

Student Profile: *Shaun Rolston*

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 chose to do the gap year program because I wanted to start my career in the outdoors, I want a change of lifestyle, and I was sick of just working for no reason and having no real plan about getting somewhere.

Why did you choose the Horizons Adventure Leader Programme / GAPYear Experience?

I did it because it was a short course. I would gain skills that would get me a job where I wanted to go, it also meant that I could get all the study in and I knew they had job placements at the end of my study so if I worked hard I could get one of them.

What were some highlights of the Adventure Leader Programme?

I made new friends from my team & saw some amazing sights like the sunrise over the Canterbury plains & I learnt the skills that I am able to use elsewhere now. The Horizons staff are amazing, they are very helpful and dedicated to ensuring you get the best experience and developing (young) people to become outdoor professionals. They go the extra mile for you. They challenge you and help you realise there is more potential within you.

What was the most challenging part of the programme?

The written assessment part of the program was new for me, I had to work hard at this but I got the results in the end and I feel like I have learnt a lot while doing this.



What were some of those key skills that you find most useful now?

I learnt how to be a real team player and develop myself further. I learnt the skills and attributes to become the person and instructor that I want to be. I was challenged in many different ways. I learnt that you don't need to be a leader from the front.

I now have specific training that has helped me get my foot into the outdoor world.

Without the training I got from the GAPYear program I would not be where I am now. I would not be getting the experiences and the new skills to keep me going to my major goal of working at Outward Bound New Zealand.

Where are you working now?

I am working at Outward Bound Hong Kong, and I am now signing a contract to stay for 3 years to be a full Outward Bound instructor. I will be instructing with the skills and qualifications that I gained from the Adventure Leader Programme. Everything I have learnt from Horizons I am putting to great use here.

My long term goal is to become an instructor at Outward Bound New Zealand; I want to keep working hard to achieve this goal,

Awesome! Good luck Shaun!

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

