

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm a 29-year-old French citizen, and the purpose of this letter is to present my motivations for applying for a working holiday for one year. I am currently in my second year of a master's degree in comics: publishing, theory and criticism, and I will be graduating at the end of this academic year. I would like to take advantage of the end of my studies to spend a year in Japan with my partner.

Since I was very young, I have always had a great interest in Japan. My first link with Japanese culture was through the anime that rocked my childhood and adolescence. Then I discovered the whole world of manga, which took me a step further in my cultural apprenticeship. This was only the beginning of my interest in Japan, which has grown steadily over the years. Indeed, I began to learn more about Japanese culture, history and society, which have remained central to my life ever since.

Indeed, in 2015 I began a degree in Japanese: Foreign Languages, Literatures and Civilization, which I obtained in 2019. It was during this degree that I had the chance to discover this wonderful country for the first time, thus fulfilling a dream I have had for a long time. I was able to spend a year in the country as an exchange student, attending intensive courses in language and culture. I also practiced my English a lot with the other foreign students in my course. I was a student at Okayama University and lived in a Share House just next to the university. I had the opportunity to visit the big cities around me, such as Kyoto, Himeji, Kobe and Osaka. I was particularly taken by Hiroshima, a city I really wanted to discover. I learned a lot about the tragedy of August 6th and the reconstruction of the city and its inhabitants. It was important for me to go there and feel the special atmosphere of the place. I was struck by the heavy atmosphere and amazed by the peace that reigns at the foot of Genbaku Dome. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the commemoration held every year by the river. If I have the opportunity to return to Japan, this is one of the things I'd like to attend.

I was also seduced by the beauty of the landscapes, the architecture of the traditional districts, but above all by the welcome and thoughtfulness of the Japanese citizens towards me. My attraction to Japan was strengthened, and I began to think about the possibility of an even more in-depth experience of Japanese life. Moreover, as I'm about to turn 30, I will not be able to apply for the WHV anymore and I do not want to lose the opportunity to take advantage of it. With this in mind, I am applying for a "Working Holiday Visa".

The aim of my application is to be able to continue discovering this country with my partner.. We are both very interested in Japan. We started practicing Aikido at the beginning of last year. The philosophy of this sport, based on defense and understanding of one's own body and that of the other, speaks volumes to us. It's a facet of Japanese culture that I hadn't yet explored, and it's brought me a lot.

During my previous stay, I didn't have the opportunity to visit the north of the country. I would like to be able to visit the island of Hokkaido and live there for a while. I would like to discover the local cuisine and meet the locals. With this in mind, we would like to do a few short periods of "Woofing", to get as close as possible to the Japanese reality.

Japan is a country I have loved living in, and I would love to have the chance to go back there. Thanks to my training and my stay in Japan, I have learned to speak and write Japanese, which will enable me to communicate and work in the country. In order to carry out these projects, I intend to make the most of my experience as a cashier, waitress and cook. I have worked hard to put together a program that I think is realistic and, above all, adaptable to the resources at my disposal. Going away with my partner also means that we can put our resources to ensure our presence in Japan. I hope that this experience will enable me to master both the spoken and written language. Because of my last stay, I'm aware of the difficulties involved in undertaking such an experiment, and I'm not afraid of them.

In addition, I'm independent, sociable and my upbringing is based on respect for others. I have a good knowledge of the codes of Japanese society. These qualities seem to me essential for undertaking this type of project.

Finally, I have been hired for an administrative job for the period from June 3 to October 30 2024, which will enable me to put money aside in addition to my current savings, to undertake this trip as serenely as possible.

Thanking you for your attention to my project and my application, and remaining at your disposal to convince you of my sincere motivations, please accept, Sir or Madam, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Mélanie Fin