



Student Work Abroad Program

Background

The Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) is an activity of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Established in 1975, SWAP aims to provide Canadian university and college students with the opportunity to expand and enhance their overseas travel experience by living and working in another culture. SWAP operates working holiday programs in Australia, Britain, France, Japan, the Republic of Ireland and New Zealand.

Programs

Australia

Established in 1986, SWAP Australia is operated in co-operation with Student Services Australia (SSA). Participants are on the same departures as those going to New Zealand, and SSA provide similar services in their country. The Australian Working Holiday Visa has a duration of six months from arrival and one may apply for extensions near the end of that period. Like SWAP New Zealand, space is limited. Please see the nearest office of Travel CUTS, CFS' wholly owned company, for information and application. Participants must be full-time students, 18 to 25 years of age. The fee for SWAP Australia is \$150.

Britain

In 1986, over 1000 Canadian students participated in SWAP Britain. The London SWAP Centre is located centrally at the University of London Union (ULU). All participants have temporary memberships in ULU, the largest student union in Western Europe. These memberships allow SWAP students access to all ULU facilities including swimming pool, sauna, squash courts, gymnasium, a newly renovated bar at student prices, and inexpensive laundry and cafeteria facilities.

The staff of the SWAP Centre has sufficient contacts in London's casual employment market to ensure that students are employed during their visit. SWAP also has an arrangement whereby students remaining no more than three months in Britain are exempt from taxes which are very high in that country. SWAP also assists participants in finding accommodation in Central London and holds events and parties on a regular basis. The London SWAP Centre is open from mid-April to mid-September each year.

In order to qualify for SWAP Britain, you must:

- hold a valid Canadian (or British) passport;
- be a registered full-time student (applications from part-time students will be considered) and possess a valid International Student Identity Card (ISIC);