



SPECIFIED WORK FOR VISA EXTENSION

A small guide to getting started!

Whether you've already decided you want to stay more than one year or you're keeping your options open we've got the scoop on all things Farm Work!

For those of you who may not know there is an opportunity to stay in Australia for two years under the Working Holiday Visa. Unfortunately, it's not as easy as just applying for a Second visa, it involves a bit of work. Anyone that is looking at staying 2 years in Australia must be willing to complete 88 days of Farm work in a regional area of Australia. This typically refers to fruit picking or farm work. Although not a glorious job, it's definitely a great opportunity to spend more time in Australia and allow for more teaching experience.

WHERE TO START

You might be wondering where do I begin? Here are some helpful hints to put you on the right track...

Your farm work can be completed anytime during the first year and you'll definitely want to start looking sooner rather than later. There are individuals from all over the world looking for work just like you. It can be completed all at once (3 months in a row) or done over time. It's usually much easier to complete if you do it in a row.

Keep in mind these jobs are usually located in small rural towns which means a major city could be hours away. In some instances accommodation may be available or in a nearby town. Make sure you do your research to know where you might be staying.

HELPFUL TIPS

With the school year running February to December, completing your 88 days between November and March when the school year tends to be slower would allow for you to be present during the busiest times of year!

One thing to remember is to collect evidence along the way of your completed work. You will be asked to provide details when applying for your second year visa (more details below)

Once you've completed your farm work you will need to apply online using your Immi account just like you did for your first WHV!



Social Media is a great avenue to use when looking for regional work. Facebook even has a groups of people from all over the world looking for Farm Work and 2nd Year Visa Farm Work Australia:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/800572720125333>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178893179152200>

****Be conscious of scams and those asking for money just to simply apply for a job****

Make sure the farm/business is able to sign off on Farm Work. Here are some of the things they need to have: An ABN Number, Pay the required rate (award) and be located in the correct postal code.

Lastly, the best piece of advice we can give is to buddy up! Find a friend or colleague looking to complete their farm work too. There are always tons of educators looking to stay that little bit longer so don't be scared to reach out to others as this will definitely make your time go by much faster knowing you have someone to keep you MOTIVATED!

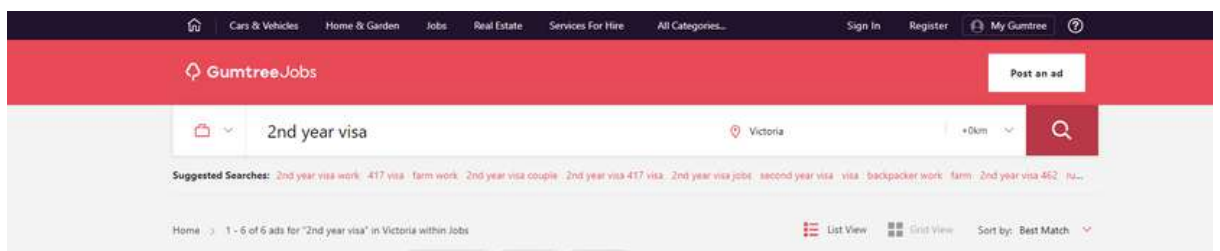
LINKS

Check out these links for job leads in the rural field:

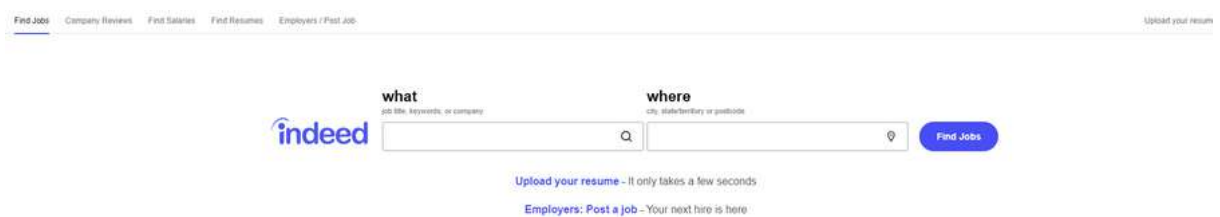
- Backpacker Jobs



- Gumtree Jobs



- Indeed Jobs



For more information on what the determines as being farm work and on obtaining your second year visa visit:

- <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/specified-work>
- <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/second-working-holiday-417>

**Want to meet other like minded people to travel and work with?
Join the Facebook group:**

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/educatorsmovingtoaus/>

ADVICE

We asked some of our recent teachers to share some information on their experiences with Farm work:

Donald, a Canadian teacher living and working in Melbourne, shared with us his experience completing his farm work. Donald worked on a farm in NSW about three hours from Sydney. He was paid per hour and lived on the farm with a few other backpackers. He shares some of his do's and don'ts below:

DO

Research

Research what is out there. I spent almost three weeks on Facebook groups, on Gumtree, talking to people I knew etc. To find a farm that was fair and legit. You hear a lot of horror stories about different hostels and different farms. The good ones are out there but you need to look.

Plan your Farm Work around teaching

When I came to Melbourne to teach I purposely came at the end of March. In doing this I gave myself the opportunity to see how I liked it for the first 9 months which brought me to December and then gave me 3 months at the end of the year, during the slow teaching times and the summer holiday to do my farm work. This way I renewed my visa for the busy teaching period (start of term 2). If you already know that you are planning to stay for 2 years, you could arrive in November and get farm work out of the way before starting to teach.

DON'T

Believe everything you hear

There are a lot of rumors hovering around farm work all around social media. Some sources can be very helpful but not everything you hear is true or applies to you. Citizens of other countries can be on different visas and different rules can apply to them. For example, most Americans are on a 457 visa and are able to do different types of work compared to individuals on the 417 visa. When in doubt call the number on the Australian government website related to the issue.

Leave it to the last minute

I have conversations asking other teachers if they plan on doing farm work and the answer I've heard multiple times is "I don't have time." Don't leave it till the end! Start researching early on if you think you want to do it and leave yourself the time to do it. You need to leave yourself at least 4 months before the end of your first visa in case you are not able to complete it in one shot.

ADVICE

Katie, another Canadian also living and working in Melbourne shares her journey with Farm work: While each Farm work experience will be different, this one discusses piece rate and how it works! Piece rate, i.e. payment for items produced, can work in your favour or work against you. In this instance it worked well for Katie...

“After doing some research, I found a working hostel that was advertising jobs at an almond farm and a winery. I started my farm work at the end of January in 2018 and finished at the end of April. I travelled around 600 km north-west of Melbourne to Mildura via an overnight bus. After attending an orientation at an almond farm, I was lucky enough to secure a job after just one week at the hostel. I spent the next 3 months shaking almond trees in a farm machine. The almond harvest had to be completed as fast as possible which meant long working days and a very limited amount of days off. My daily routine was getting up at 5:30 am, driving to the farm to start work at 7 am and finish at 7 pm with a 30 min lunch break. I typically worked 14 days in a row and then had 2 days off. I was on piece rate and earned 12 cents per tree I shook which turned out to be a positive thing because I got paid more than I would have on hourly pay. In a good week, I made \$1,800.00 after taxes which made the hard work a lot more rewarding.”

Both teachers agreed to be conscious of working hostels. You will have to pay extra in order to room and board, not to mention the transportation to and from. So when looking into this option they suggest going directly through a farm instead.



FAQ'S

Do I need a car?

Living in a small town not close to a majority city will be tough if you don't have a car to get around. It's always a good idea to look into it! You won't usually need one for the work but if you're coming to and from work chances are public transit won't be available. If you choose to work at a working hostel they will often provide the transportation for a price.

What documents do I need to provide when applying for my visa?

- Payslips
- Group certificates- Pay G summary
- Payment Summaries
- Tax Returns
- Employer references
- A completed verification form
- Bank statement

Could I have to do a health screen to qualify?

Yes, Unfortunately Immigration can ask you to complete this.

Is there a third visa?

Yes! Those who complete 6 months of regional work may be eligible for a 3rd Working Holiday visa.

How fast can I find work?

As noted above it's always better to begin looking as soon as you have decided this is something you'd like to do. Don't wait until the last minute and risk not getting your full 88 days in.

To wrap up:

- Doing your research and understanding what you are getting yourself into are key.
- Make sure the farm you are working at is able to sign off on visas
- Start looking early on
- Use the down times of year for teaching to get the work done!
- Make sure you complete the 88 days before the end of the first year

GOOD LUCK!

Can't find what you are looking for in this guide? Give us a call or shoot us an email and we will do our best to help you find the answer!

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