

Working Holiday South Korea

Complete guide to requirements, application, and country specifications to obtain your H-1 visa.

Universal Requirements

Key rules and general documentation applicable to all applicant nationalities.

Proof of Funds and Extension



How to prove funds?

You are required to demonstrate a minimum of **3,000,000 KRW** (approx. \$2,200 USD/EUR) plus the cost of a return flight ticket.

An official bank certificate or bank statement in English must be presented, exclusively in the applicant's name, stamped, signed, and issued within the last 90 days.



Can I extend my WHV visa?

As a general rule, you **CANNOT** extend the visa. The maximum limit is exactly 12 months and no extensions are allowed.

Key exceptions: Special agreements allow U.S. citizens to extend up to 18 months; Canada and the UK up to 24 months; and Japan allows a second application.

Key Additional Documents



Medical Exams

It is mandatory to present an original Medical Certificate signed and stamped by a registered doctor (usually valid for max. 3 months). It must explicitly declare good general health to travel.



Criminal Records

Mandatory at the national level and legalized with the Apostille of The Hague. It must include an official translation into English or Korean and be issued within the last 3 to 6 months.

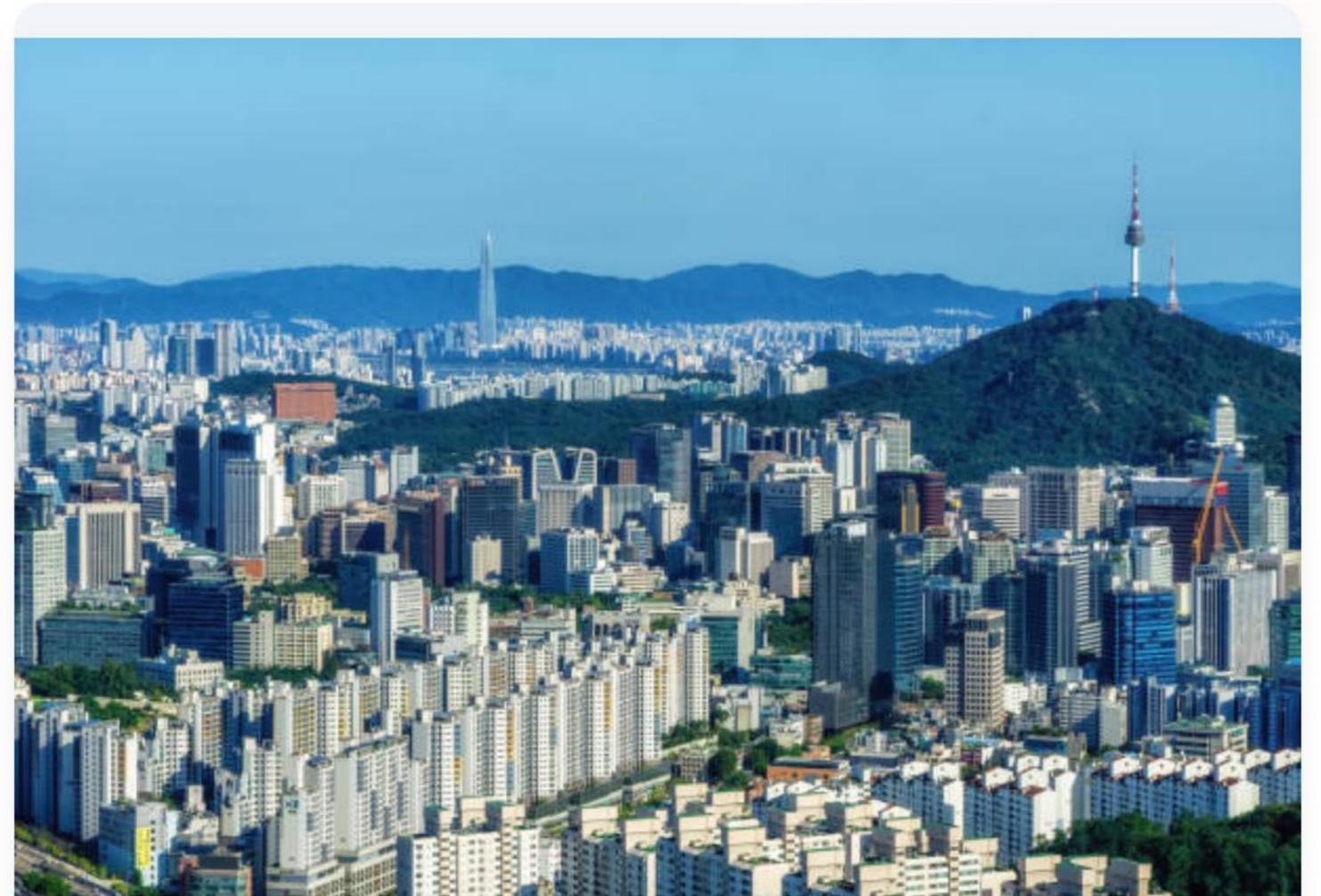


Language & Translation

Although it is not mandatory to be fluent in Korean, the Application Form and the Activity Plan must be in English or Korean. Official documents require a sworn translation.

Medical Insurance & Studies

- **Mandatory Medical Insurance:** This is a fundamental requirement. The policy must have a minimum coverage of 40,000,000 KRW.
- **Full Validity:** The insurance must fully cover the 12 months of your stay in South Korea.
- **Required Clauses:** Must include specific Repatriation clauses and, depending on the consulate, coverage for Mental Illnesses.
- **Permitted Studies:** You can undertake Korean language improvement studies or technical courses in private academies (hakwons).
- **Academic Limits:** For most countries, there is no limit, but nationalities such as France, Australia, or NZ have restricted studies to 4 - 6 months.



Country Specifications

Nationality	Age Range	Available Quotas	Consular Fee
Argentina / Brazil	18 to 34 years	200 / 300 per year	\$60 USD / Free
Spain / France	18 to 30 years	1,000 / 2,000 per year	Free
United Kingdom	18 to 35 years	5,000 per year	45 GBP
Australia / Germany	18 to 30/34 years	Unlimited	Free / 54 EUR
Canada / Japan	18 to 35/30 years	12,000 / 10,000 per year	\$60 - \$90 USD / \$60 USD

Calendar and Quota Availability



Fast Depletion

Countries like Argentina, Spain, and Brazil have reduced quotas that usually sell out within hours or days after the consular calendar opens in January. They require speed and strict organization.



High Availability

Expanded agreements with the UK, Canada, and Japan provide thousands of quotas. Vacancies are usually available for most of the year, processed strictly on a first-come, first-served basis.



Unlimited Quotas

Nationalities such as Germany and Australia enjoy unlimited quotas guaranteed by bilateral treaties. Applications remain open permanently with no risk of running out of spots.

Modalities and Processing

01

Consular Application & KVAC

The vast majority of applications start through the **Korea Visa Portal**. However, for many European nationalities, the passport and physical documentation must be submitted through KVAC (Korea Visa Application Center) centers, which entails an additional service fee of approx. 60€.

02

Arrival and Registration (ARC)

Visas are usually approved within 15 to 30 days in digital format (no sticker in the passport). Upon arriving in South Korea, it is absolutely mandatory to book an appointment at **HiKorea.kr** to process your Alien Registration Card (ARC) in order to legally reside and work.

Official Application Checklist



Personal Documents

Original passport (minimum validity of 6 months) and printed visa form with a recent photograph (3.5 × 4.5 cm).



Activity Plan

Detailed Activity Plan, obligatorily written in English or Korean.



Financial Solvency

Original bank statement in English demonstrating a minimum of 3,000,000 KRW.



Medical Coverage & Certificates

Translated Medical Insurance (Min. 40,000,000 KRW), Medical Certificate, and apostilled Criminal Records.



Academic Support and Flights

Apostilled academic degree (minimum high school diploma) and return flight ticket reservation.

Top 3 Destinations for your Adventure



Seoul

The vibrant and futuristic capital. It perfectly blends cutting-edge technology, immersive historical palaces, and an unmatched nightlife.



Busan

Korea's coastal jewel. Famous for Haeundae beach, fresh seafood, seaside temples, and its colorful cultural village.



Jeju Island

The natural and volcanic paradise. Home to the imposing Mount Hallasan, breathtaking waterfalls, and an insurmountable peace.

Prepare your trip!

Requirements and competition for quotas vary drastically depending on your nationality. **Anticipation is the key to success.**

Make sure to prepare your official translations, obtain the Apostille of The Hague for your criminal records, and coordinate your medical and bank certificates within the exact timeframes required by the consulate.

South Korea awaits you!



Questions?

Thank you for your attention and best of luck with your application.

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Image Sources



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