

Student Profile: *Adam Mackintosh*

The Horizons Adventure Leadership Programme/ GAPYear Experience provides students with the skills and knowledge required for employment or further training in the outdoor recreation industry. The theoretical and practical skills taught in this program combined with leadership and personal development create a unique experience for young New Zealanders.

Hi Adam,

Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts and experiences from the Horizons GAPYear Experience.

Why were you considering taking a gap year?

Being from the UK, I had always dreamed of visiting NZ and exploring its beautiful wilderness. I wanted a gap year with a difference where I could combine travel, adventure and learning. I wanted to be put out of my comfort zone and hopefully learn new skills and discover new things about myself. The Horizons course offered all this in generous portions!

The Horizons course inspired me to...

consider a career in the outdoor industry. I have always had a love for adventure in the big outdoors but, before the Horizons course, I never realised just how many opportunities there are to make a living out of doing what you love. The course also inspired me to make certain life style choices. I learnt to always seek adventure and constantly seek to improve my personal skills in mountaineering and rock climbing whenever I get the chance. Horizons taught me that the best way to learn is by getting out there and doing it!

Tell us about the industry training you've been doing back in the UK.

Since the course I have been working towards NGB qualifications in rock climbing and hill walking. These qualifications will open up a whole load of exciting senior instructor jobs in the outdoors. Navigation, rope work and keeping an up to date logbook are all crucial skills I learnt during the Horizons course. These skills from Horizons have been invaluable in getting my NGB qualifications.



What have you been up to in the last year or so?

Rock climbing! Out of all the disciplines the Horizons course covered I found my passion lay in rock climbing. Over the past 12 months I have been improving my personal climbing and gathering experience climbing on different types of rock, in all different styles, all over the UK. If nothing else, the Horizons course has introduced me to my passion. I will hopefully continue to climb for many more years to come!

I would recommend the Adventure Leader Program because...

it offers an introduction into a whole range of disciplines in the outdoors. The course will give you the know how and the confidence to get out there and have adventures of your own. On a more personal level, you will discover a lot about yourself and where your strengths and weaknesses lie. Whether you have never set foot in the wild or you are an experienced outdoor enthusiast this course will find an appropriate level of challenge for you.

Sounds like you're having heaps of fun back home in the UK. Good luck for your future plans!!

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.

In our Horizons GAPYear Experience we have 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]
- Red Cross First Aid
- Outdoor First Aid

Certifying Authority

New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)

NZ Outdoor Instructors Association (NZOIA)



Adventure Leadership

Overseas Work

Travel

