

Student Profile: *Ben Allen*

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.

Why were you considering taking a gap year?

I was really keen to get into the outdoor/adventure industry and this seemed like an awesome way to do it.

What high school were you at?

Shirley Boys High.

One of my teachers, Merryn Herlihy, had worked for Full On in Italy and she recommended that I applied for the Horizons Adventure Leader Programme. This set me up for work with Full On.

Why did you choose to do the Horizons Adventure Leadership Program/GAPYear Experience?

It was a short course that gave me the necessary skills and experience to be able to work in Italy for Full On. I also got my NZOIA Abseil Leader Award as part of the programme.

What was your biggest learning from the Horizons ALP?

I had so many opportunities to get out and try new things. My leadership and feedback skills developed during the programme and I feel so much more confident and capable to lead others.

These were really important skills when I was working in Italy. I had the opportunity to lead groups and operate an abseil off a medieval tower in Assisi.

Tell us about the 'coolest' part of working in Italy after the Adventure Leadership Program:

Being immersed in Italian culture was awesome! I woke up every day to hot, sunny weather and I wanted to go to work. It was inspiring to work on an amazing program with amazing people.



Did you travel while you were in Europe?

Yep! I took a Contiki Tour through France, Spain [Barcelona was awesome], Monaco, Italy & Greece. Greece was amazing, super hot with beautiful beaches. I also spent time in London & travelled up to North Wales checking out the Full On site there.

In the next 6-12 months I'm working in Hong Kong for Treasure Island from September to December. I can't wait to travel and experience Asia.

I also have some further work opportunities with Full On in New Zealand & I'm planning to enrol in the CPIT Sustainability & Outdoor Education programme in 2012. I think my experience at Horizons and in Italy will be really useful when studying at CPIT.

I would recommend the Adventure Leader Program because it set me up with so many opportunities. I had the time of my life learning new skills and experiencing different cultures.

Sounds like you've been having an amazing year so far! Good luck in Hong Kong!!

Can't wait!!

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)

