

## **WORKING HOLIDAYMAKER ENTRY CLEARANCE: INFORMATION PACK**



The Working Holidaymaker scheme enables young Commonwealth citizens to spend an extended holiday in the United Kingdom of up to two years' duration before settling down in their own countries.

**Prior entry clearance is mandatory. If you do not have an entry clearance (“visa”) before you travel, the Immigration Officer will refuse you entry on arrival in the UK.**

The two-year period cannot be taken cumulatively. It expires on the second anniversary of your first arrival in the UK as a Working Holidaymaker. Time spent outside of the UK during this two-year period is therefore lost. You should bear this in mind when considering visiting other countries during their absence from South Africa.

Despite rumours to the contrary, you cannot apply again as a Working Holidaymaker if you have already been to the UK as such. All applications are checked against our records, and those of other UK entry clearance issuing posts around the world.

If you have a UK born grandparent, you will find it more beneficial to apply for an employment entry clearance on the grounds of UK ancestry. Please see our separate information pack.

### **Who can apply?**

You must be:

- A citizen of a Commonwealth country (this includes South Africa);
- Aged between 17 and 30 inclusive on the day you first intend to enter the UK as a working holidaymaker;
- Single, or married to a person who also meets the requirements of the working holidaymaker rules and who is simultaneously taking a working holiday with you in the UK. e.g. a couple aged 28 and 30 can apply, but one aged 28 and 31 cannot;
- Without dependent children. Children under 5 can accompany you on a working holiday, but they must be younger than 3 when you first enter the UK as a working holidaymaker.

### **What other requirements do I need to meet?**

You must be able to demonstrate to the Entry Clearance Officer that you:

- Have the means to pay for your return or onward journey from the UK when your working holiday is over;
- Are able to support and accommodate yourself during your working holiday in the UK without recourse to public funds;
- Intend to take employment as an integral part of a working holiday in the UK;
- Intend to leave the UK when your working holiday is over;
- Have not been to the UK before as a working holidaymaker.

### **What do I need to submit with my application?**

- A completed application form VAF1. In section 10 give a brief explanation of why you want to go to the UK on a working holiday.
- Evidence of employment if you have a job already lined up in the UK. There are no longer any restrictions on the type of work you can do in the UK and how long you can work for. However, work alone must not be the sole reason for your wanting to go to the UK.
- Evidence of funds to cover your initial stay in the UK for up to a month. We are not concerned about where you have obtained these funds from and whether you have to repay them. However, if you do not have sufficient funds, and if you do not have a job lined up soon after your arrival in the UK, your application might well be refused on support and accommodation grounds.
- Information and/or evidence of what you have been doing since leaving high school. Please give details in section 10 of the application form.
- Information and evidence of your future prospects here in South Africa e.g. job on return letter, offer of future university place, etc. With South Africa's high unemployment rate, what incentive is there for you to come back?
- Two recent coloured passport photographs of yourself.
- Your current passport valid for at least two years and with a free page on which to place your entry clearance. Temporary passports are not acceptable.

- Your previous passports, if any, so that we can see your previous immigration history. Random checks are made to see if the South African authorities have issued any previous passports before.
- A non-refundable fee of £36 payable in South African Rand. For the current rate please call our visa enquiry line or visit our website. Applicants can pay in cash, bank draft or postal order made payable to the British High Commission.

We do not need to see an air ticket. By all means make a provisional booking, but do not purchase your ticket before you obtain your entry clearance.

DO NOT leave it until the last minute to apply. We can issue your entry clearance three months in advance of your intended date of arrival in the UK.

### **Will I need to be interviewed?**

Most applications can be processed on paper, or after a quick interview at the public counter. However, the Entry Clearance Officer might find it necessary to speak to you in greater depth. Interviews can only be held in Pretoria. They cannot be conducted over the telephone.

### **What happens after my entry clearance is issued?**

The entry clearance will be made valid from your intended date of arrival in the UK and will expire two years after that date. Once issued, the dates cannot be amended.

During this two-year period you can leave and enter the UK as often as you want. You must finally leave on or before the entry clearance's expiry date.

### **Where can I find you?**

British High Commission  
Entry Clearance Section  
Liberty Life Place, Block B, Ground Floor  
Glyn between Pretorius & Schoeman Streets  
Hatfield 0083

British High Commission  
Entry Clearance Section  
PO Box 13611 or 13612  
Hatfield 0028  
Pretoria

Telephone enquires: 012 421 7802  
Fax Number: 012 421 7888  
E-mail enquiries: [PTA.VisaEnquiries@fco.gov.uk](mailto:PTA.VisaEnquiries@fco.gov.uk)  
Websites: [www.britain.org.za](http://www.britain.org.za) or [www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk)

There is no need to submit your application through any third party such as a travel agent or a commercial visa consultant.

Personal applications can be submitted between the hours of 0800 and 1200, Monday to Friday, Public Holidays excepted.

You can also send us your application via the TNT Courier Service. For more information of this door-to-door service, telephone TNT direct on 012 346 3035. Please include Rand 190 with your application fee if you use this service. The cost covers both inward and outward transmission of your application/passport and insurance cover.

Alternatively, please add Rand 55 to your application fee if you prefer your passport to be returned by registered mail.

### **What if I have a complaint?**

We endeavour to process applications as quickly as we can. However, we cannot accept responsibility for any delays caused by inadequately documented applications. It is your responsibility to provide whatever documentary evidence is needed to satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer that you meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules.

However, if you have good reason to complain about the service we offer, you should address your complaint in writing to the Entry Clearance Manager.

Rather than complain about being refused an entry clearance, it might be more profitable for you to make a formal appeal against the Entry Clearance Officer's decision. The appeal process is explained at the time of refusal.

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Whilst every care has been taken in preparing this leaflet, it is intended only for general guidance. In certain circumstances, it may have been overtaken by events. Her Majesty's Government cannot accept any liability for any loss or damage arising in respect of any statement contained in this leaflet.