

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Panama creates new Working Holiday visa (Executive Decree 21 of 2026)

When	No date given
Where	Panama (nationwide)
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Summary

Executive Decree No. 21 of 13 October 2026, published in the Official Gazette on 14 October 2026, creates a short-stay non-resident visa for participants in Working Holiday programmes, for citizens of countries with bilateral agreements with Panama. It allows young people aged 18-30 to live and work temporarily in Panama for up to 12 months.

Full text (English)

Panama's Ministry of Public Security has issued Executive Decree No. 21 of 13 October 2026, creating a new sub-category of short-stay non-resident visa for tourists taking part in Working Holiday (Vacaciones y Trabajo) programmes. It applies to nationals of countries that have signed bilateral agreements with Panama for this purpose. Applicants must be between 18 and 30 years old at the time of application, and the visa is granted for up to twelve months and is non-renewable; once the programme ends the participant must leave Panama. Holders may not change migratory category and are not eligible for permanent residency. Applications go to the Office of Special Projects of the National Migration Service and require a personal application, a notarised passport copy, three photos, an apostilled birth certificate, certification from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the applicant is in the programme, international health insurance covering the whole stay, proof of financial solvency, and an apostilled police record from the home country. A work permit issued by MITRADEL (Ministry of Labour) is required to work temporarily during the visa's validity. The programme is administered jointly by the National Migration Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Breaching the decree's rules leads to cancellation of the visa and deportation; the decree takes effect on publication. The notice was shared locally by attorney Gabriel Henríquez.

Original (es)

New Working Holiday Visa in Panama.