

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What does the course fee cover?**

A. *The course fee covers all tutoring/instruction, course workbooks, on course travel to locations on the Port Hills or outside of the city, accommodation while away from Christchurch and specialist outdoor equipment such as rock climbing gear 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 2009 cost is \$3094\*. This may alter slightly for next year.*

\* This is for NZ Residents - for International students the cost will be approximately \$8,000

**Q. Am I eligible for student loans and allowances?**

A. *Student loans - yes, contact Studylink for details on this process, it is best to get this application up and running as soon as you enrol.*

*Student allowances – yes, although we find many of our students do not meet the criteria for accessing this, please check the following website.*

<http://www.studylink.govt.nz/thinking-about-study/what-studylink-offers/study-starting-in-2009/student-allowance/index.html>

**Q. What equipment must I provide?**

A. *You will need to own (or have access to) warm outdoor layers of polypro or wool, a rain proof jacket, a backpack and sleeping bag suitable for overnight trips and tramping boots. Some of this equipment can be either borrowed from Horizons or hired from stores in Christchurch. A full gear list will be sent out on enrolment.*

**Q. What qualifications will this course give me?**

A. *Successful completion of the initial 16 week programme will give you a Horizons Unlimited Certificate of Completion, plus 60 credits towards a Christchurch Polytech (CPIT) Certificate of Adventure Recreation at level 4. You can also gain separate industry recognised certificates in First Aid, Outdoor First Aid, Risk Management and Ropes Course Facilitation.*

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

A. *Being a CPIT student will give you access to their student services who can assist with accommodation. Past students have found this really helpful.*

[http://www.cpit.ac.nz/student\\_services/accommodation](http://www.cpit.ac.nz/student_services/accommodation)

*Female students have found the YMCA a safe and supportive place to stay. Contact (03) 366 0689.*

*Other students have found flats in the local area (or with other students on our course). Often this has been arranged once they have been on the course in Christchurch staying with friends and relatives.*

*Suburbs close to where the course is run are: South Brighton, Woolston, Ferrymead, Heathcote, Sumner, Redcliffs, Mt Pleasant, Opawa, St Martins, 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. Horizons makes a big effort to give students the correct information and assistance in preparing their applications and for their interviews. In the past we have had a high placement rate for our students (70%), however in 2009 the recession meant that less American families sent their children to Summer Camp and there were fewer positions. Students who applied early in the programme were more successful than those who left it late.*

*We are actively seeking more opportunities for our students for 2010 and beyond.*

**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 is covered while you are working.*

*This year (May 2009) students were paying/earning:*

Summer Camp (USA)		Full On (Europe)		Treasure Island (HK)	
3 months (June – Aug)		3 months (June – Aug)		6 months (June – Dec)	
Airfares	\$2200.00	Airfares	\$2800.00	Airfares	\$2000.00
Insurance	\$700.00	Insurance	\$700.00	Insurance	\$700.00
Accom + Food	Nil on camp	Accom + Food	Nil on Prog	Accom + Food	Nil on Prog
<b>Earnings</b>	NZ\$1800	<b>Earnings</b>	NZ\$120 / day. (20 – 40 days) + 25% of airfare	<b>Earnings</b>	US\$100 / week 6th month = US\$1500 + airfares paid.

**Q. Where is the course held?**

A. *Horizons Unlimited has an office and classroom in Ferrymead (though this could change for 2010), normally we meet there. At other times we will ask students to meet in different parts of the city where we will be working - this could be at local parks, schools for work experience or swimming pools.*

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

A. *We say 20% classroom (theory) and 80% practical activities.*

**Q. How hard is it?**

A. *Good question! There will be written projects and assignments for this course, which will take you time to research and write in your own time. These are marked at level 4 (i.e slightly trickier thinking than your last year at high school). CPIT student services can assist you with research and assignment writing.*

*In terms of physical challenge there may be times when you need to work hard while tramping, climbing and kayaking, but we aim to provide a supportive environment so that all participants can complete the programme.*

*In terms of turning up everyday and becoming fully involved there is very little leeway - much of the learning in this programme is through participation (so, if you pull lots of sickies you will not successfully complete the course).*

**Q. What do I do after I return from overseas, what is involved in the second semester?**

A. *The second semester enables you to complete the CPIT Certificate in Adventure Recreation. This starts in September and will cost the same as the first semester.*

**Q. What if I am from overseas?**

A. *Australian students are treated the same as NZ Resident students and pay the same fees. Students from other countries will need to apply via our International Student Application Process, and pay International Student Fees.*

