

Student Profile: *Ivy Wallis*

The Horizons GAPYear Experience provides students with the skills and knowledge for employment in the outdoor recreation industry. The practical skills taught in this program combined with leadership and personal development create a unique experience for young New Zealanders.



Hi Ivy,

Hometown?

I am from Mount Maunganui, in Tauranga. I am staying with family friends in Sumner now and loving it.

Why are you taking a gap year?

Basically because I had no idea what I wanted to study at University so thought taking a gap year was the way to go. This allows me to take a break from study and take on new challenges, experience different things, and hopefully find the correct path I want to head in.

My previous outdoor experience includes?

I live right next to the beach so I do a lot of surfing, boogie boarding and skateboarding. In winter I do a lot of snowboarding at Mount Ruapehu. I love tennis, soccer and mountain bike riding.

What has been the highlight so far?

The biggest highlight for me is making lifelong friends, who I plan on travelling with after the course and will keep in contact with forever. Also the excitement of waking up each day and feeling really motivated for whatever challenges and learning the day has in store.

What was your biggest learning on the programme so far?

Gaining confidence in myself, because I am usually quite a shy person. Horizons has taught me to let loose and just be myself. I have gained confidence in speaking in front of clients by instructing activities and teaching fun games to 7 year olds. But ultimately in myself by trying new activities I was confident enough to offer first to abseil down a 30m rock, and that was on day four! Before the course I wouldn't have had the confidence or self belief to do so. This just shows how Horizons pushes you, and challenges you to achieve great things.

What has been your biggest challenge on the course so far?

My biggest challenge would be stepping outside of my comfort zone by doing things I'm usually too scared to do, such as abseiling. Before I came on the course the thought of abseiling terrified me. But once I convinced myself 'I can do it' with a positive attitude it was actually really fun, and I would go back and do it in a heartbeat

The GAP Year inspired me to.....

...put all my skills I have learnt into a real life work place. So I applied for Summer Camp USA. I love working with children, so Horizons have given me all the experience and skills I needed to work at a Summer Camp.

Tell us about what job you've applied for.

I applied to be a counsellor - where I instruct an activity during the day and am with my campers for the rest of the evening and night. I applied to do ropes course, abseiling or kayaking. My first offer was at a camp called YMCA Camp Mohawk to be a Ropes Course instructor, and I accepted the placement straight away because the camp looked awesome and I could see that I would fit in perfectly. I'm looking at going to work in a ski resort in Canada after Summer Camp. Then I plan on going to University in 2014

I would recommend the Adventure Leader Program.

It's a once in a life time opportunity which will set you up with valuable skills such as leadership, confidence, teamwork, courage, trust, and awesome experiences. You will meet amazing people and the instructors are awesome at guiding you and developing personal growth.

Horizons ALP has been the best thing I've ever done. Every day there's a different adventure that lies ahead. I would highly recommend anyone who loves the outdoors to do this course, it's so rewarding and heaps of fun.

Traditionally a gap year is time taken away from education – either between school & university, or immediately after university.

A period of 'time out' can be valuable at any stage or age, to gain life skills and broaden horizons.

Horizons GAPYear Experience has created a structured opportunity for people to take time out, learn career skills and expand their leadership potential.



Graduate Profile

At the successful completion of the programme, students have the required competencies to function effectively and manage groups at initial levels within the adventure recreation sector.

A graduating student could be expected to undertake, following the completion of this course, entry level positions in the following jobs:

- 'Specialist Instructor' in American Summer Camps.
- Outdoor camps and centres in NZ and internationally.
- Adventure Education Instructor - entry level.
- Adventure Based Learning Facilitator- entry level.
- Adventure Tourism Outdoor Guide - entry level.
- Challenge Ropes Course Facilitator.

Typically our graduates gain work with:

- IEP: Camp USA.
- Full On (NZ), Wales and Italy.
- Treasure Island, Hong Kong.
- The Outdoor Education Group, Vic, Australia.
- Higher Ground, Qld, Australia.
- Sea Kayak, rafting, tramping and glacier guiding companies as well as ski resort work in NZ and over-seas.

The Gap Year

Working overseas provides a platform for students to travel. Experiencing new cultures further broadens their horizons and exposes them to future possibilities. Through these experiences students become more connected with themselves, their abilities & ambitions.

Upon returning to New Zealand, Horizons GAPYear students often begin further tertiary study and use their new found independence and resourcefulness at University or in their chosen career.

Qualifications & Certs Awarded

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be awarded:

- Horizons Certificate in Adventure Leadership [including Unit Standards at Level 3 & 4]

Including Industry Certificates in:

- NZOIA Leader Awards [Abseil, Rock & Bush]
- Risk Management
- Challenge Ropes Course Facilitation [ACCT Certified]
- Outdoor First Aid

Certifying Authority

New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)

NZ Outdoor Instructors Association (NZOIA)



Adventure Leadership

Overseas Work

Travel

