

WanderWork:

A Guide to Working and Traveling Abroad



Uk Edition

The Benefits of Working and Traveling in the UK 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 the UK 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

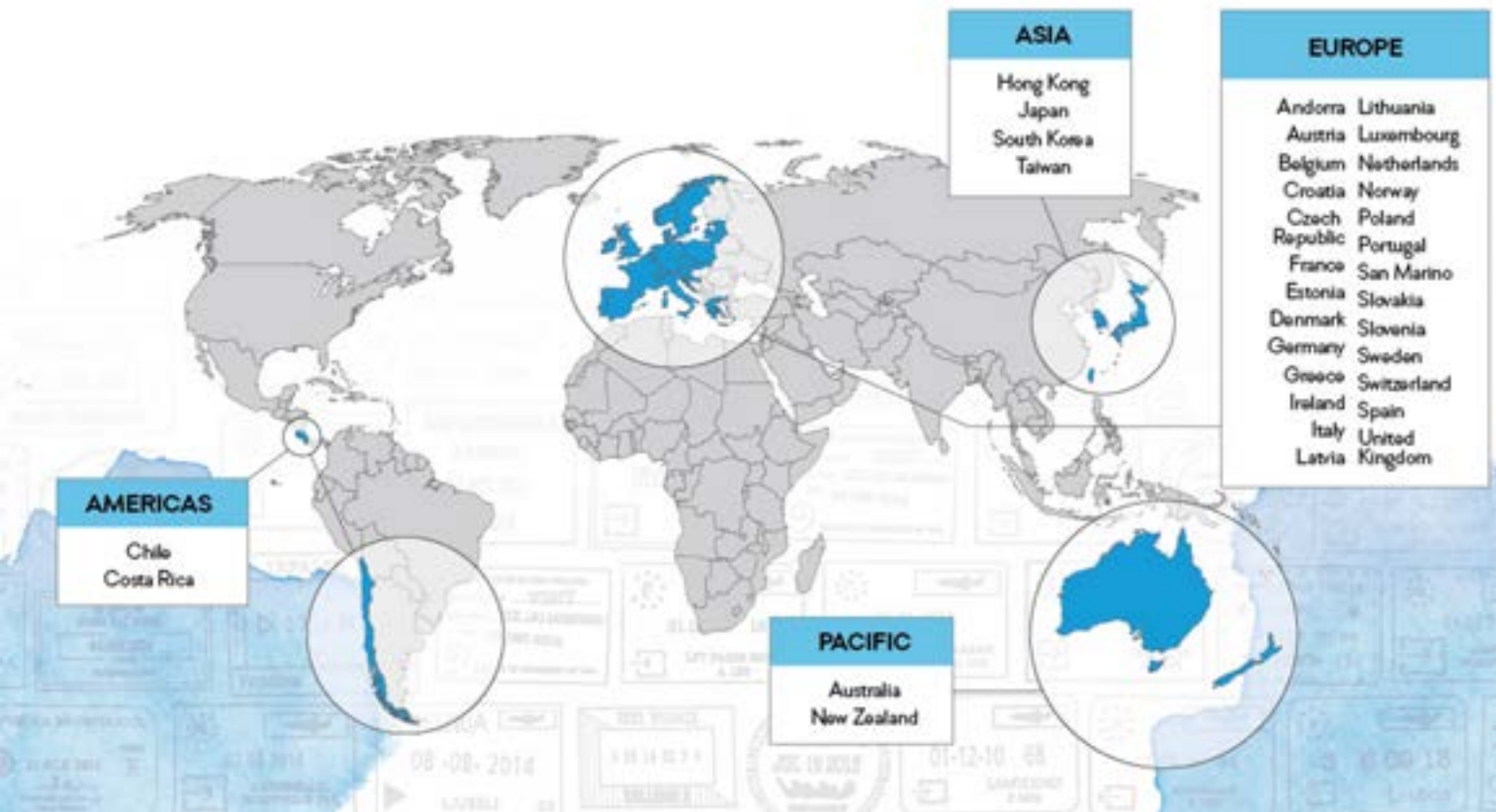
The International Co-op and Young Professionals streams facilitate internships and professional work experience through employer-specific work permits.

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 the UK

Keep calm and travel to the UK for your Working Holiday adventure!

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

Known for its rich history and cultural heritage, including landmarks such as Stonehenge, Buckingham Palace, and the Tower of London, the UK is the perfect destination for your work abroad trip.

As an English-speaking country, the UK is easy for most Canadians to navigate.


The country offers a diverse range of job opportunities and exciting travel experiences. The UK has a strong economy and is home to many large corporations, making it an attractive destination for Canadian professionals looking to advance their careers.

Requirements for Traveling and Working in the UK as a Canadian

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM:

- You are a Canadian citizen residing in Canada
- You have a valid Canadian passport
- You must be between the ages of 18 and 30 (and must not turn 31 before the UK issues you your working holiday visa)
- A clean police record
- Intermediate or better-working knowledge of English
- A bank statement that certifies you have access to at least \$2,530 GBP in available funds
- You must pay for the National Health Insurance (NHS) for 2 years
- You must attend a "Biometrics Enrollment Appointment" in Canada (available in Vancouver, Toronto, Edmonton, Ottawa, Halifax or St. Johns)
- You must have never previously held a Working Holiday visa for the UK
- Medical insurance for the duration of your entire trip
- You must not have any dependent children

With the Working Holiday visa, you are eligible to stay in the UK for up to 24 months.



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

Must-See Travel Sites to Visit on Your Trip

England



England has a vibrant and diverse culture, with plenty of museums, art galleries, and theaters to visit. England is home to beautiful countryside landscapes, including national parks and picturesque villages. The bustling cities of London, Manchester, and Liverpool offer a variety of entertainment and dining options, from high-end restaurants to trendy street food markets.

Scotland



Scotland is home to iconic landmarks such as Edinburgh Castle and the Culloden Battlefield, as well as numerous historic sites and museums that showcase Scotland's fascinating past. Visitors can take in the stunning scenery of the Scottish Highlands, visit the Isle of Skye, or hike the West Highland Way.

Wales



Wales is home to several national parks, including Snowdonia, which offers visitors the opportunity to hike, climb and explore the stunning natural scenery. Wales is also known for its impressive castles, such as Caernarfon Castle and Conwy Castle, which offer a glimpse into the country's medieval past. Additionally, Wales boasts a thriving cultural scene, with festivals, music, and art events taking place throughout the year.

Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland is a unique and fascinating destination for travel. The country is home to a range of historic sites and landmarks, such as the Giant's Causeway. Visitors can also explore the walled city of Derry-Londonderry, one of the best-preserved examples of a 17th-century city in Europe. Northern Ireland is also famous for its rugged and picturesque coastline, with miles of cliffs, beaches, and hidden coves to discover.



6 FAMOUS SIGHTS YOU SHOULD VISIT DURING YOUR WORKING HOLIDAY IN **THE UK**

THE PREHISTORIC MONUMENT OF STONEHENGE IN WILTSHIRE

One of the most famous sites in the world, Stonehenge is an architectural wonder of Britain and covers 2,600 hectares and 400 scheduled monuments. This is a must-see for anyone interested in history or archaeology.



TOWER OF LONDON

One of London's most remarkable landmarks, the historic Tower houses the Crown Jewels, the prison cell of Sir Walter Raleigh, known as the Bloody Tower, and the Chapel of St. John and the Royal Armouries. Book one of the immersive tours to learn more about its 1,000-year history.



SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE

Shakespeare's Globe in London is a unique international resource dedicated to the exploration of Shakespeare's works and the playhouse for which he wrote, through the connected means of performance and education. For literary buffs, this is an excellent opportunity to view Shakespeare plays at a very reasonable price.



6 FAMOUS SIGHTS YOU SHOULD VISIT DURING YOUR WORKING HOLIDAY IN **THE UK**



BUCKINGHAM PALACE IN LONDON

This famous building is the London home, primary residence and working place of the Queen. Book a tour to visit the stunning Throne Room and be sure to check out the changing of the guard which takes place daily at 11:30 AM and lasts approximately 45 minutes.



EDINBURGH CASTLE

A fortress that dominates the skyline of the city of Edinburgh, Scotland. With over a million visitors a year, people flock to Castle Rock in the center of the Scottish capital wanting to learn about the history of Scotland and look in awe at the beautiful scenery.

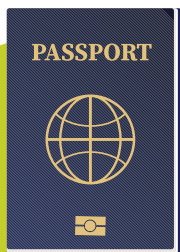


JURASSIC COAST IN DORSET

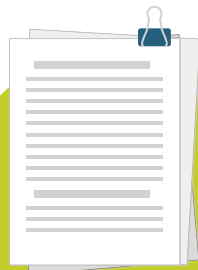
Feel dwarfed by nature and history on this beautiful 95-mile (153km) stretch of coast known as the Jurassic Coast. The incredible coastline, which is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, also features some of Britain's most famous natural rock formations.



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.

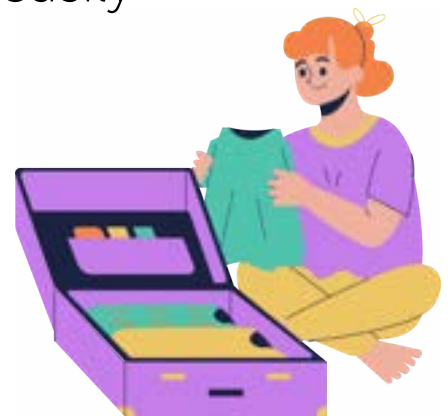
3 Be wise, carry travel size

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. 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 the UK, 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 31st birthday. It is okay if you turn 31 while being in the UK or before you travel.

5) Immigration Health Surcharge

You are not prepared to pay the immigration health surcharge (IHS) for the full two years at the time of your visa application.

6) Visa Processing Time

You don't plan enough time to apply for your visa. It will take at least 3 weeks to process your application from the date of your biometrics appointment.

7) Biometrics Appointment

You forget to plan your biometrics appointment with VFS Global to submit your visa application.

8) Biometric Residence Permit

You schedule pick-up for your BRP at the wrong location. Make sure that you research a postal office that's convenient for you.



General Tips

Research your visa options

The first step in preparing to work and travel in the UK is to research your visa options. The most common visa for Canadians is the Youth Mobility Scheme visa, which allows you to work and travel in the UK for up to 24 months. This visa is available to Canadians aged 18-30.

Get your paperwork in order

Once you have decided on your visa, you will need to gather the necessary paperwork. This typically includes a valid passport, proof of sufficient funds, and a completed visa application. Make sure to have all your documents ready and in order before your departure to avoid any delays.

Sort out your finances

Make sure you have sufficient funds to cover your expenses while in the UK. This includes your airfare, accommodation, transportation, and daily expenses. It's also a good idea to research different banking options and compare fees and services, so you can choose the one that best suits your needs.

Pay for the National Health Insurance

As a temporary resident in the UK, you will have to pay the health surcharge at the time of your application. For the Youth Mobility Scheme, you will have to pay for the National Health Service (NHS) for the full 2 years - even if you stay shorter.

Prepare for the culture shock

The UK may be an English-speaking, Western country, but it is still a different culture. Research the country, customs, and social norms to get a better understanding of what to expect. Make sure to pack accordingly, and be open-minded to new experiences.

Create a budget

Create a budget and stick to it. Have a plan for how much you will spend each day, week, or month. This will help you keep your finances in check and make sure you don't overspend.

General Tips

Make a list

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.

Research job opportunities

Research job opportunities in the UK before you leave. This will give you an idea of what types of jobs are available, and you can start applying for jobs even before you leave Canada.

Pack wisely

Pack only what you need and make sure you have enough space for souvenirs. Make sure to check the weather forecast for your destination and pack accordingly.

Enjoy your experience

The most important thing is to enjoy your experience. The UK is an amazing country, full of beautiful landscapes and great culture. Make the most of your time there and create memories that will last a lifetime.

When to go

The best time to visit the UK depends on what you want to see and do, as the weather and crowds can vary greatly throughout the year. Generally, the peak tourist season in the UK is during the summer months, from June to August, when the weather is generally warmer and the days are longer. This is a great time to explore the countryside, visit the beaches, and attend outdoor events and festivals.

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, 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 the UK.
- **Banking:** Setting up a bank account in the UK 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 the UK. You will have to pay the National Health Surcharge at the time of your visa application for the full 2 years of your visa.
- **Currency:** Get familiar with the currency used in the UK and consider getting your money exchanged before you leave Canada or when you arrive in the UK.
- **Visa regulations:** Make sure you understand the rules and regulations of your visa and ensure you comply with them during your stay in the UK.
- **Taxes:** Make sure you are aware of your tax obligations in the UK and how to file your taxes, including how to register for the National Insurance Number (NIN).
- **Cultural differences:** Be aware of the cultural differences between Canada and the UK. 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 the UK.
- **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 the UK - Three Essential Tips

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

1 National Insurance Number (NIN)

- In the UK, a tax number is known as a National Insurance Number (NIN) and is used to ensure that you pay the correct amount of tax and national insurance contributions.
- Apply for a NIN as soon as you arrive in the UK. You can do this by calling the NIN application line on 0800 141 2075. The line is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm.

2 Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

A Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) is a card that shows your immigration status in the UK, and it is usually required for non-EEA citizens who stay in the UK for more than six months.

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 the UK.





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

Everything You Need to Know About the UK Working Holiday visa

Are you planning to work and travel in the UK? Then, it's essential to know everything about the Youth Mobility Scheme visa for the UK.

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 the UK to start your Working Holiday.

UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians (Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

As a successful applicant you will be free to do whatever work you like during your stay in the United Kingdom except for self-employment (subject to certain exceptions), working as a professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach) or working as a doctor in training. You may also engage in privately funded studies, voluntary work and au pair placements. There must be no recourse to public funds.

You must not previously have spent time in the United Kingdom as a Working Holiday Maker or on a Youth Mobility Scheme visa.

The entry clearance will be issued for two years.

You cannot extend or switch into leave in any other category. There are penalties for those who do not observe all conditions of their leave to enter or who remain in the UK beyond the time limited by their leave.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- First check with the criteria below whether you have enough points to make a successful application. You will need to score 50 Points to be eligible for the visa. Essentially, you will need to have three things: Nationality, Age and Maintenance.

Nationality: Be a Canadian citizen and own a Canadian passport. (30 Points)

Age: Be between the ages of 18 to 30. (10 Points)

Maintenance: Have at least £2,530 in savings. (10 Points)

- Read the "Can you apply" page. Be sure that your passport is valid for a minimum of two years from when you will be planning to enter the UK.
- Prepare a list of all places you have travelled (study, training, business trips) in the last 10 years and the approximate time that you have visited these places – your application will require it.
- Read the official Youth Mobility Scheme caseworker guidance before you start the process.
- Go to this homepage and follow the steps below to create an account for your application: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-mobility/apply>

UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians (Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

Are you intending to live in one of the Crown Dependencies of the United Kingdom?

The Crown Dependencies are Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man

Yes No

Continue

Do you have a current EU, EEA or Swiss passport?

The EEA includes the EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

Yes No

Continue

Select a country to provide your biometrics

To complete your application, you must provide your biometrics (fingerprints and facial photograph). This may involve attending a visa application centre (VAC) operated by one of our commercial partners.

We need to know which commercial partner will manage your biometrics appointment. This is so we can transfer you to the correct website after you have submitted your visa application.

Enter the country where you would like to provide your biometrics. This will usually be the country you are in now. If there is no VAC in your selected country, you will be able to choose an alternative location.

If you believe you are unable to provide your biometrics at any location, you should still choose a location. You will then be told how to proceed.

Canada

UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians (Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

- You will need to pay an additional Immigration Health Surcharge for your National Health Insurance (NHS): £940 (for two years)

To find out more go to <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application> or calculate how much you need to pay here: <https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type>.

- Find the nearest visa application center (VAC) where you will visit to submit your application:

Toronto

Edmonton (additional £55.00)

Halifax (additional £55.00)

Ottawa (additional £55.00)

St. John's (additional £55.00)

Vancouver (additional £55.00)

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

These requirements are subject to change, and it is your responsibility to confirm all requirements by visiting the [VFS Global website](#).

- A valid passport for a minimum of two years' validity from when you will plan to enter the UK.
- Your printed online application.
- Appointment Confirmation Notice
- Pay fees as published on the [visa fees](#) webpage. Select Work from the drop-down list, then Temporary work and find Temporary work - Youth Mobility Scheme. This will not be refunded, and you must pay in the currency stated. At the moment, the visa fee is £259 (as of September 2022). An additional fee of £55.00 applies to all visa application centers except for Toronto.
- Receipt for the online VAC (User Pay) fee payment.
- A bank statement or letter from your bank showing you have at least £2,530 in your accounts.
- 2 passport photos (you might be exempt, please look at instructions during visa application)

UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians (Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

All the photographs should:

- measure 45mm x 35mm; and
- be in colour; and
- be taken against a white background; and
- be clear and of good quality; and
- not be framed or backed; and
- not be digitally altered, for example, you cannot use Photoshop to change anything in the image; and
- be full face, without sunglasses, hat or head covering unless you wear this for religious reasons.

The photograph you choose will be used on your visa (known as vignette) which is fixed in your passport.

You must use your original passport or travel document.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- You should include originals of all documents specified and a copy of each document.
- Where a document is not in English or Welsh, the original must be accompanied by a fully certified translation by a professional translator. This translation must include details of the translator's credentials and confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the original document. It must also be dated and include the original signature of the translator.

Important: If you do not provide the specified documents, you will not be contacted and asked to provide the right documents. Therefore, if you fail to send the correct documents, your application may be refused right away.



UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians (Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

FAQ

When can I enter the UK?

Make sure to choose your preferred start date during the application process. You will have 90 days to enter from the date that your visa starts, this date will show on your Entry Vignette (the sticker in your passport). This is the date you gave on your visa application as the date you requested your visa to begin from. Just know that you must enter within the 90 days printed on your Visa Vignette and that your visa will still start on this date regardless of when you enter the UK.

Our advice if you are not ready to actually start your visa is to just cancel your application, you will lose the application fee, but you will get a refund on the IHS fee. Then reapply at a later date. Provided you have not entered the UK using your Tier 5 Visa then you can apply again at a later date. If you do not want to do this, then you could do a Vignette Transfer which basically means you are applying for another 90-day window and replacing your existing vignette with a new one and new dates.

What are my biometric details?

Biometric details are scans of all 10 fingers and a full-face digital photograph. You will need to provide your biometric details in person. The whole procedure should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. This will be completed at the Visa Application Centre upon your appointment.

Where should I collect my Biometrics Residence Permit (BRP)?

You will need to collect your BRP once you have arrived in the UK – before your vignette sticker expires or within 10 days of arrival in the UK.

We recommend that you arrive at least one or two days early and book a hotel/hostel stay in a big city, such as London. You can then pick up your BRP from a BRP collection post office nearby. The post office has to offer:

Home Office Services: BRP Card Collection Service

You can search for a post office here: [Biometric details are scans of all 10 fingers and a full-face digital photograph. You will need to provide your biometric details in person. The whole procedure should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. This will be completed at the Visa Application Centre upon your appointment.](#)

Tip: [The Generator Hostel](#) near King's Cross Station. There is a [post office](#) with BRP collection services in walking distance.

UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians

(Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

Can my dependents join me in the UK?

No. Spouses or partners of YMS participants may not enter the UK as dependents but may enter if they qualify and obtain entry clearance in their own right under the YMS or qualify for entry in another capacity.

Dependent children are not permitted. You must have no children under the age of 18 who are either living with you or for whom you are financially responsible, that is, paying maintenance. You will be required to confirm on the application form that you have no children, as described above. Although no documentary evidence will be required in support of this confirmation, your application will be refused if evidence comes to light that you have not met this requirement.

Can I claim for medical treatment during my stay?

During the first 12 months of your stay in the United Kingdom, you will be required to pay for National Health Service treatment. After the first 12 months, you will be exempt from charges.

How do I prove my funds?

An applicant coming to the United Kingdom under the Youth Mobility Scheme must be able to support himself/herself for the entire duration of their stay in the United Kingdom without use of public funds (that is, benefits provided by the state). An applicant who is unable to support himself/herself could face financial hardship because they will not have access to most state benefits.

You should provide one or more of the following:

- Savings account passbook/s;
- Personal bank statements, dated no more than 1 month prior to the date you submit your application;
- Letter from your bank confirming level of funds dated no more than 1 month prior to the date you submit your application. This must be an original document, on the official letter-headed paper or stationery of the financial institution;
- Letter from a financial institution regulated by the home regulator (official regulatory body for the country in which the institution operates) dated no more than 1 month prior to the date you submit your application. This must be an original document, on the official letter-headed paper or stationery of the organization.

UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians (Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

FUNDS

Savings Account pass books

These should clearly show:

- your name;
- your account number;
- the financial institution's name and logo;
- that there are enough funds present in the account (the balance must always be at least £2,530).

Personal bank statement

These should clearly show:

- your name;
- your account number;
- the date of the statement (dated no more than 1 month prior to the date you submit your application);
- the financial institution's name and logo;
- that there are sufficient funds present in the account (the balance must always be at least £2,530).

Ad hoc bank statements printed on the bank's letterhead are admissible as evidence (this excludes mini-statements from cash points).

If you wish to submit electronic bank statements from an online account, these must contain all of the details listed above. In addition, you will need to provide a supporting letter from your bank, on company headed paper, confirming the authenticity of the statements provided. Alternatively, an electronic bank statement bearing the official stamp of the bank in question will be accepted. This stamp should appear on every page of the statement.

Letters from a bank or regulated financial institution

These should clearly show:

- your name;
- your account number;
- the date of the letter;
- the financial institution's name and logo;
- that funds of at least £2,530 are held in your account.

UK Working Holiday visa for Canadians (Youth Mobility Scheme visa)

Check your visa!

Please check your visa when you get it. You should make sure that:

- Your personal details are correct
- It correctly states the purpose for which you want to come to the UK, and
- it is valid for the date on which you want to travel. (You can ask for it to be post-dated up to three months if you do not plan to travel immediately).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Full information about the Points Based System is available on the [UK Border Agency website](#).

Additional information is also available on [VFS Global's website](#).



Go International will not take up any responsibility regarding the accuracy and completeness of this information. The authority to grant and refuse an application lies exclusively with the British Government.



WanderWork

Chapter 4

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



General Tips



- Choose the city where you want to live and work in the UK, 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 the UK.
- Evaluate the possibilities for a foreign transfer (if you are working in an international company).
- Make sure you adapt or localize your resume to the UK, 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 the UK (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 English 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 the UK

If you're looking to find work in the UK, here are some tips to help you:

- Create a strong CV: A well-written CV is essential to help you stand out from other job seekers. Your CV should highlight your skills, experience, and qualifications. Make sure to tailor your CV to the job you are applying for.
- Utilize online job search engines: There are several online job search engines such as [Indeed](#), [Glassdoor](#), and [Reed.co.uk](#), that list a wide range of job vacancies in the UK. You can also search for jobs directly on the websites of companies that interest you.
- Use your networks: Leverage your personal and professional networks to help you find job opportunities. Let your friends, family, and colleagues know that you are looking for work. Join relevant professional groups on LinkedIn and other social media platforms to connect with people in your industry.
- Attend job fairs: Job fairs are a great way to meet employers face-to-face and learn about job opportunities. Check local newspapers and websites for information about upcoming job fairs in your area.
- Register with recruitment agencies: Recruitment agencies can help you find job opportunities that match your skills and experience. Many agencies specialize in specific industries or types of jobs.
- Prepare for interviews: Once you have secured an interview, make sure to prepare thoroughly. Research the company and the role, and practice your answers to common interview questions.
- Be persistent: Finding a job can take time, and you may face rejection along the way. Stay positive and keep applying for jobs that match your skills and experience.



A Guide to Finding Work in the UK

Resources for Job Hunting

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

- Indeed: Indeed is one of the most popular job search engines in the UK. It lists thousands of job vacancies across various industries and allows you to filter your search based on location, job title, and salary.
- Reed.co.uk: Reed.co.uk is another popular job search engine in the UK. It offers a range of job vacancies across various industries, as well as career advice and CV writing services.
- Glassdoor: Glassdoor is a job search engine that not only lists job vacancies but also provides company reviews, salaries, and interview questions. It's a useful resource for researching potential employers before applying for jobs.
- Totaljobs: Totaljobs lists job vacancies across various industries, as well as providing career advice and CV writing services.
- LinkedIn: LinkedIn is a professional networking site that allows you to create a profile, connect with other professionals, and search for job opportunities. Many recruiters and hiring managers use LinkedIn to source candidates, so it's worth building a strong profile and actively networking.
- Monster: Monster is a job search engine that offers job vacancies across various industries and provides career advice and CV writing services.
- Jobsite: Jobsite is a job search engine that lists job vacancies across various industries and allows you to filter your search based on location, job title, and salary.



A Guide to Finding Work in the UK

Apply for BRP

Here are the steps to get a BRP in the UK:

- Apply for a UK visa or a residence permit. You can do this online, and the process and requirements depend on the type of visa or permit you need.
- Pay the application fee and the healthcare surcharge. You will need to pay the visa or permit application fee, which varies depending on the type of visa or permit you need, as well as the healthcare surcharge, which gives you access to the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK.
- Attend a biometric appointment. You will need to provide your biometric information (fingerprints and photograph) at a UK visa application center. You will receive a Biometric Enrollment Letter that you will need to bring to the appointment.
- Collect your BRP. If your visa or permit application is successful, you will receive a BRP within 10 days of arriving in the UK. The BRP will be sent to a specified address or to a Post Office branch for you to collect.



A Guide to Finding Work in the UK

Banking in the UK

Banking in the UK works similarly to other countries, with some unique features specific to the UK financial system. Here are some key points about how banking works in the UK:

- **Types of banks:** There are several types of banks in the UK, including high street banks, online banks, and challenger banks. High street banks have a physical presence on the high street and offer a range of services, such as current accounts, savings accounts, loans, and mortgages. Online banks operate entirely online, while challenger banks are new banks that are challenging the traditional high street banks.
- **Current accounts:** A current account is a type of bank account that allows you to manage your day-to-day finances. It provides features such as debit cards, online banking, and direct debits. Many current accounts offer overdrafts, which allow you to borrow money from the bank up to a set limit.
- **Savings accounts:** A savings account is a type of bank account that allows you to save money and earn interest on your savings. There are several types of savings accounts in the UK, including instant access accounts, notice accounts, and fixed-rate bonds.
- **Credit cards:** A credit card is a type of loan that you can use to make purchases. Credit cards allow you to borrow money up to a set limit and typically charge interest on the amount you borrow.
- **Financial regulations:** The UK banking system is regulated by several regulatory bodies, including the Bank of England, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA). These bodies are responsible for ensuring that banks operate in a safe and stable manner and that customers are protected.



A Guide to Finding Work in the UK

Banking in the UK (continued)

Choosing the best bank in the UK depends on your personal financial needs and preferences. Here are some of the best banks in the UK based on their reputation, range of products, and customer service:

- HSBC: HSBC is a global bank that offers a range of financial products, including current accounts, savings accounts, mortgages, loans, and credit cards. They have a strong reputation for customer service and have a large network of branches across the UK.
- Barclays: Barclays is one of the largest banks in the UK and offers a range of financial products, including current accounts, savings accounts, mortgages, loans, and credit cards. They have a reputation for innovation and have introduced a range of digital banking services in recent years.
- NatWest: NatWest is a UK-based bank that offers a range of financial products, including current accounts, savings accounts, mortgages, loans, and credit cards. They are known for their strong customer service and have a large network of branches across the UK.
- Santander: Santander is a UK-based bank that offers a range of financial products, including current accounts, savings accounts, mortgages, loans, and credit cards. They are known for their competitive interest rates and cashback rewards.
- Nationwide: Nationwide is a UK-based building society that offers a range of financial products, including current accounts, savings accounts, mortgages, loans, and credit cards. They are known for their customer service and have a range of ethical policies, such as not investing in fossil fuels.

Overall, it's important to research different banks and their products to find the best option for your needs. Consider factors such as fees, interest rates, customer service, and digital banking services when choosing a bank.



Finding Accommodation in the UK

Finding accommodation can be one of the most challenging aspects of planning a work and travel experience in the UK. Here's a detailed guide to help you find a place to stay while on an IEC work permit.

When looking for accommodation in the UK, 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 London. 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, motels, 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.

* Use online platforms

There are many online platforms that can help you find an accommodation, such as Airbnb, Booking.com, and Hostelworld. These platforms allow you to search for properties by location, price, and amenities, making it easy to find a place that meets your needs.

* Join Facebook groups

Joining Facebook groups related to work and travel in the UK can be a great way to find an accommodation. Many of these groups are dedicated to helping people find places to stay, and you can often find listings for affordable accommodation.

* Look for accommodation close to your work

If you have secured a job before arriving in the UK, it would be best to look for accommodation close to your workplace. This will save you time and money on transportation and make it easier to get to and from work.

* Consider shared accommodation

Shared accommodation, such as house-sharing or flat-sharing, can be a great option for those on a budget. Not only is it often more affordable than other options, but it can also be a great way to meet new people and make friends.

* Use other resources

There are a number of other resources you can use to find accommodation in the UK. Property websites such as [Rightmove](#), [Zoopla](#), and [OnTheMarket](#) and rental apps like [SpareRoom](#) and [OpenRent](#) are popular platforms for finding short-term rentals. You can use social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to search for accommodation. Additionally, you can reach out to local letting agents and property management companies for assistance in finding a place to stay.

* Be prepared to move around

Accommodation in the UK can be competitive, especially in popular tourist destinations, so you may have to move around a bit before finding a place that suits your needs. Be prepared to be flexible and open to different types of accommodation, and don't be discouraged if you don't find something right away.

General Tips

* Consider staying in a backpackers hostel or a budget hotel

Backpackers hostels and budget hotels are a great option for travelers on a budget. They are often cheaper than other accommodation options and can be a great way to meet other travelers. Living in a hostel full-time can be an affordable option, especially if you work in the hostel and can get discounts.

* Check with your employer

Some companies may offer housing or housing assistance to their employees. If you have secured a job before arriving in the UK, check with your employer to see if they have any accommodation options available.

* Be prepared to pay deposit and rent in advance

Keep in mind that many landlords in the UK require tenants to pay a deposit and rent in advance, so make sure you have enough funds to cover these expenses.



Popular Hostel Companies in the UK

- **YHA (England and Wales)**

YHA is a charity that operates a network of over 150 hostels across England and Wales. They offer a range of accommodation options, including private rooms and shared dormitories.

- **Hostelling Scotland**

Hostelling Scotland is a non-profit organization that operates a network of over 30 hostels across Scotland. They offer a range of accommodation options, including private rooms and shared dormitories.

- **Safestay**

Safestay is a hostel company that operates a network of hostels in London, Edinburgh, York, and other UK cities. They offer a range of accommodation options, including private rooms and shared dormitories.

- **Hatters Hostels**

Hatters Hostels operates hostels in Manchester and Liverpool. They offer a range of accommodation options, including private rooms and shared dormitories.

- **St. Christopher's Inn**

St Christopher's Inns operates hostels in London, Bath, Edinburgh, and other UK cities. They offer a range of accommodation options, including private rooms and shared dormitories.

- **Generator Hostels**

Generator Hostels has several locations in the UK, including hostels in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh. They offer budget-friendly accommodation in shared dormitories and private rooms, as well as a range of social events and activities.



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 the UK, 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 the UK.

General Tips

Respect cultural norms:
Research and learn more about the country, culture, and the people before deciding on your Working Holiday destination.

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

It is essential to research and learn about the customs and traditions of the UK to avoid any misunderstandings.

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

Be willing to learn about the local culture. This can help you better understand the differences and make you feel more comfortable.

Observe how locals behave and interact before you act. This can help you get a sense of the social norms and avoid offending anyone unintentionally.

The UK has a diverse population, and each culture has its own unique set of customs and traditions. Be mindful of these differences and show respect for them.

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

The UK has a unique vocabulary and slang, so be mindful of the language you use. Avoid using offensive language and try to use the appropriate terms.

Try the local cuisine and be open to trying new foods and drinks and explore the variety of tastes offered.

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

The UK is a melting pot of different cultures, and embracing this diversity can be a rewarding experience. Take the opportunity to learn from people of different backgrounds and customs.

Cultural Differences To Consider And Tips On How To Navigate Them

The UK is a culturally diverse country with a rich history and many unique customs and traditions. Here are some cultural differences in the UK and tips on how to navigate them:

- **Language:** English is the official language of the UK, but there are many regional dialects and accents that may be difficult to understand. If you're having trouble understanding someone, don't be afraid to ask them to repeat themselves or speak more slowly.
- **Humour:** The British sense of humour is often dry and sarcastic, which may be confusing or even offensive to some visitors. Try not to take jokes or teasing personally, and be prepared to laugh at yourself.
- **Queuing:** Queuing (or waiting in line) is an important part of British culture, and cutting in line is generally frowned upon. If you're not sure where to queue, ask someone nearby for guidance.
- **Punctuality:** The British value punctuality, so it's important to be on time for appointments and meetings. If you're running late, be sure to call or text to let the other person know.
- **Tipping:** Tipping is not mandatory in the UK, but it is customary in some situations, such as in restaurants or for taxi rides. As a general rule, a tip of 10-15% is appropriate for good service.
- **Personal space:** The British tend to value personal space and may find physical contact, such as hugging or kissing, uncomfortable or inappropriate. Be aware of personal space and try to respect other people's boundaries.



Cultural Differences To Consider And Tips On How To Navigate Them

- **Food:** The UK has a diverse culinary scene, with traditional dishes such as fish and chips, roast beef, and shepherd's pie. The British are also known for their love of tea and biscuits. It's important to note that portion sizes in the UK may be smaller than what you're used to, and some dishes may be served differently than in your home country. Don't be afraid to try new foods and ask for recommendations from locals.
- **Weather:** The weather in the UK is famously unpredictable, with rain and cloudy skies common throughout the year. It's a good idea to pack layers and waterproof clothing, as well as sunscreen for the rare sunny days. Keep in mind that the UK experiences a phenomenon known as "British Summer Time," when the clocks are set one hour ahead from March to October to maximize daylight hours.
- **Sports:** The UK is known for its passion for sports, particularly football (known as soccer in some countries). Other popular sports include rugby, cricket, and tennis. It's common for fans to wear team jerseys and attend live matches, and sporting events are often accompanied by traditional foods and drinks. If you're not familiar with a particular sport, ask a local to explain the rules and traditions.



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

The UK 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 the UK 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 the UK.

Tips for Staying Safe and Healthy



- Do your research about the destination, stay up to date on any travel advisories or warnings related to the UK / 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.
- 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

Staying healthy and safe while traveling in the UK is important to ensure that you have an enjoyable and stress-free trip. Here are some tips to help you stay healthy and safe during your visit:

- Stay hydrated: Carry a reusable water bottle and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, especially during hot summer months.
- Wash your hands: Frequent hand-washing is a simple and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses.
- Be aware of food hygiene: Choose reputable food vendors, wash your hands before eating, and avoid undercooked or raw foods to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.
- Stay safe on the roads: If you plan on driving in the UK, make sure to familiarize yourself with local traffic laws and road signs. Always wear a seatbelt and avoid driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Protect yourself from the weather: The UK weather can be unpredictable, so pack appropriate clothing and footwear to protect yourself from rain and cold weather. Wear sunscreen to protect your skin from the sun's harmful rays on sunny days.
- Stay alert in crowded areas: Be aware of pickpockets and keep your valuables secure in crowded tourist areas and public transportation.
- Know emergency numbers: Keep a list of emergency numbers, including the local emergency services and your country's embassy or consulate.

By taking these simple precautions, you can help ensure that you stay healthy and safe during your visit to the UK.



Tips for Staying Safe and Healthy

Medical Care and Expenses in the UK

If you are on a working holiday visa in the UK, you are entitled to use the National Health Service (NHS) for any necessary medical treatment. The NHS is a publicly-funded healthcare system that provides free or low-cost medical treatment to residents of the UK, including temporary visitors.

To access NHS services, you will need to register with a general practitioner (GP), who will be your primary point of contact for medical care. You can find a local GP by searching the NHS website or asking for recommendations from other locals. Once registered, you can make appointments with your GP for routine check-ups or any health concerns you may have.

If you require emergency medical treatment, you can visit an NHS hospital or call 999 for emergency services. Treatment at NHS hospitals is free of charge, although you may be required to pay for any necessary medications or medical equipment.

It's important to note that while most healthcare services are free on the NHS, some treatments, such as dental care and certain prescriptions, may require a fee. As a working holiday visa holder, you may also be required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of your visa application, which provides you with access to NHS services during your stay in the UK.

Overall, the NHS provides comprehensive healthcare coverage for working holiday visa holders in the UK, ensuring that you can access medical treatment when you need it.



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 the UK 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 the UK 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 the UK 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 the UK. 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 the UK 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



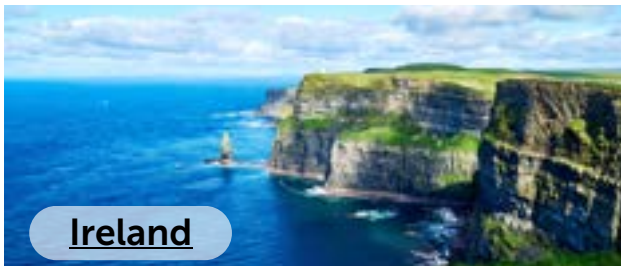
Costa Rica



France



Germany



Ireland



Japan



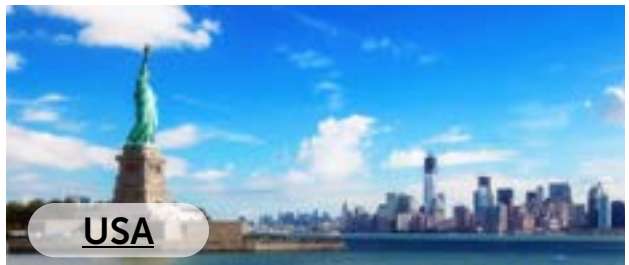
New Zealand



South Korea



UK



USA

Appendix - A List Of Helpful Resources





[United Kingdom Embassy](#)

[Canadian Government info about the UK](#)

[UK Customs](#)

[National Rail UK
Europe Railway](#)

[National Express Bus UK](#)

[Buy and Sell on Craigslist UK](#)

[Buy and Sell on Gumtree UK](#)

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Contact us to discover more:

 programs@gointernational.ca

 +1 (236) 865-5324

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