

# **Working Holiday (H-1) Plan**

## ***My 12 Months Stay in Seoul***

My name is Héloïse, I am 23 years old, and I am French. My interest in South Korea began when I discovered K-pop in 2016 and has significantly strengthened over the past 4 years. Now, my interest revolves more around the country's culture and history. This is why, in the summer of 2024, I spent one month in South Korea on a tourist visa.

During this trip, I had the opportunity to visit Sokcho, Gangneung, Andong, Hahoe, Gyeongju, Busan, Jeju-do, Incheon, Jeonju, Suwon, and finally Seoul. This journey was truly magical, and I would have loved to stay longer as there were still many places left to discover.

Upon returning to France, I decided to pursue a project that had been on my mind for several years: experiencing life in South Korea for a longer period than just a vacation. With a Working Holiday visa (H-1), I will be able to explore and further discover this country, while having the means to finance my long-term stay and experience the professional work environment in South Korea.

### **I. How I Envision My Typical Week in Seoul**

#### ***A) Working Part-time (15-20 hours) over 5 days of the week***

Part-time work will allow me to divide my days approximately 50% tourism and 50% work. Before or after my work hours, I will have the opportunity to visit Seoul and its surroundings, as well as engage in my hobbies (climbing, crochet, K-pop, etc.).

Indeed, during my stay last summer, I didn't have enough time to fully explore Seoul. In particular, I would like to visit the Itaewon, Myeongdong, and Insadong districts more thoroughly. Also, I would like to revisit certain monuments to better appreciate them, such as Seoul Tower, which I only saw at night, or the National Museum, which deserves a second visit due to its size.

Regarding my hobbies, I have been passionate about climbing for more than 10 years now, and South Korea is one of the reference countries in this sport. I would thus like to discover the different climbing gyms in Seoul and its surroundings, as well as outdoor climbing in the Korean mountains.

Additionally, I have seen on the web that there are several crochet-themed cafes. Having been crocheting myself for 2 years now, I would love to regularly enjoy the atmosphere of these cafes, which I cannot find in Paris.

Finally, I would like to take private Korean language lessons. I have already started an online course to learn Korean, and I expect to reach an intermediate level by summer 2025. However, I would like to continue and strengthen this learning once I am in South Korea.

### ***B) Visiting Other Korean Cities During Weekends***

Working part-time will allow me to free up at least 2 days per week to travel further south and east in the country. I would like to visit :

- Daejeon (KAIST Science Town, Gyeryongsan National Park, Daecheong Lake, Hanbat Arboretum)
- Chungju (Hwarok Cave, World Martial Arts Park, Jungangtap Historic Park)
- Damyang (Juknokwon, Metasequoia-lined Road, Meta Provence Village, Soswaewon Garden)
- Suncheon (Suncheon Bay + National Garden, Nagan Eupseong Folk Village, Suncheon Drama filming)
- Boseong (Green Tea Fields Daehan Dawon)
- Pohang (Yeongildae Beach, Hwanho Park Space Walk, Gonlyun Mount, Jukdo Market)
- Gwangju (Mudeungsan National Park, Asia Culture Center, Cheongchun Cultural Village)
- Daegu (83 Tower, Apsan Park, Gyeongsang-gamyeong Park, E-world)

As such, I would like to revisit:

- Sokcho, particularly Mount Seoraksan, which was my favorite hike among the 6 I did during my trip to Korea
- Andong, which was one of my favorite cities, particularly because we met many people and the Woryeonggyo Bridge truly amazed me
- Busan, as I loved the nightlife and life near the beaches and coasts

## **II. How to Finance My Stay in South Korea**

First, I plan to start with at least €15,000 (21,925,158 KRW) in savings. Indeed, I have had a full-time job for more than 3 years that will allow me to have enough savings to sustain myself for several months without employment upon my arrival in South Korea.

Subsequently, I would like to find part-time employment in a restaurant, café, or hotel, and potentially do occasional babysitting or home care work.

I have already started analyzing job offers of this type and making contacts for next year. I use websites such as Koreabridge, Indeed, and Craigslist, and the latter for housing as well.