

Ambassade du Japon en France
7 Avenue Hoche
75008 Paris

Subject : Working Holiday Visa application

Madam, Sir,

As a 30-year-old French citizen, I have the honor of submitting my application for the Working Holiday Visa program for the year 2026-2027. This project represents the culmination of a deep interest in Japanese culture, which has been nurtured since my adolescence by cinema and music.

My interest in Japan began around the age of 12 with the discovery of animated films. Works such as *Spirited Away* or *Grave of the Fireflies* served as gateways to the classics of the Japanese golden age, such as Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon* and *Seven Samurai*, as well as animated masterpieces like *Ghost in the Shell* or *Akira*. These works convinced me of the aesthetic and societal richness of Japan, prompting me to deepen my knowledge of its history and traditions.

As a musician and music enthusiast, my interest also extends to the Japanese music scene. While I was first marked by the compositions of Ryuichi Sakamoto and Joe Hisaishi, I later turned to artists and bands such as Mondo Grosso, Sunny Day Service, Marika Takeuchi, and the band Lamp. I wish to take advantage of my stay to explore the independent music scene in districts like Shimokitazawa in Tokyo.

This travel project, which began to emerge when I was 23, had to be postponed due to the health crisis. I made the most of this period to travel more, notably by spending six months in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This experience of living abroad strengthened my adaptability and my desire for an even longer and deeper immersion. Since the reopening of the borders in late 2022, I have carefully prepared this departure and took the time to build this project both logically and financially, in order to fully immerse myself in Japanese culture.

To begin this stay, I have chosen to settle in Tokyo for four months. My goal is to immediately immerse myself in the Japanese pace of life and perfect my language skills. I am already studying Japanese in France and practice writing and reading hiragana and katakana daily.

During this period, I intend to take up occasional employment. This choice is not dictated by budget constraints, as I have ensured I have the necessary funds, but by a sincere desire to meet people. Working will allow me to interact with locals as well as other travelers, thus facilitating my integration. The income from these activities will also be dedicated to additional cultural visits.

After this first phase, I plan to travel across Japan for several months to discover all its diversity: from the snowy mountains of Hokkaido in the north to the coasts of Miyazaki in the south. Finally, I will conclude my trip with a final stay in Tokyo. This return to my starting point will allow me to 'close the loop', to enjoy the energy of the capital one last time, and to calmly prepare for my return to France.

This stay is a unique opportunity for personal enrichment for me. I commit to scrupulously respecting local customs and the rules of the program.

I thank you sincerely for the attention given to my application.

Yours faithfully,