely important to pay attention to the visa guidelines to avoid delays in your visa processing. Even better: Ask someone else to look over it once!

3) Expiring Passport

If your passport is not valid for the full duration of your stay in Germany, your work permit will only be valid until the expiry date of your passport. Make sure to renew your passport before the application process.

4) Age Limit

You forget to apply for your Working Holiday visa before your 36th birthday. It is okay if you turn 36 while being in Germany or before you travel.

5) Travel Health Insurance

You don't book a medical travel insurance. It is mandatory to be insured for the full duration of your Working Holiday in Germany.

6) Visa Processing Time

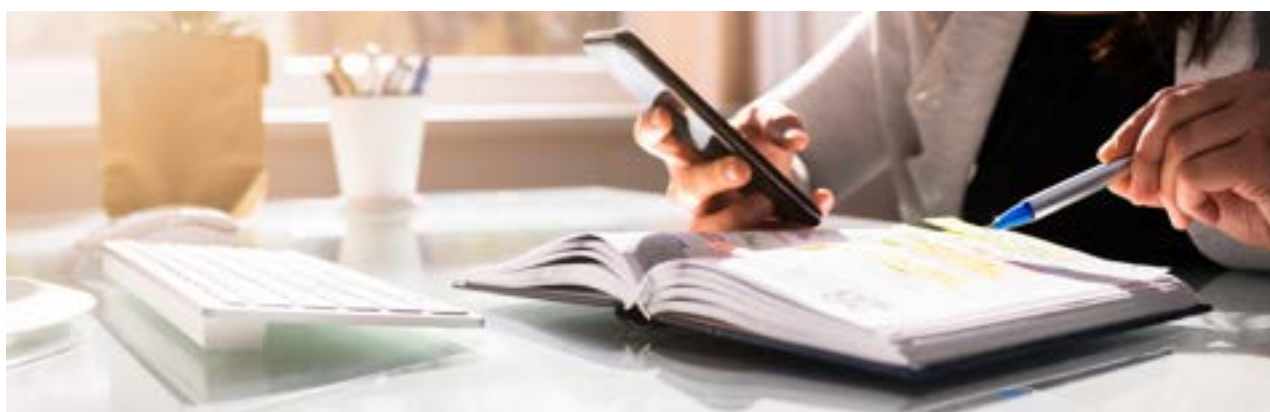
You don't plan enough time to apply for your visa. It usually takes 30 business week to process the application.

7) Visa Application

You don't plan enough time to visit the German Consulate in Toronto for submitting your visa application in person.

8) Language Skills

Your German language skills aren't sufficient to find a job in Germany. Be aware that you should take a language course or have at least conversational German skills to do a Working Holiday.



General Tips

Obtain the necessary visa

Canadian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 are eligible for a Working Holiday visa in Germany. Make sure to apply for the visa well in advance of your planned departure date.

Learn some German

While it's not mandatory to speak German to find a job in Germany, knowing some basic German will make your job search and daily life much easier. Consider taking some language classes before you go or using language learning apps to practice.

Research job opportunities

Do some research on the job market in Germany and the industries that interest you. There are opportunities in hospitality, agriculture, teaching, and more. Look for job openings online or in local newspapers, and consider using job search websites like Stepstone and Indeed.

Budget wisely

Germany can be an expensive country to live in, especially in larger cities like Berlin. Make sure to budget wisely and keep track of your expenses. Consider staying in hostels or shared accommodations to save money on housing.

Explore the country

Take advantage of your time in Germany to explore all that the country has to offer. Visit museums, historical sites, and natural landmarks. Try local cuisine and beers, and immerse yourself in the culture.

Connect with other travelers

Join Facebook groups or forums for Working Holiday travelers in Germany to connect with other Canadians and exchange tips and advice.

General Tips

Stay safe

While Germany is generally a safe country, it's important to take precautions to stay safe while traveling. Be aware of your surroundings, avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and keep your passport and valuables in a safe place.

Organize before departure

Make a list of the things you need to do before you leave, such as canceling your bills, changing your address, and so on. This will help you stay organized and ensure that you don't forget anything important.

When to go to Germany:

Germany can be visited year-round, and the best time to visit depends on your interests and preferences. Here's a breakdown of the different seasons in Germany to help you plan your trip:

Spring (March - May)

Spring in Germany is a beautiful season characterized by blooming flowers, warmer temperatures, and longer days. It's a great time to enjoy outdoor activities like picnics, hiking, and cycling.

Summer (June - August)

Summer in Germany is a popular time for tourists and locals alike, with warm temperatures, long days, and plenty of outdoor events and festivals. It's a great season to explore the country's beautiful beaches, lakes, and mountains.

Fall (September - November)

Fall in Germany is a picturesque season with stunning foliage, crisp temperatures, and a cozy atmosphere. It's a great time to enjoy seasonal activities like visiting pumpkin patches and hiking in colorful forests.

Winter (December - February)

Winter in Germany is a magical time, with snowy landscapes and plenty of opportunities for winter sports. It's a great season to enjoy warm comfort food, like Glühwein and hearty stews, and to celebrate traditional holidays like Christmas.

Other Key Things

- **Accommodation:** Finding a place to live can be one of the biggest challenges when moving to a new country. Research different options such as short-term rental accommodation, hostels, Airbnbs or long-term rentals. It's also a good idea to look into shared accommodation options to save on costs.
- **Transportation:** Research transportation options in your destination city and consider purchasing a car or bike if you plan on staying in one place for a longer period of time. Make sure to check if you need a special license to drive in Germany.
- **Banking:** Setting up a bank account in Germany will make it easier for you to manage your finances and get paid. Research different banking options and compare fees and services.
- **Health insurance:** It's important to have health insurance when working and traveling in Germany. You will have to book a medical travel insurance for the full duration of your stay in Germany.
- **Currency:** Get familiar with the currency used in Germany and consider getting your money exchanged before you leave Canada or when you arrive in Germany.
- **Visa regulations:** Make sure you understand the rules and regulations of your visa and ensure you comply with them during your stay in Germany.
- **Taxes:** Make sure you are aware of your tax obligations in Germany and how to file your taxes, including how to register for your personal tax identification number.
- **Cultural differences:** Be aware of the cultural differences between Canada and Germany. Research the customs and social norms of your destination and be prepared to adapt to the new culture.
- **Safety:** Research the safety situation in your destination city and take necessary precautions to ensure your safety while working and traveling in Germany.
- **Networking:** Network with other Canadians and connect with local communities and organizations to learn more about the country and find job opportunities.

Emergency contact information

Make sure to keep emergency contact information, such as the contact information of your embassy and your insurance provider, on hand in case of an emergency.

Flight Booking Tips

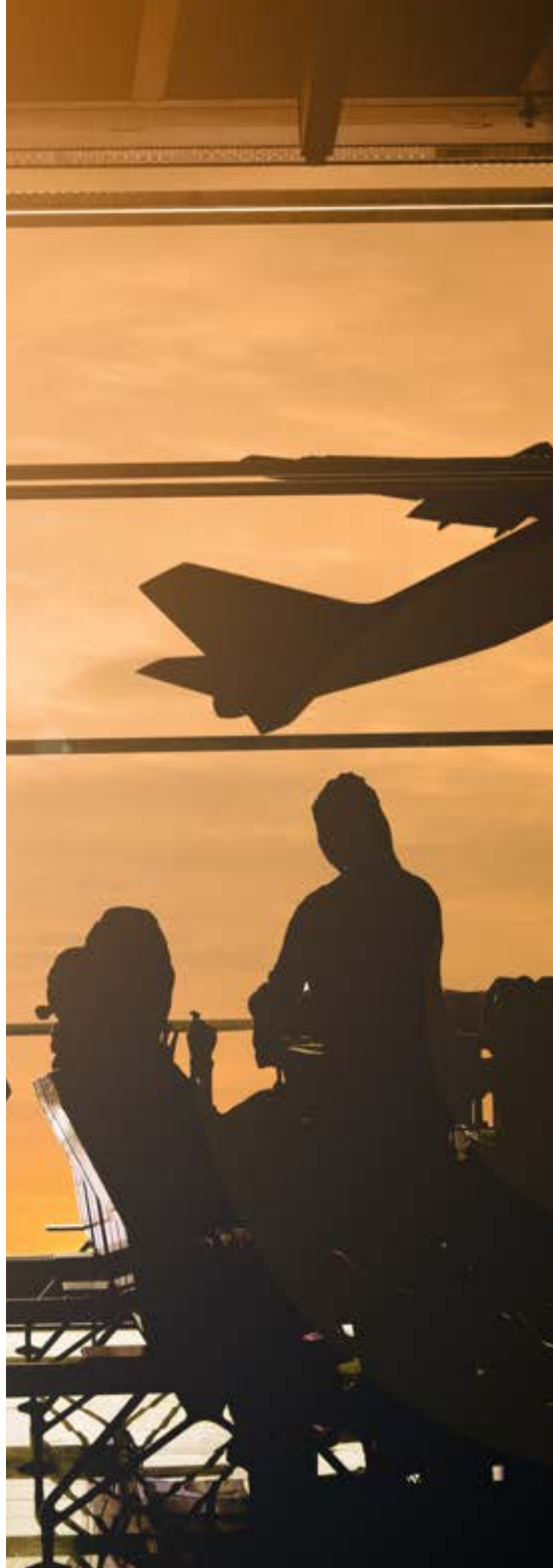
Decide on where and when you want to fly - it's better to be flexible about the dates to find a cheaper rate and/or better connection.

Check flight comparison websites like Expedia, Skyscanner, Kayak, but if possible book directly through an reliable airline (e.g. Air Canada).

Sign up for price alerts by using flight search tools such as Google Flights, Kayak, Hopper, and Skyscanner.

You'll definitely want at least a 1.5 to 2-hour window for layovers. Make sure to have sufficient time to make your connection.

Decide if you want to book a one-way or return ticket. You will need to prove extra funds if you only book a one-way ticket. If it's a return ticket, make sure you can reschedule the return date.



Arrival in Germany - Three Essential Tips

Once you arrive in Germany, there are three essential things to do:

1 Tax Identification Number (steuerliche Identifikationsnummer - IdNr)

Obtain a tax identification number: You will need to provide a valid form of identification, such as a passport or identity card (not a driving license) along with a proof of residence certificate. You can schedule an appointment to register your residency at your local citizen's office within 14 days of arrival.

2 Register Residency

- Gather required documents: You will need to provide a valid passport or ID card (not a driver's license), visa and proof of residence (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung)
- Schedule an appointment: You can schedule an appointment in person, by phone or online. You may need to bring a German speaker with you if you do not speak German.
- Submit your application: At your appointment, you will need to fill out an application form and provide all required documents. The service is usually free, but some offices may charge nominal fees.
- Receive your certificate of residency: Once your application is approved, you will receive a certificate of residency in the mail. This document confirms your residency status in Germany.

3 Bank Account

It's essential to open a bank account to receive your salary and manage your finances. You'll need your passport, visa, and address details to open a bank account in Germany.



Visa Applications for Canadians: A Detailed Guide on how to Apply for Different Types of Visas

Everything You Need to Know About the Germany Working Holiday Visa

Are you planning to work and travel in Germany? Then, it's essential to know everything about the Working Holiday visa for Canadians.

The process of getting a visa, finding a job, and settling down in a new country can be a bit challenging, but it can be made simpler if you know what to do. In this article, we'll go through everything you need to do before and after arriving in Germany to start your Working Holiday.

German Working Holiday Visa (Youth Mobility, category d)

The Youth Mobility Agreement between Canada and Germany offers a unique opportunity for young people (between the age of 18 and 35 inclusively at the time of application) to complement their post-secondary education, acquire hands-on work experience, and improve their knowledge of the other country's language, culture and society.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- You must be a Canadian citizen and resident with a valid Canadian Passport (valid for at a minimum of three months past the end date of the visit and issued within the last 10 years)
- You must be between the ages of 18 and 35 years (inclusive)
- You must be in good health
- You must have a clean Police Record
- You must provide proof of financial resources 3,000 EUR (approx. \$4,400 CAD) to provide for any initial expenses at the start of your stay and to allow you to leave the country at any time during your stay in Germany
- You must submit all the documents necessary to support your visa request
- You have not held a Working Holiday Visa (category d) for Germany before

KEY INFORMATION

- You can stay in Germany for up to 12 months
- You can participate twice (in different categories)
- Visa fee: \$120 CAD
- Financial proof: 3,000EUR (\$4,400 CAD)
- You can apply 3 months the earliest in advance
- It usually takes 2-3 weeks for complete applications to be processed.
- You can apply via mail or in person at the German consulate in Toronto.

German Working Holiday Visa (Youth Mobility, category d)

PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

You should start preparing your application as soon as you have plans to stay in Germany longer than 90 days. The entire visa application process can take up to three weeks.

Application steps:

1. Please fill out and print the visa application forms and bring a copy of it to your appointment:

- [Videx Online Application Form Youth Mobility Visa](#)
- [YMA Declaration](#)
- [Personal Liability Insurance](#)
- [Declaration 'Use of Mail Services'](#)
- [Social Security Obligation](#)

You also find all up to date forms on the homepage of the [German Missions in Canada](#).

2. Please compile the documents you need to submit with your application. If documents or supporting documents are missing, your application may be rejected. The German Missions Canada provide a checklist for your visa application:

- [Youth Mobility](#)

3. Please book an appointment with the German Consulate General in Toronto to submit your application in person, or apply by mail:

[Book an appointment with the Visa Section.](#)

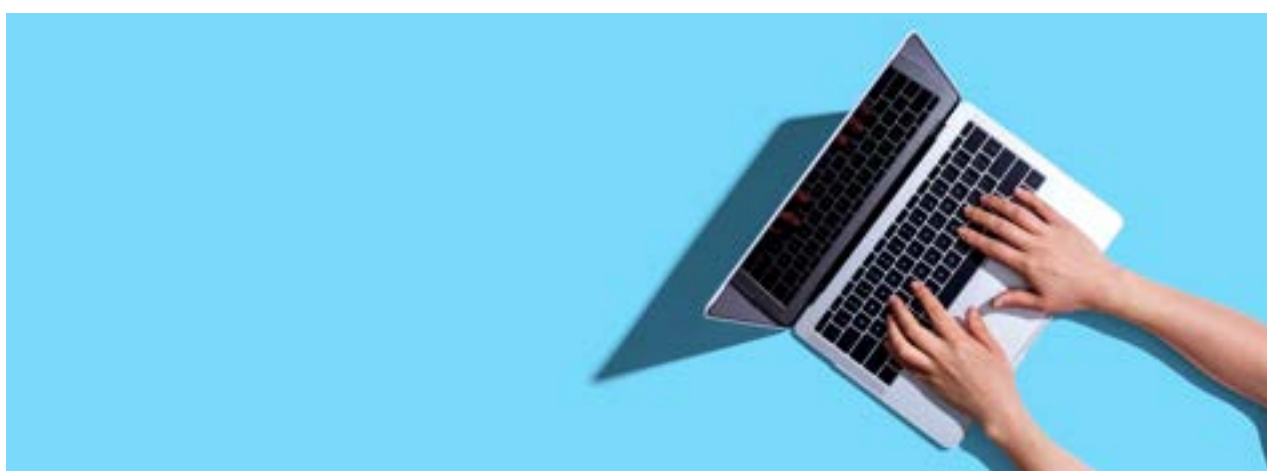


German Working Holiday Visa (Youth Mobility, category d)

VFS ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

You can use GO International as your reference.

* Type of reference: Educational establishment/company/organisation		
* Name of the educational establishment, company or organisation: GO INTERNATIONAL WORK AND TRAVEL PROVIDERS		
Organisation's place of business, town/city: VANCOUVER	Organisation's place of business, country: Canada	Organisation's objectives/area of activity: Tourism
Name of the register of the organisation: []	Location of register: []	Register number: []
* Family name of contact person: ZINSER	* First name(s) of contact person: SARA	Sex: []
Date of birth (dd.mm.yyyy): []	Place of birth: []	Nationality: []
* Street: 889 W PENDER ST	* House number: 200	
* Postal code: V6C 3B2	* Town/city: VANCOUVER	* Country: Canada
* Telephone/mobile number: 001 604 899-4480	Email: []	



German Working Holiday Visa (Youth Mobility, category d)

For the means of support, please specify how you will afford your trip (e.g. own funds/savings, gift from family, scholarship...), and choose the answers below:

Means of support and details regarding the stay

What are your means of support in the Federal Republic of Germany?

Has a formal declaration of commitment been completed?
 No Yes, by the reference Yes, by a different sponsor

Intended place of stay in the Federal Republic of Germany:

Street (if known): House number (if known):

* Postal code: * Town/city:

How will you be accommodated?
 Single room
 Apartment with rooms
 Collective accommodation
 Other (please explain)

Do you intend to retain your permanent residence outside the Federal Republic of Germany?
 Yes
If yes, which place of residence?

Do family members intend to accompany you?
 Yes

Do you have health insurance (for a longer stay) for the Federal Republic of Germany?
 Yes

When applying in person

You must book an appointment with the Visa Section of the [German Consulate in Toronto](#). The appointment is free, but you will need to pay the [visa fee of \\$120](#) at the appointment.

When applying by mail

German Consulate General
c/o Visa Section
2 Bloor St. East, 25th floor
Toronto, ON M4W 1A8

- Your passport must be sent [in original](#) (visa will be issued as sticker in the passport).
- Please send [two identical sets of all documents](#) including two passport size pictures (see [here](#) for passport size picture requirements).

German Working Holiday Visa (Youth Mobility, category d)

- All of your signatures on both sets need to be certified including seal by a notary public (in Quebec: notaire), by the [German Consulate General in Vancouver](#) or by one of our [Honorary Consuls](#).
- The [visa fee of 120.00 CAD](#) must be paid by bank draft or money order only, to the order of the German Consulate when submitting your application by mail.

*When applied for by mail, the Youth Mobility visa can only be issued by the Consulate for the first 90 days of your stay. As soon as you arrive in Germany, our team in Germany will contact the aliens authority ("Ausländerbehörde") in Berlin and make an appointment for the extension of your Youth Mobility visa. Your fingerprints will be taken and an additional fee of 100.00 EUR will be charged by the aliens authority. You will not be allowed to work before your application is approved.

PASSPORT INFORMATION

- Its validity has to extend the duration of the visa you are applying for by at least three months.
- It has to contain at least two blank pages.
- It must have been issued within the last ten years.

FAQ

Source: [German Missions in Canada](#)

Can I take courses at a language school or a German university?

The YMA visa gives you the right to participate in German language classes at a language school. However, if you want to enroll into a German university, you must apply for a study permit.

Can I take on any work I want?

Yes, but you have to be gainfully employed with social insurance contributions. You are not allowed to work freelance, or as a self-employed contractor. In addition, you are not allowed to work as an Au Pair. If you want to work as an Au Pair, you must apply for an Au Pair visa.

Can I change my employer once I arrive in Germany?

Yes. You may change your employer. The YMA basically gives you the opportunity to study (not for university studies), work and travel in Germany for up to twelve months at your convenience.

German Working Holiday Visa (Youth Mobility, category d)

Do I have to pay taxes?

Whether or not you will have to pay taxes depends on the type of work you chose and also your income. Please talk to your future employer about this.

What about my possibilities to discover Europe through YMA?

As a Canadian citizen, you can visit any country in the Schengen area for up to 90 days as a tourist without having to apply for a visa. Low cost airlines and trains link almost every city in Germany to many exciting places all over Europe. Please note that other EU countries may have different visa regulations, and the YMA work permit is only valid for Germany. If you wish to work in a different country, you must apply for a work permit in the particular country.

Can I go home for the holidays or in the case of an emergency without losing my status?

Yes, of course. Your visa will be issued for multiple entries into Germany so you are able to come and go, as you like.

Can I stay longer than one year or extend my visa?

The Canadian German agreement does not allow you to stay longer than twelve months on one youth mobility visa. This means that the first youth mobility as issued for you cannot be extended. However, you now have the possibility to apply for a second youth mobility visa while still in Germany and continue your stay for another twelve months. The application can be submitted with any local aliens authority. Please note that the second application can only be granted in a different category (2a-d) than the first time! As a Canadian citizen, you could always apply for a regular work permit if you fulfill the requirements.

How many times can I participate?

The youth mobility agreement allows you to participate under two different categories, so you may have the chance to participate twice for up to one year each time. Please remember that you must reside in Canada to be eligible for the YMA visa.

I am not yet 18 years old - can I already apply for a YMA visa?

No. You are eligible to apply for the YMA visa when you turn 18.

I will turn 35 soon - can I still apply for a YMA visa?

The Youth Mobility Agreement stipulates that you have to be 35 years or younger when you submit your application to the consulate. So please make sure you apply before your 36th birthday. Please note that you can apply for a visa at the earliest six months prior to your departure.

WanderWork

Chapter 4

Finding a Job Abroad: Tips on Job Searching, Networking, and Preparing Your Resume for an International Job Market



General Tips



- Choose the city where you want to live and work in Germany, and identify the job platforms and job market that works better in that area to start your job research.
- Make a list of career options to decide the job field that you want to work in (e.g. hospitality), do research on the current demand, and check the qualifications for Germany.
- Evaluate the possibilities for a foreign transfer (if you are working in an international company).
- Make sure you adapt or localize your resume to Germany, extend your research to determine unique selling points in the field you want to work in.
- Use your network and meet new people in your field to create and learn about new opportunities.
- Use international job boards to extend your research and have more options when seeking for a job.

General Tips



- Write down the top 10 employers to narrow the options in your field and to get a clear idea of your goals in the job search.
- Build the right and specific mindset, goals, and priorities, and challenge yourself to succeed in your job search.
- Take a trip to Germany (if possible) to apply while you are there as a tourist, and start networking during your vacation.
- Build your language skills if you are not a native German speaker and consider taking a language course before traveling.
- Tap into all types of job search (e.g. job boards, recruiters, network, cold calling/applying, networking/referrals, job fairs, company websites, LinkedIn, interning/volunteering).

A Guide to Finding Work in Germany

Finding a job in Germany on a Working Holiday can be a challenge, but there are several strategies that can help you in your search. Here's a guide to finding a job in Germany on a Working Holiday:

- Check job boards and websites: Job boards and websites are a great place to start your job search. Some popular websites for job seekers in Germany include [Arbeitsnow](#), [Indeed](#), and [Startup Sucht](#).
- Network: Networking can be an effective way to find a job in Germany. Attend networking events and job fairs, and connect with professionals in your industry on [LinkedIn](#). You can also join expat groups or associations in Germany to connect with other working holidaymakers and locals.
- Apply directly to companies: If you have a specific company in mind that you would like to work for, consider applying directly to them. Many companies in Germany accept applications online or via email.
- Be prepared for the job application process: The job application process in Germany may be different than what you are used to. Be prepared to provide a detailed resume (CV), a cover letter, and any relevant certificates or diplomas. Interviews may be conducted in German, so be sure to practice your language skills.
- Consider seasonal work: Seasonal work is common in Germany, particularly in the tourism and hospitality industries. Look for job openings in ski resorts, or beach towns during the appropriate season.
- Be persistent: Finding a job in Germany can take time and effort, so be persistent in your job search. Follow up on job applications, attend interviews, and continue networking until you find the right job.



A Guide to Finding Work in Germany

Resources for Job Hunting

The following are the best job boards and resources you as a Canadian should access to find a job in Germany when you get there or before you leave Canada.

- Stepstone: Stepstone is a leading job site in Germany, connecting job seekers with a wide range of employment opportunities across various industries.
- Indeed: Indeed is a popular job search website that lists job openings in Germany. You can search for jobs by keyword and location, and upload your resume to apply for positions.
- Xing: Xing is a popular professional networking platform in Germany, which also hosts a job site that offers job postings and career resources to its users.
- Glassdoor: Glassdoor is a widely-used job site that provides job listings, company reviews, salary information, and other valuable insights to help job seekers make informed decisions in their job search.
- Monster: Monster is another job search website that lists job openings in France. You can create a profile and upload your resume, and receive job alerts based on your search criteria.
- LinkedIn: LinkedIn is a professional social networking platform that allows individuals to create a professional profile, connect with other professionals, and search for job opportunities.



A Guide to Finding Work in Germany

Apply for Tax Identification Number (Steuerliche Identifikationsnummer - IdNr)

- Gather required documents: To register and receive your tax ID, you will need to provide a valid form of identification, such as a passport or identity card (not a driving licence) along with a proof of residence certificate (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung).
- Submit your application: You can apply for a tax identification number online through the German tax authorities website, or in person at your local citizen's office (Bürgeramt) within 14 days of arrival.
- Wait for processing: Processing times can vary, but it typically takes a few weeks to receive your tax identification number.
- Receive your tax identification number: Once your application is approved, you will receive a tax identification number (Steuerliche Identifikationsnummer - IdNr) in the mail.

It's important to note that if you are on a Working Holiday visa in Germany, you will need to provide proof of your visa when applying for a tax identification number. Additionally, it is recommended that you seek professional advice from a tax advisor or accountant who is familiar with German tax laws to ensure that you are meeting all of your tax obligations in Germany.



A Guide to Finding Work in Germany

Banking in Germany

Opening a bank account in Germany as a working holidaymaker can be a straightforward process, but you will need to have the necessary documentation and meet certain requirements. Here are the steps to follow:

- Choose a bank: There are several banks in Germany that you can choose from, such as Deutsche Bank, DZ Bank Group, and Commerzbank. Consider researching the different banks and their account options to find one that suits your needs.
- Gather the necessary documentation: To open a bank account in Germany, you will need to provide the following documents:
 1. Valid passport or national ID card
 2. Proof of address in Germany (e.g. lease agreement or utility bill)
 3. Proof of income or employment (e.g. working holiday visa, employment contract, or pay stubs)
 4. German tax identification number
- Schedule an appointment: Contact the bank of your choice to schedule an appointment to open your account. Some banks may allow you to make an appointment online, while others may require you to call or visit a branch in person.
- Attend the appointment: Bring all of the necessary documents to your appointment. The bank representative will guide you through the account opening process, which may involve filling out forms, choosing an account type, and setting up online banking.
- Receive your bank card and access codes: Once your account is open, you will receive a bank card and access codes to use for online banking.

Remember to ask the bank representative any questions you may have about the account or banking services available. It's also important to understand the fees associated with your account, such as monthly maintenance fees and transaction fees, to avoid unexpected charges. Good luck opening your bank account in Germany!

A Guide to Finding Work in Germany

Banking in the Germany (continued)

Choosing the best bank in Germany depends on your personal financial needs and preferences. Some of the banks in Germany that are frequently recommended by experts and users include:

- N26: They speak 5 languages. They accept many passport types, but they sometimes ask for a residence permit. If you open an account from Germany, you get a German IBAN (International Bank Account Number). You need a German address to receive your bank card.
- Deutsche Bank: Online banking, customer service and some documents are in English. The rest is in German. If you open an account in person, they accept most passport types.
- Commerzbank: They have basic online banking in English. The rest is in German. If you open an account in person, they accept most passport types. You must have a residence permit, and it must be valid for at least 6 months.
- bung: They speak 7 languages. They accept many passport types. You get a German IBAN (International Bank Account Number). When you open an account, their app uses GPS to check if you are in Germany. You can bypass this if you contact customer support.

It's important to do your own research and compare different banks based on your specific needs and preferences before choosing one in Germany.



Finding Accommodation in Germany

Finding accommodation can be one of the most challenging aspects of planning a work and travel experience in Germany. Here's a detailed guide to help you find a place to stay while on a Working Holiday visa.

When looking for accommodation in Germany, it's best to book a hostel for the first few days before you arrive in the country.

You should book in advance as places sell out in popular cities like Berlin. This will give you a place to stay and ensure that you feel safe. After you've found a job, you can consider more long-term accommodation options.

General Tips

* Research your options

The first step in finding accommodation is to research your options. There are a variety of options available, including hostels, hotels, homestays and short-term rentals. Make sure to research the pros and cons of each option to determine which one is best for your needs and budget.

* Start your search early

Accommodations in Germany can book up quickly, especially during peak travel seasons, so it's important to start your search early to ensure availability.

* Use online booking sites

There are many websites that can help you find accommodation in Germany, such as Airbnb, Booking.com, and Hostelworld. These websites can provide you with a range of options and prices to suit your needs.

* Consider your budget

Germany can be an expensive country to travel in, so it's important to consider factors such as location, size, and amenities when looking for accommodation.

* Look for shared accommodation

Sharing accommodation with other people is a great way to save money. There are many websites, such as [HousingAnywhere](#) and [Expatriot.com](#), that can help you find shared accommodation in Germany.

* Check the location

When looking for accommodation, make sure it is located in a safe and convenient area. Consider the distance from your workplace and other amenities like grocery stores, public transport, etc.

* Don't overlook hostels

Hostels can be a great option for budget-conscious travelers. They are usually clean, safe, and offer basic amenities such as WiFi, laundry facilities, and shared kitchens.

* Contact local host families

If you're on a working holiday and looking for a cultural exchange, consider staying with a local host family. This can be a great way to learn about the local culture and language.

General Tips

* Consider short-term rentals

If you're only planning to stay in Germany for a few months, consider short-term rentals. Websites like Airbnb and [HomeAway](#) offer short-term rentals that can be more affordable than traditional leases.

* Get advice from locals

Ask locals or expats for recommendations on where to find accommodation. They may be able to offer you valuable insights on the local rental market and where to find the best deals.

* Read reviews

Before booking any accommodation, make sure to read reviews from previous guests. This can give you a good idea of what to expect and whether the accommodation is suitable for your needs.



Popular Hostel Companies in Germany

- **Hostelling International**

Hostelling International is a non-profit organization with a network of hostels in more than 80 countries, including Germany. They offer affordable and clean accommodations with shared or private rooms.

- **Generator Hostels**

Generator Hostels is a stylish and trendy hostel chain with locations in several cities in Europe, including Berlin. They offer private and shared rooms with a social atmosphere and modern amenities.

- **Meininger Hostels:**

Meininger Hostels is a budget-friendly hostel chain with locations in several cities across Europe, including Berlin. They offer private and shared rooms with modern facilities and a social atmosphere.

- **St. Christopher's Inn**

St Christopher's Inn is a hostel chain with several locations in Berlin and other cities in Germany. They offer a range of private and shared rooms, with a lively atmosphere and on-site bars.



Working and Living in Different Cultures - an Overview of Cultural Differences and How to Navigate Them

Cultural differences can be both fascinating and challenging, especially when traveling to a new country for work or travel. As a Canadian visiting Germany, you may encounter various cultural differences that can affect your social interactions, communication style, and work etiquette. Understanding these differences and how to navigate them can help you avoid misunderstandings, adapt more easily to your new environment, and enhance your overall experience in Germany.

General Tips

Learning German can go a long way in helping you communicate with locals and navigate everyday life. Consider taking a language course or downloading a language app.

Germany has a rich cultural heritage, and it's important to be respectful of local customs and norms.

German beer is renowned around the world, and trying new drinks is a great way to experience the local culture.

Talk with someone who has traveled to Germany before and learn from previous experiences.

Get in touch with locals (e.g. join groups, clubs, events) and maintain good communication with new friends.

Germany is known for its strict rules and regulations, and it's important to follow these rules as a visitor. This includes traffic laws, disposing of trash properly, and respecting the quiet hours in residential areas.

Use public transportation: Germany has an extensive and efficient public transportation system, including trains, subways, and buses.

Visit art exhibits, museums, join walking tours, read literature and watch documentaries to find out more about Germany.

Cultural differences can be frustrating, but it's important to be patient. Don't take things personally, and try to adapt to the local way of doing things.

Staying with a local family can be a great way to experience German culture and learn about daily life in Germany.

Learn about culture shock and how to deal with it (5 stages of culture shock).

While popular tourist destinations like Berlin are must-see destinations, there's so much more to Germany beyond these hotspots. Explore lesser-known towns and villages to experience the quieter, more traditional side of Germany.

Cultural Differences To Consider And Tips On How To Navigate Them

There are several cultural differences between Germany and Canada. Here are some examples:

- **Communication style:** People in Germany tend to be direct and straightforward in their communication, while Canadians often value politeness and indirectness. Germans may appear more reserved and formal, whereas Canadians are known for their friendly and polite nature.
- **Work culture:** Germany is known for its strong work ethic and efficiency. Germans often emphasize punctuality, thoroughness, and attention to detail. Canada has a more relaxed work culture, with a focus on work-life balance and a collaborative approach. Respect the local culture and build a stronger work ethic..
- **Punctuality:** Germans are generally known for their punctuality and adherence to schedules. Being late is considered disrespectful. In Canada, while punctuality is appreciated, there is often more flexibility and tolerance for slight delays.
- **Social etiquette:** Germans generally value privacy and may be more reserved when interacting with strangers. Canadians, on the other hand, are known for their friendliness and willingness to engage in small talk with strangers. Take no offense when small talk isn't reciprocated well!
- **Personal space:** Germans tend to value personal space and may maintain a greater distance during conversations. Canadians, on the other hand, are generally more relaxed about personal space and may engage in closer proximity while interacting.



Staying Safe and Healthy - A Guide to Staying Safe and Healthy While Traveling Abroad

Germany is generally a safe country to travel in, but like any destination, it's important to take basic safety precautions. Some tips for staying safe while traveling in Germany include keeping your valuables secure, staying aware of your surroundings, and avoiding poorly lit or unfamiliar areas at night.

Here are some further tips for staying safe and healthy while working and travelling in Germany.

Tips for Staying Safe and Healthy



- Do your research about the destination, stay up to date on any travel advisories or warnings related to Germany / the area.
- Inform yourself about water and food safety, and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, especially in hot weather.
- Consider registering your travel plans with your embassy or consultant, which can help provide assistance in case of an emergency.
- Visit a doctor for check-ups and vaccinations before traveling, and keep a list of emergency numbers handy in case you need medical assistance.
- Pack a first-aid kit, and be mindful of the risk of extreme weather events.
- Keep your important documents/valuables safe, and keep (digital) copies online.
- Keep your friends and family updated about your whereabouts, and carry emergency contacts with you.

Tips for Staying Safe and Healthy



- Make sure you book adequate health insurance coverage for your trip.
- Keep up to date with the current situation, news, events, and emergency alerts.
- Drink responsibly. Make sure you know your limits.
- Be smart about your money, and use local ATMs wisely.
- Have common sense and follow your gut feeling/ trust your instincts.
- Be cautious of unsolicited emails, phone calls, or text asking for personal information or money.
- Invest in a good travel bag/travel lock and rather splurge on extra safety.
- Know your skills, and limitations (e.g. when hiking), and wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses.
- Ask locals for advice, and don't share too much information with strangers (e.g. exact location on social media).
- Avoid unsafe neighborhoods, especially alone at night, and travel in numbers.
- Stay up to date on any travel advisory or warning and be generally street smart (don't do dangerous things for photos!).

Tips for Staying Safe and Healthy

Traveling to Germany can be a great experience, but it's important to take steps to stay healthy and safe. Here are some tips:

- Research the area before you go: Be sure to research the area where you will be staying and working. Know which areas are safe and which areas to avoid, especially at night.
- Keep your valuables safe: Make sure to keep your passport, money, and other valuables in a secure place, such as a hotel safe or a money belt.
- Be aware of your surroundings: Always be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, move to a different location or seek help from a police officer or other authority figure.
- Know the emergency numbers: Make sure to know the emergency numbers in Germany, including 112 for medical emergencies and/or fire emergencies, and 110 for the police.
- Get travel insurance: Make sure to get travel insurance that covers medical emergencies, theft, and other travel-related issues.
- Take care of your health: Make sure to take care of your health while traveling. Get any necessary vaccinations before you go, practice good hygiene, and be mindful of the foods you eat and the water you drink.
- Know the local laws and customs: Be familiar with the local laws and customs in Germany, including rules about drinking alcohol, smoking, and other activities.
- By following these tips, you can help ensure a safe and healthy experience while traveling in Germany on a Working Holiday.



Tips for Staying Safe and Healthy

Medical Care and Expenses in Germany

As a Canadian working holiday visa holder in Germany, you may have access to the German healthcare system, which is known for its high-quality medical care. Here is a summary of medical care and expenses in Germany.

In Germany, health insurance is mandatory. As a working holiday visa holder, you will need to obtain health insurance coverage either through a public (statutory) health insurance provider or a private health insurance company. Public insurance is generally more affordable, while private insurance offers more flexibility and additional benefits.

Germany has a well-developed healthcare system with a wide range of medical services and specialists. You can visit general practitioners (Hausarzt) for primary care and specialists for specific health issues. The medical care is generally of high quality, and doctors are well-trained and experienced.

The cost of medical care in Germany can vary depending on the type of treatment and insurance coverage. If you have public health insurance, you will be required to pay a portion of the costs, such as co-payments for doctor visits, prescription medications, and hospital stays. The exact amount will depend on your specific insurance plan and the treatments received.



Tips for Staying Safe and Healthy

If you require medical treatment in Germany, you will typically pay for the services upfront and then submit the receipts to your insurance provider for reimbursement. Make sure to keep all the necessary documentation and receipts for reimbursement purposes.

In case of emergencies, Germany has a well-equipped emergency medical system. Dial the European emergency number, 112, for immediate assistance. Emergency treatment is generally covered by health insurance, but additional costs may apply depending on the specific situation.

It is advisable to research and compare different health insurance options and understand the terms and conditions of your coverage to ensure you have adequate medical care during your stay in Germany. Additionally, consulting with the German embassy or consulate in Canada can provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding healthcare requirements for Canadian working holiday visa holders in Germany.



WanderWork

Chapter 8

Returning Home - Tips on Re-Entry and How to Leverage Your International Experience



General Tips



- Arrange logistics for arrival home, for example where you will live and what do you want to do next.
- Prepare yourself for post-travel depression and reverse culture shock.
- Be patient with yourself and get some rest after returning home.
- Prepare emotionally for friendships that have changed.
- Avoid being a know-it-all about travel and your time abroad.
- Pre-plan your responses to popular questions.
- Make plans, so you have something to look forward to.
- Spend time with friends and family, but don't overwhelm yourself.
- Write down what you have learned and/or create a photo/scrapbook.
- Connect with other travelers.
- Find a new passion apart from traveling.
- Book a new trip - even if it's a short one. Reminder that you can still do other Working Holiday countries as long as you are under 36!

General Tips

As your time in Germany comes to an end, it is important to prepare for your return to Canada. Here are some tips on re-entry and how to leverage your international experience.

Plan Ahead

Returning home can be overwhelming, particularly if you have been away for an extended period. It is essential to plan ahead by considering your accommodation, transportation, and finances. You may need to arrange temporary accommodation, sell or store your belongings, and make travel arrangements. It is also important to have a budget in place and understand any tax or customs regulations that may apply.

Stay Connected

Your time in Germany has likely resulted in new friendships and professional connections. It is essential to maintain these connections by staying in touch and networking. Social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram are great ways to keep in contact and share updates. You may also want to attend networking events or join professional organizations related to your industry.



General Tips

Reflect on Your Experience

Your time in Germany has likely been a significant personal and professional growth opportunity. It is essential to reflect on your experience and identify the skills and knowledge you have gained. This can include language skills, cultural awareness, adaptability, and problem-solving skills. These skills are highly valued by employers and can be leveraged when seeking new opportunities.

Update Your Resume and Cover Letter

As you return to Canada and begin your job search, it is essential to update your resume and cover letter to reflect your international experience. This can include highlighting any volunteer work, internships, or projects you worked on while in Germany. You may also want to include any language skills, certifications, or awards you received during your time abroad.

Be Patient

Returning home and settling back into your routine can take time. It is important to be patient and allow yourself time to adjust. You may experience reverse culture shock, which can include feelings of disorientation, frustration, and anxiety. This is a normal part of the re-entry process, and it is essential to seek support from family, friends, or a mental health professional if needed.



General Tips

Stay Open-Minded

Your international experience has likely broadened your perspective and challenged your assumptions. It is essential to stay open-minded and apply this mindset to your personal and professional life in Canada. You may want to explore new hobbies, volunteer opportunities, or career paths that align with your values and interests.

Returning to Canada after your time in Germany requires planning, reflection, and a positive mindset. By leveraging your international experience, staying connected, and being patient, you can successfully navigate the re-entry process and embrace new opportunities.



GO International Work and Travel Program Destinations:



Australia



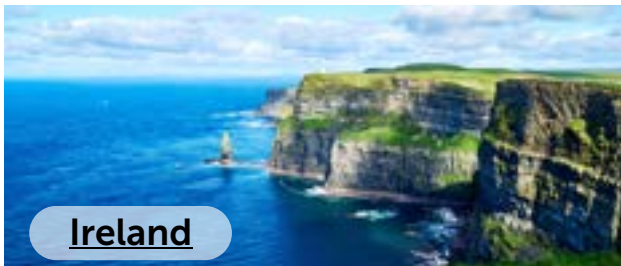
Costa Rica



France



Germany



Ireland



Japan



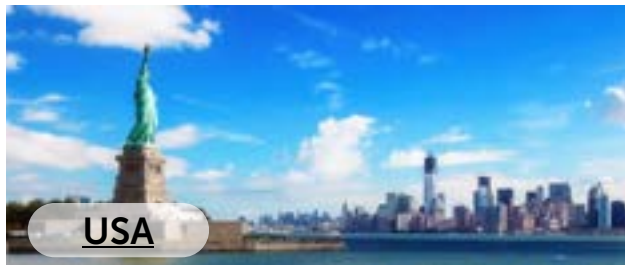
New Zealand



South Korea



UK



USA

Appendix - A List Of Helpful Resources





[German Embassy](#)

[Canadian Government info
about Germany](#)

[Germany Customs](#)

[German National Railway](#)

[Europe Railway](#)

[Buy and Sell on eBay
kleinanzeigen](#)

eBook

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