



## 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 2012 cost for Semester 1 – GAPYear Experience is \$4270\*.*

*Semester 2 has a separate fee – \$3850\**

*\* International students have a different fee structure.*

**Q. What does Semester 2 cover?**

A. *Semester 2 is focussed on further technical skill development in more challenging environments. We will complete training in alpine & winter tramping, advanced rock-climbing, ropes course rescues & retrievals, river skills and environmental awareness. Travel and work options available after completing Semester 2.*

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

A. *No. This programme is not funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and therefore students are not eligible for student loans and allowances. Horizons Unlimited is registered under NZQA as a Private Training Establishment.*

**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, compass, emergency whistle 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 15 week programme will give you a Horizons Unlimited Certificate in Adventure Leadership. You can also gain separate industry recognised certificates in First Aid, Outdoor First Aid, Risk Management and Ropes Course Facilitation, NZOIA Leader Awards.

Please Note: International Students - the programme for you is 12 weeks long. Semester 2 will gain you further NZOIA Leader Awards, Leave No Trace certification, advanced Ropes Course certification, training and experience in more challenging environments.

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

A. Female students have found the **YMCA** a safe and supportive place to stay. Contact (03) 366 0689, [www.ymca.org.nz](http://www.ymca.org.nz).

**Christchurch Accommodation.** Clean, safe accommodation close to Horizons. Contact (03) 327 9148, [www.christchurch-accommodation.net.nz](http://www.christchurch-accommodation.net.nz)

**LivingSpace.** Apartments. [www.livingspace.net](http://www.livingspace.net)

**Oaks.** Apartments. [www.smartstay.com](http://www.smartstay.com)

Other students have found flats in the local area (or with other students on our course). Often this has been arranged after the course has started once they have been in Christchurch a few weeks.

Private boarding is also an option.

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.

Horizon's 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 there were fewer positions. Students who applied early in the programme were more successful than those who left it late. It's important to recognise that you are applying for a job.

We are actively seeking more opportunities for our students for 2011 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.

In May 2010 students were paying / earning: (Prices are a guide only).

Summer Camp (USA)		Full On (Europe)		Treasure Island (HK)		Higher Ground (Aust)	
3 months (June – Aug)		8 – 10 weeks (June – Aug)		6 months (June – Dec)		3 months + 3 months	
Airfares	\$2200.00	Airfares	\$2800.00	Airfares	\$2000.00	Airfares	\$400
Insurance	\$700.00	Insurance	\$700.00	Insurance	\$900.00	Insurance	\$400 approx
Accom + Food	Provided on camp	Accom + Food	Provided on Prog	Accom + Food	Provided on Prog	Accom + Food	Provided
<b>Earnings:</b>	NZ\$1800 approx	<b>Earnings:</b>	NZ\$120 / day. (20 – 30 days) + 25% of airfare	<b>Earnings:</b>	Approx: US\$100 / week + US\$200 travel bonus + airfares paid upon completion.	<b>Earnings:</b>	\$150/week [AUD\$4'500 = NZD\$6000] + 100% reimbursement of airfare on completion of Contract.

Other options include:

OEG in Victoria, Kids Klub UK, ski resort work or guiding/instructing work in the NZ Adventure Industry.

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

A. Horizons Unlimited has an office and classroom in Ferrymead, 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 30% classroom (theory) and 70% 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 3.

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 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 not need to apply via for study visa (as this course is under 3 months long) and pay International Student Fees of \$8210.00. 2012 Start date for International Students is 13<sup>th</sup> February. Please contact us.*

**Q. How do I apply?**

*A. Simply complete the Horizons Unlimited Application Form, attach a covering letter, your CV and the names of two referees who we will contact. Send all paperwork back to us to secure a place for you on the programme.*

**Q. Are there any other expenses while on the programme?**

*A. Accommodation is not included, we can help with places for you to contact to arrange your own accommodation.*

*You will need to provide food each day for yourself and while on course trips. You will also need to provide cooking gas/fuel while on trips (Horizons will provide the camp stoves/cookers & pots etc).*

*If you wish to become a member of NZOIA there is a discounted rate of approximately \$50.*

**Q. When do I pay for the programme?**

*A. Once we have received your application, gone through the interview process and if successful, offered you a place on the programme we will let you know what to do from there. All payments are administered by the Public Trust – Fee Protect Scheme.*