



Travel & Work in Canada

www.australia.gc.ca

Looking for ways to spend your gap year or uni break? Or perhaps you need a new challenge or a change of scenery? Look no further!

The governments of Australia and Canada signed a bilateral agreement to allow 18-30 year old Australian passport holders to travel and work anywhere in Canada for up to two years at a time. No job offer is required and the current policy allows previous participants to re-apply. If you are planning a gap year or just spending a few months overseas on school/university break, participation in the International Exchange Canada (IEC) could be a fun and learning experience.

More than 35,000 young participants from around the world travel and work in Canada each year under the IEC banner, which allows them to gain valuable international work experience in a bilingual and progressive country, learn a new culture, forge new friendships and professional networks, and travel across Canada whilst working to supplement their funds.

By participating in IEC, you could spend a ski season on the slopes of Whistler, in the beautiful ski town of Banff; and if snow isn't your thing you could spend warm sunny days doing a working holiday by a crystal clear lake in one of Canada's famed wilderness. The IEC also allows you the flexibility in furthering your professional career in the urban locales of Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto and other cities, giving you the competitive edge when you return to Australia. Research shows that employers tend to favor candidates who have international work experience as they have the ability and skills to help companies succeed in the global marketplace by:

- Effectively working with cross-cultural teams and excelling in multi-cultural environments,
- Championing new perspectives, and
- Maximizing international networks and fostering better relationships with foreign clients, suppliers, franchisees, partners and affiliates.

The possibilities and opportunities you can gain out of a travel, work and cultural experience in Canada can be life changing. **For detailed information on the IEC (including Working Holiday Canada), please refer to www.australia.gc.ca (click 'Travel and Work in Canada').**

Below is a sample of the feedback we have received from previous participants. You'll discover that with IEC, you can broaden your horizon and create your own path of opportunities and adventure!

Working Holiday | Young Professional | International Co-op (Internship)
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Here's what a few of our previous participants got out of their working holiday experience in Canada:

1) E. Goodall – Discover Yourself

I went to Canada as a break from a very unsatisfying job and career. I had always dreamed of doing a working holiday in the snow when I was at uni --Bachelor Commerce (Liberal Studies) -- but taking a semester off was never an option and I went into full time work straight away after finishing my first degree and so the opportunity was lost. However, 5 years later I decided it was now or never and so I resigned and left for Canada.

I had two jobs in Canada, one in Banff and the other in Calgary. My first role was as a Group Services Assistant at Sunshine Village Ski and Snowboard Resort doing reservations for groups. This included tickets, luncheons, hotel stays and dinner packages. After the ski season ended, I applied to work at the 10-day Calgary Stampede as a supervisor of one the merchandise outlets.

One of my most memorable experiences was visiting Prince Edward Island (PEI) and Halifax. PEI is magical and looks exactly like the Anne of Green Gables movies I enjoyed as a child. It was just magic to cycle along the orange cliffs and look out to the sea. Halifax was also lots of fun with some great nights spent in the local pubs singing along with the locals.

This trip was a great discovery expedition for me. I learnt about my strengths and weaknesses, about what kind of a person I am, what makes me happy, what motivates me and what I want my life to look like. Taking this opportunity as a career break also meant that I came back to Australia with a clear focus of what I wanted as a job and have since started studying my masters (Property Development) to make this career change happen. This experience has done wonders for me and I am always willing to recommend it to anyone who is thinking about it. I also have a great international network of friends now and keep in touch regularly with rendezvous snowboarding trips in Australia or many late night chats online.

2) S. Austin – From Working Holiday Maker to Global Business Owner

After a year and a half in Canada working as a tour guide, taking overnight horseback trips into the mountains and working as a driller on an environmental and geotechnical drilling rig travelling all over Alberta, I was generally enjoying myself, without too many stresses in life, limited responsibility, and a somewhat carefree attitude; but I found myself wanting a new challenge. So, I took a job at Dalton Seed Farm, a 4000 acre seed farm in east central Alberta. I was immediately taken with the high standard of presentation and pride around the farm. Shortly after I started with the Dalton's, I was very fortunate to have my parents come and visit. For 12 days we shared a motorhome and squeezed in as many miles as we could. From Banff to Waterton, to Lake Louise and Jasper, west to Vancouver, Victoria, Campbell River and then back east to the Okanagan Valley and finally Calgary.

While doing my working holiday, I was regularly being contacted by other Aussie's looking for work and began to point guys in the direction of the agency I had found work through. By this point the business seed had been planted and my mind ran away with the endless possibilities. Towards the end of harvest at Dalton, I noticed an advertisement in a rural newspaper about a "Young Farmers Summit of the America's" being hosted by the Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF). I took some time off and made my way to Calgary, I was not prepared for three days that would change my life. It was an honour and a privilege to be the only Aussie amongst 150 of the most open minded, progressive, forward thinking young farmers in Canada. It was the perfect launch platform for my business as I started a network of contacts.

Later, a meeting was arranged for me with a Canadian, Craig, who was previously in Australia on a working holiday. Craig had just returned from Australia, and after employing Aussies for a few years in his family farm, was starting to find a demand for them from other Canadian employers. Together with Craig, I placed 25 Aussies in Canada in 2009 and 6 Canadians in Australia for harvest. It was one of the busiest and most rewarding times of my life. Craig and I are now realising the training component of our vision as we launch the backpacker training arm of our business, creating further opportunities for those who apply to us but lack the experience. Today, our initiatives have spawned into a financially rewarding global business with partners in five countries. If we were to leave a legacy, it would be that we assisted in filling the labour void in global agriculture. We believe that our applicants are in the upper echelon of the agriculture labour pool, thanks in part to their experience abroad.

I learned more than I could ever imagine from the Dalton's in Alberta about farming and from the Canadian agribusiness community about business. I became the Chairman of two organisations. I raised in excess of \$45,000 in sponsorship funds to host a young farmer conference. Most important of all, I built relationships. After my working holiday, I managed two trips back to Canada, one as a consultant to a major Australian beef event, and another to explore some more business opportunities. It was on my flight to Canada in November when I had to pinch myself and wonder how the skinny young cowboy that ventured from southern New South Wales to the Northern Territory some years ago is now being flown half way round the world as an ambassador for the beef industry.

Like them, you can open doors for self-discovery, career opportunities, and so much more through International Experience Canada. To apply, go to www.australia.gc.ca and click 'Travel and Work in Canada'.

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