



Press Release

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Unique Work USA opportunity for Aussie University Graduates

Recent university graduates researching job opportunities for the year ahead are facing increasing competition from the thousands of other Australian graduates entering the job market. A unique opportunity to spend a year working and travelling in the USA may provide graduates with the chance to secure an entry level position, while gaining valuable international work and travel experience.

The 12 month Work and Travel J1 visa allows Australian and New Zealand citizens who have graduated within the last 12 months to spend a year working anywhere in the USA in practically any field. The flexibility and length of this visa is rare and an opportunity for Australian graduates to ensure a competitive advantage over their peers.

Despite a tighter job market in the USA due to the GFC, American university students are only part way through their school year, giving Australians the opportunity to apply for entry-level and graduate positions without the hordes of American graduates that will be job-hunting come mid-year.

Non-profit work and travel organisation International Exchange Programs (IEP), together with their US visa sponsor IENA has been sending young Australians to the US on the Work and Travel program since its inception in 2007.

IEP's Marketing Manager, Tennille Balaz, explained that although applicants are encouraged to line up work before they depart Australia, it is not a visa requirement, nor is it compulsory for them to work in their field of study.

"We find that many participants on our Work USA program secure casual or part-time work, whether it be an internship in their desired field, or seasonal resort or hospitality work, while they immerse themselves in the unique culture of the USA." Ms Balaz said, "The great thing about the Work and Travel visa is that participants are not limited to one role and there are only a few restrictions on the field that they can work in."

The Work and Travel visa remains a pilot program, and while it was recently extended into a third year, the future of the visa remains unknown with the possibility that 2010 may be its last year, pending a decision from the US State Department.

IEP encourages any interested graduates or deferred tertiary students who have already completed a full time year of their studies within the past 12 months, to get in contact to discuss their suitability.

At this stage, IEP is accepting applicants who plan to enter the US prior to 31 October 2010 meaning that 2009's university graduates may be the last year of graduates to have this unique working holiday experience available to them.

For more information visit www.iep.org.au or call 1300 300 912.

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Please contact Naomi Joyce for further information, interviews or images.

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