



University of
South Australia

Gap Experience

International 'Gap Year' Experience Program

unisa





You're preparing to make some of the biggest decisions of your life so far. Maybe you're studying hard, or perhaps preparing for an exam, or just pondering your future in general; either way you're approaching the question: what now? If the answer eludes you at this point, we may have the perfect solution. A chance to travel, learn and make a difference in both the world and in your UniSA degree. Interested? We thought so...

GAP



Travel, culture, a year off and a leg-up at UniSA – yes please!

will you do while all your friends go off to uni? Well UniSA can provide you with the answer. The Gap Experience program is a unique and innovative gap year option, offering future students who have deferred their place at uni the chance

don't stop there. You will have the opportunity to work in a plethora of fields. You could find yourself teaching English to Nepalese school children, working with Ecuadorian street kids or assisting with the building and improvement of school

own either; our accredited partners ensure you head off to your destination with a handful of like-minded future students. They also take care of your accommodation and fully equip you with a two-day intensive training course, which covers health and

UniSA you will be gaining an educational advantage too. If you subsequently enrol at UniSA after completing the program, you will receive credit of 4.5 units (one course), provided you are entering programs in the Divisions of Business or

YEAR



So there you are; exam stress on the brain, uni application information in your hands and what feels like the entire world on your back about your future, all while gazing down the barrel of another three years or more of study. Then it hits you. A gap year, that's what you need. What will your parents think? What

to travel overseas and gain invaluable work experience in a developing country. Gap Experience participants can choose from a myriad of destinations, from Ghana and Kenya on the African continent, right through to Thailand and Nepal in Asia, or Peru and Ecuador in South America – and the choices

facilities in Tanzania. The volunteer Gap Experience placements normally span three months, during which you will live among local people, truly immersing yourself in the culture of another country. You will never look at the world the same way again. You won't be left on your

safety, responsible travel and teaching workshops. It also has loads of information from past gap year participants to prepare and inspire you for the biggest experience of your life. But wait, there's more. After all of this cultural and personal enrichment, if you choose to study with

Education, Arts and Social Sciences*, attend the two day UniSA pre-departure workshop and complete the required assessment with a pass grading. You will also be eligible to receive a \$1000 student mobility grant once you've completed the Gap Experience program.



HARRIET WATTS, GHANA

After a month, everything around us has become normal; the roosters at 5am, random goats that walk around everywhere, “Africa Time”, even the daily marriage proposals. I’ve been teaching English and sport for about two weeks now. The kids love sport because they don’t normally get to do it. English is great as well. The kids are all keen to learn. The school is very basic but serves its purpose most of the time. The other day, I was sitting in the classroom, and this goat made a frantic sprint from a door at one side to the other. That’s when you know you’re in Ghana.

AEMELIA GROUNDS, INDIA

I spent two weeks working with a local organisation in India. I worked with the social workers and assisted with women’s self-help group meetings where we discussed things such as human rights and women’s rights. I also spent two weeks working at the Suhit Jeevan trust where I assisted with teaching, playing and caring for mentally handicapped children. For me, to be able to make a kid’s life easier was the most important part. I learnt so much about myself and what I am capable of. I was able to give my time for nothing in return and enjoyed it.

JAMES CENTENERA, NEPAL

The Golden Jubilee celebrations were something everyone was super excited about. We marched west with half the school chanting slogans in Nepali. It was a great way to see the complete area that Nirmal Pokhari (a village in Central Nepal) encompasses. As we headed back we also chatted with Imu, a nice teacher who invited us into his home. We accepted and were privileged to drink a cup of his own chiyaa (tea), which surprisingly tasted really nice. After surviving the whole walk home, it was great collapsing on the bench. It seriously does feel like home now, which is very cool.

- » Choose from any one of the following destinations - Ghana, Kenya, Peru, Ecuador, India, Thailand, Tanzania, Nepal, Argentina and others;
- » Our accredited providers take care of your comprehensive training courses, in-country orientation, your three month volunteer placement, accommodation and board, in-country support backed up by their Australian office and transfers to and from your placement;
- » Head to unisa.edu.au/future/gap for more information, including accredited providers, FAQs, health and safety information, costs, assessment and information about the student mobility grant.

FOOD
MONEY
SHELTER



CHARITY



YEAR

THE SERIOUS STUFF

Obviously this option is a little unorthodox compared to living at home and having a part-time job for a year, but rest assured detailed measures have been taken to ensure your Gap Experience is as safe as it is fun. First off, it is compulsory for all Gap Experience students to complete a comprehensive training program designed to equip all students with all the practical skills they need. Further, no student goes alone. We send each student to their location in groups of between 5 and 15 other students. If you would like to be placed with a friend, this is also possible. There is 24-hour back-up and support for both students and parents in Australia and in-country. Most of the local towns have basic hospitals and for anything more major you will be taken to a city. You will be fully insured under your mandatory travel and medical policy.

*Programs in the Divisions of Health Sciences and Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment may become available as part of Gap Experience from 2010.





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Further information

www.unisa.edu.au/future/gap

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For information specific to international students please visit
www.unisa.edu.au/international

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