



IEP - GLOBAL WORK EXPERIENCES

1300 300 912 – www.iep.org.au

IEP – SYDNEY
Locked Bag 5065
Sydney South NSW
1235

IEP - MELBOURNE
PO Box 13278
Law Courts Post Office
Melbourne VIC 8010

Ph +61 2 9299 0444
Fax +61 2 9299 0399

Ph +61 3 9329 3866
Fax +61 3 9329 1592



New Changes to Irish Working Holiday Visa

Australians aged 18-30 interested in spending a year living and working in Ireland will welcome new changes to the Irish Working Holiday Authorisation.

Under new rules Australians will be able to work for up to six months with each employer rather than the three month limit that was imposed under the old visa.

These recent changes will allow the visa holder 12 months from the date of issue to enter Ireland and activate their visa, which will then be valid for the following 12 month period. This new level of flexibility offers visa holders' the option of travelling prior to their arrival into Ireland, and allows them to plan further ahead; removing the last minute rush to have a visa issued that many travellers experience.

International Exchange Programs (IEP) is a non-profit organisation that operates *Work Ireland*, a program offering young Australians assistance in obtaining their Irish visa and finding work and a place to live. *Work Ireland* Program Coordinator Lisa Alexander says she is happy with the new regulations and believes the flexibility of the visa will make the transition to Ireland easier.

"By allowing Australians to work for up to six months with each employer, the chances of securing a job are greatly increased. Businesses will be more inclined to hire an Aussie if they don't have to leave the job after three months as the old regulations stipulated," Lisa said, *"This is definitely good news."*

Australian passport holders are encouraged to contact IEP to discuss their eligibility for the visa. 1300 300 912 or visit www.iep.org.au

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For more information please contact Naomi Joyce on the details below.

Media Contact

Naomi Joyce

Marketing/PR Coordinator
naomi.joyce@iep.org.au
International Exchange Programs (IEP)
P: 02 9299 0444
F: 02 9299 0399
www.iep.org.au