To whom this letter concerns,

I wish primarily to apply for a Working Holiday Visa in Japan for my passion and the purposes of expanding my knowledge of Japan, its culture and language.

I am a fresh, 23 year old, hardworking, graduate teacher who wishes to seek employment in Australian schools teaching Japanese and ESL. I have studied Japanese for about 3 years, and I am now at approximately N3 language level. I feel as a teacher, it is my responsibility to role-model the high standards of language and cultural knowledge of Japan I wish to see in my students. Therefore, a Working Holiday would provide me with a platform to improve my Japanese and cultural competency. In addition to this, It would provide opportunities to create resources I could use in the Australian classroom to show my students my great passion and love for Japan.

Over the past 3 years, I have participated in many activities to improve my language abilities and awareness of Japanese culture. I volunteered at the university to help with the initiation of the Japanese international students to Sydney. As part of this I took the students on tours of Sydney’s famous attractions. I have acted as a long term buddy/ mentor for many of these students and have helped them if they had problems in Australia. I entered the Japanese speech competition held at Macquarie University, where I talked about my passion for Japan. I represented my university to talk with the mayor of Nagoya city when he visited Sydney. As part of the universities Japanese society I volunteered to helped raise awareness of the great Tsunami disaster in Japan in 2011. Because of this I spent many of my days collecting donations. I have shown much denotation to my abilities to use my knowledge of Japanese; however if my abilities were greater I believe I would have allot more to give.

In Australia I have met many Japanese students and their families through connections and teaching English. These friendships have I have made have put me in good stead for improving my Japanese. However, the Japanese friends I meet in Australia are here to learn English. Hence often my desires to speak Japanese must be put aside in consideration for their needs. Thus a working holiday in Japan would enable me to make many Japanese connections that will provide me with the opportunity of practicing and improving my Japanese into the future.

The southern areas of Japan hold great histories and depth of culture, but are often the path less trodden by foreigners. Because of this I have a particular interest in seeing all that the south of Japan has to offer. From street ramen stands to fresh produce and bubbling hot springs. Places in particular I would like to explore in depth are Hakata, Nagasaki, Izumo and Kagoshima. Hakata along with its famous ramen tells us the history of the word “Kami Kaze”, where the Mongol invasion was faulted by a giant storm destroying their attacking fleet. Nagasaki with its history and Dutch occupancy, holds the sister city of my hometown Coffs Harbour, Sasebo. Izumo, is said to be the meeting place of the gods and is also the place of birth of my grandmother in law. I would greatly like to visit some of the places she talked about in her stories. Lastly, Kagoshima is a place vastly unknown by foreigners but famous for its dialect and volcanoes. Maybe the south of Japan will be more challenging than your average Osaka or Tokyo, for a foreigner like me. As it will put allot of pressure on my communication abilities. But I believe if given the chance it will all be worth it.

 I have always had an interest in Japan stemming back to when I was a child. When I moved to Sydney and lived in a share house with Japanese exchange students, this fostered my interest and has grown into my passion. Throughout this time I have taught many Japanese English and about my country. Each student or traveller I met has been like ambassadors to their country. I wish throughout my journeys in Japan I can be the same great ambassador of my own country as they were to japan, showing respect to the many beautiful things and people in our great countries.