

## Student Profile: *Alex Monteath*

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 Alex,

Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts and experiences during your gap year.

**Why were you considering taking a gap year?**

I chose to take a gap year to have a break from study and to gain some valuable life experience.

**What high school were you at?**

Burnside High.

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

I love the outdoors so the Adventure Leader Programme really appealed. I liked the idea of working in small groups and having a great student-tutor ratio during the programme.

The work opportunities after the programme were great and I was really excited about working for Full On in Italy.

**What was your biggest learning from the Horizons ALP?**

I grew so much in independence during the programme. I also learnt some valuable leadership skills during the programme. We were responsible for developing, organising and delivering activity days and high ropes course for primary and High school age students. I have so much more responsibility for myself now, for others I am working with and I feel more responsible when working in a group to achieve a goal.

I feel like I have the confidence to throw myself at new challenges & try new things. The Adventure Leader Programme/GAPYear Experience has broadened my horizons of what is possible.



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

After completing the Horizons course I worked for Full On NZ in Assisi, Italy. I met some amazing people. The Full On crew I worked with were so skilled & inspiring. I also worked with some great students who were keen to learn and challenge themselves during the Full On day.

**How did you get that job?**

I completed the Adventure Leadership Programme with Horizons and I was also assessed for my NZOIA Abseil Leader Award. I also had to really look at the reasons for wanting it. This helped me prepare and be able to discuss this at my interview. I researched the Full On programme by asking my Horizons tutors, reading the Full On website and vision statement and writing out my presentation material for the interview. I also had a part-time job during the programme which helped me save for my airfare and travel expenses.

**I would recommend the Adventure Leader Program**

because it was a life changing experience for me! I learnt so much and was able to grow and develop personally while having fun and being challenged.

**In the next 6-12 months** I plan to work in the outdoor industry and combine it with study at the University of Canterbury next year. I'm hoping to get into Psychology for 2013.

**Sounds like you've been having an amazing year so far! Hope the next 6 months goes well for you.**

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

