



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Adventure Leadership programme/ New Zealand GAPYear Experience?

A. As part of a structured gap year, the Horizons Adventure Leadership programme is a 12-week training course that focuses on developing leadership skills through participating in adventure activities. These include: tramping, camping, kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling, team initiatives and ropes courses. The programme also includes interactive classes in: leadership, working in teams, teaching and instructing, outdoor first aid and risk management. Visit www.gapyear.org.nz

Q. Who is Horizons Unlimited?

A. Based in Christchurch New Zealand, Horizons Unlimited is a leading training and development company specialising in youth development, outdoor education and outdoor safety management services. See www.horizons.co.nz.
Horizons Unlimited is registered under the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) as a Private Training Establishment. www.nzqa.govt.nz

Q. What does the course fee cover?

A. The course fee covers all tutoring/instruction, course workbooks, during course travel to locations around Canterbury, accommodation while away from Christchurch and the use of specialist outdoor equipment (eg/ rock climbing and kayaking equipment). The fee does not include accommodation while in Christchurch, food or transport to course locations within the city.

Q. How much does the course cost?

A. The 2018 cost for the GAP Year Experience is \$5200.00*. Additional fees may apply depending upon payment options. We offer a weekly payment option and an upfront payment option.

* All payments are administered by the Public Trust – Fee Protect Scheme.

Q. Am I eligible for student loans and allowances?

A. No. This programme is not funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and therefore students are not eligible for student loans and allowances.

Q. What equipment must I provide?

A. You will need to own (or borrow) warm outdoor layers of polypro or wool, a rainproof jacket, sturdy hiking boots, a backpack and sleeping bag suitable for overnight trips, compass, emergency whistle. A full gear list will be sent out on enrolment. A waterproof watch is also a good investment.

Q. What qualifications will this course give me?

A. Successful completion of the initial 12 week programme will give you a Horizons Unlimited Certificate in Adventure Leadership. You will also gain separate industry recognised certificates in Outdoor First Aid, Risk Management, Ropes Course Facilitation and trained towards NZOIA (New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association) Leader Awards.

Q. I am from out of town and looking for accommodation, what would you recommend?

A. We have put together an accommodation package for out of town students (see separate document).

Other students have found flats (shared housing) or private boarding in the local area. Often this has been arranged after the course has started once they have been in Christchurch a few weeks.

Suburbs close to where the course is run are: South Brighton, Woolston, Ferrymead, Heathcote, Sumner, Redcliffs, Mt Pleasant, Opawa, St Martins and Linwood.

Q. How likely am I to get a job at one of the places mentioned in the brochure?

A. All employment opportunities are subject to employer requirements and processes, so we cannot guarantee placement.

Horizon's makes a big effort to give students the correct information and assistance in preparing their applications and for their interviews. Students who apply early in the programme are more successful in getting their preferred placement than those who leave till later in the course.

It's important to recognise that you are applying for a job.

We are actively seeking more work opportunities for our students.

Q. Do we get paid when we go overseas to work and do I need to pay for my own airfare?

A. Yes, you will get paid while you are away; and yes, you will need to find your own airfare and insurance. Accommodation and food are covered while you are working.

(Prices are a guide only).

Option	Summer Camp (USA)	Treasure Island (HK)
Contract	3 months (June – Aug)	6 months (June – Dec) or 3 months (Sept – Dec)
Application fee	\$100	Nil
Airfares	\$2400	\$2000
Insurance	\$650	\$900
Visa	\$200	\$60
Accom + Food	Provided on camp	Provided on programme
Earnings:	US\$1550 - \$1750 (depending on age, skills & experience) Additional fees: \$250 acceptance fee \$450 placement fee You will need to come up to Auckland 1 month before you fly for a US Consulate interview so please factor this cost in.	HK\$4000/month Airfares reimbursed upon completion of 6 month contract up to \$5,700HKD. On completion of a 12 month contract reimbursement of up to \$11,400 HKD.

In some cases the pay will be enough to cover your travel costs etc.

Other options include:

OEG in Victoria, Outward Bound in Hong Kong, Kids Klub UK, ski resort work or guiding/instructing work in the NZ Adventure, Industry. APC Vietnam, Lands Edge Australia. Please ask us for more information.

Q. Where is the course held?

A. The course is based in Christchurch, New Zealand and includes numerous camping trips into the spectacular South Island back country. Horizons Unlimited has an office in the suburb of Ferry mead, so we often meet there. At other times we ask students to meet where we will be learning/working - this could be at local parks, schools for work experience, harbours or rivers.

Q. What is the ratio of classroom to practical sessions?

A. We say at least 80% practical, the rest classroom ('interactive' theory).

Q. How hard is it?

A. Physically? - There may be times when you need to work hard while tramping, climbing and kayaking. We aim to provide a supportive environment so that all participants can complete the programme while providing appropriate challenge. In terms of turning up everyday and becoming fully involved? - there is very little leeway - much of the learning is through participation (so, if you pull lots of sickies you will not successfully complete the course). There will be written projects and assignments which will take time to research and write in your own time. These are marked at Level 3 - 4.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Simply complete and send us, the Horizons Unlimited Application Form, a covering letter, your CV and the names of two referees who we can contact. We'll then contact you for an interview, and as long as all is satisfactory, you'll be offered a place on the programme.

Q. Are there any other expenses while on the programme?

A. Accommodation is not included.

You will need to provide food each day for yourself and while on course trips. You will also need to provide cooking gas/fuel while on trips (Horizons will provide the camp stoves/cookers & pots etc). We provide course workbooks but stationary is not included. If you wish to become a member of NZOIA there is a discounted rate of approximately \$50.