BOUCHER PAUL

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Embassy of Japan

7 avenue Hoche 75008 PARIS

Subject: Application for the Japan Working Holiday Visa – Motivation Letter

Dear Sir or Madam,

I hereby submit my application for a Working Holiday Visa for Japan. This project reflects a long-standing personal and cultural interest that has accompanied me since childhood and that I now wish to pursue through an extended stay and immersion in the country.

My interest in Japan began within my family environment. My family grew up with iconic anime, and they passed this passion on to me at a very young age. Over the years, I continued to cultivate this interest by watching numerous anime series and discovering Japanese music.

This passion also shaped my social life: it helped me form my first group of friends, with whom I attended my first Japan Expo in 2011. During this event, I discovered the film Crows Zero, which left a lasting impression on me and remains one of my favorites to this day. Many other films and anime have since deepened my admiration for Japanese culture.

In 2023, I had the opportunity to travel to Japan for the first time with my brother and it was an incredible moment. This trip motivated me doing it a second time in 2025, this time alone and for an entire month. In preparation, I began studying Japanese more seriously in order to communicate more easily with local residents. This trip proved to be both meaningful and enriching.

During my stay in Hiroshima, I also met a group of people who were all completing a Working Holiday Visa. Until that moment, I was unfamiliar with this system. They explained how it worked, including the age limit of 30. Listening to their experiences and witnessing the cultural diversity around the table deeply inspired me. At 29 years old, I realized that this was an opportunity I had to seize, and that participating in such a unique and enriching program now felt entirely natural and evident to me.

Beyond the landscapes and cultural discoveries, it was above all the human encounters that marked my journey. I formed genuine friendships with several Japanese people with whom I still speak daily, and who continue to encourage me in my study of the language and share aspects of their culture with me.

These experiences now lead me to apply for the Working Holiday Visa. My objective is to further explore Japan, discover new prefectures, meet new people, and deepen my understanding of Japanese society. I plan to begin my stay by working in Fukuoka Prefecture. Having experienced the yatai during my previous trip, I found them to be ideal places for communication and language practice. It was in this environment that I made my first Japanese friends, which reinforces my belief that Fukuoka is the perfect place to improve my Japanese and learn about Japan's work culture firsthand.

In the longer term, I hope to travel through other regions such as Hokkaido, Kyushu, Chūbu, Okinawa, and Chūgoku. I am particularly interested in Okayama Prefecture, partly due to the creation of the game Wagotabi, which played a significant role in motivating me to begin learning Japanese.

Professionally, I have been working as a laboratory technician since 2017, a role that requires frequent use of English. This enables me to communicate effectively abroad. I am confident that the experience and skills I have developed will allow me to fulfill the tasks entrusted to me during this program. Responsible, independent, sociable, and respectful of other cultures, I believe I possess the qualities necessary to successfully carry out this project and integrate smoothly into a Japanese working environment.

For me, the Working Holiday Visa represents far more than a simple stay abroad; it is the opportunity to fully embrace a lifelong passion, to deepen my understanding of Japan, and to continue progressing in its language and culture through meaningful, real-world immersion.

Thank you for considering my application. I remain at your disposal for any further information.