MY EXPERIENCE WITH
THE WORKING HOLIDAY CLUB

by Brock

Before I left, I worked with John Broomfield, really cool guy. John was always available by phone when I needed him and took the time to understand my plans and trip.

My working holiday objective was to travel as often as possible, so I needed a job that would be ok with that. I also needed a cheap place to stay with flexible terms, much like a hostel, but a house, so I had a room, not a dorm. John recommended I use the Jumpstart London program and it was the best decision I have ever made, here is how it works

Step 1 - My work visa

John set me up with their professional migration agent who helped me every step of the way. I was given his mobile number to call whenever I got stuck. I filled out some forms and the team did the rest, it’s that easy

Advice:
You need to have the equivalent of £1890 in your bank account at the time of application, to show the British High Commission that you can support yourself on arrival.
I would hate to have thought how long it could have potentially taken me to get this all organised! The job basically involves unloading/reloading trucks for events, theatre plays, festivals and everything in between. The job is like any other, with its ups and downs. A major advantage is they are understanding that you are here to travel and experience London/Europe, so they allow you to book time off whenever you like and for as long as you like on the provisor that you give them at least one weeks notice.

As it’s a zero hour contract you can work as many or as little hours as you like, myself being a workaholic and having the travel bug bad, I worked my ass off, smashing out 70+ hour weeks regularly and working over 30 days straight, but it’s all worth it when I have more money to travel with and can travel more regularly.

This job is also a great way of networking also, as no job is the same and you are constantly working with different crew and clients. Some of the people I have met through the job are my closest friends in London. However like any job there is some major downsides such as working 14 hour shifts and carrying heavy steel deck up three flights of stairs when there is no lift.

On top of this you may have to work night shifts where you are outside in the freezing cold and rain. But it’s all worth it when you get to work at historic venues like the Banqueting house, Tower of London and get backstage access to festivals like Reading, Glastonbury, V Fest, Boomtown & British Summertime at Hyde Park, all be it to set up for the festivals but it’s amazing to see how much work goes into the productions. If you are lucky you might even spot the odd A-lister, I’ve managed to see Will Ferrell, Zayn Malik, Pharrell Williams and Taylor Swift.

Not only did I see Taylor but she spoke to me and thanked me for the work we had done on her film set, talk about speechless!!

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**Step 2- My working holiday placement application**

This too was a really easy process; quick application forms, Skype interview and boom I had got a job offer before I left home.

**Advice:** “I have been working in the same job for eight months now. I have come across many others who have applied for this job direct. However, I can confirm that Jumpstarters receive priority shifts because of their preference with TWHC employment agreements. So it’s worth it guys, you never have to worry about getting enough hours. The team at TWHC have secured a good deal with their partners, and it just runs well.”

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**Step 3 - Locking in my house share**

My work visa had now arrived, and my job offer had also been confirmed. What I loved about the Jumpstart is that everything is in writing, confirmed and agreed. There were no grey areas, hidden costs, or fine print. The team are honest and transparent about how it works and what it will cost every step of the way. Very professional and friendly!

My job offer was emailed and included my rate of pay. Back in 2016, my rate was £8.80 per hour; now my rate is £10.00 per hour. Shifts outside of M25 I was paid £15.00 ph. I saved £500 per week, quickly! Don’t let people give you the bullshit story that London is too expensive to live; it’s as expensive as your taste is. If you want to live like a “King”, then you will pay like a King. If you can live cheaply like I do, you will travel like I do.

I was organised and ready to go months before my actual departure dates. I think it was about four weeks before I left, I completed one more process which was a booking form to confirm my travel dates.

When I submitted the form, I received an email from TWHC London Office responsible for allocating my room. I paid my £200 holding deposit to secure my room for my arrival week.

**Advice:**

I was booked with the Generator Hostel in London, and met so many people in the hostel who could not rent rooms because of certain banking regulations and strict rental agreement conditions. I felt sorry for them. Seriously guys don’t underestimate how difficult it is found find a place to stay if you haven’t got the mates to bail you out when you get here!
More about the job

I would hate to have thought how long it could have potentially taken me to get this all organised!

The job basically involves unloading/reloading trucks for events, theatre plays, festivals and everything in between. The job can be strenuous manual labour but is great work. A major advantage is they understand that you are here to travel and experience London/Europe, so you can get up leave on a week's notice, and always have work to come back to.

You can work as many or as little hours as you like, myself being a workaholic and having the travel bug bad I work my ass off, smashing out 60+ hour weeks regularly and working over 10 days straight, but it's all worth it when I have more money to travel with and can travel more regularly.

This job is also a great way of networking, as no shift is the same and you are constantly working with different crew and clients. Some of the people I have met through the job are my closest friends in London. Like any job there is some downsides such as working physical 12 hour shifts.
You may have to work night shifts where you are outside in the cold climate. But it's all worth it when you get to work at historic venues like the Banqueting house, Tower of London and get backstage access to festivals like Reading, Glastonbury, V Fest, Boomtown & British Summertime at Hyde Park, all be it to set up for the festivals but it's amazing to see how much work goes into the productions. If you are lucky you might even spot the odd A-lister, I've managed to see Will Ferrell, Zayn Malik, Pharrell Williams and Taylor Swift.

To conclude, if you are reading this then that means you have made the first step towards a journey that I can safely say you won't regret. Do yourself a favour and get in touch with The Working Holiday Club, they take all the stress and hassle out of acquiring your visa, finding accommodation and finding work. Hands down getting in touch with them was the best decision I have made to date.

theworkingholidayclub.com