



IEP - GLOBAL WORK EXPERIENCES

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Press Release

12 Month Student Work and Travel Pilot Program Set to Continue

The Work and Travel pilot program allowing Australian tertiary students and recent graduates to work in the USA for up to 12 months, which was due to end this October has been extended for at least another year, the US Department of State has announced.

This J1 visa was introduced during the 2007 APEC meetings in Sydney and has since opened the door to the US for many eligible Australians, allowing them to work in practically any field and in any location in the United States.

Non-profit work and travel organisation International Exchange Programs (IEP) is thrilled with the extension to the visa which has seen hundreds of young Australians realising their dreams of working and travelling in the United States, a notoriously difficult country to gain working visas for.

IEP's Company Director Brad Holland breathed a sigh of relief when the announcement was made today,

"We have spent the first half of this year fielding questions from interested applicants who are desperate to take up this unique opportunity. It is fantastic that we can finally let them know that applications will continue and they can still spend a year working and travelling in America."

To be eligible, applicants must be full time tertiary or TAFE students who have completed at least one year of their course, or recent graduates who plan to enter the US within 12 months of completing their studies.

During the two year pilot period, IEP has had more than 250 participants on their *Work USA* program making it the largest 12 month Work & Travel program in Australia. Their participants have worked in various jobs including celebrity PR, Journalism and fashion design. Others more interested in travelling and experiencing the diversity of the USA have picked up hospitality, retail and snow resort positions.

To combat the tighter job market in the US, IEP offers job assistance including an online job guide, a full time employment coordinator in the US and IEP has strong relationships with a number of American employers that recruit members before they depart Australia.

The sheer size and diversity of America has resulted in many participants finding more opportunities than in many Australian cities and for those who are finishing up in the US and returning home, the first hand experience gained while on the program has proven to be highly beneficial for getting back into the Australian job market.

"Many people who contact IEP about Work USA can't believe that there is actually a legitimate way to spend a year working and travelling in the US without winning the Greencard lottery," Mr Holland said, *"News of this visa is still only just starting to spread so the fact that the program will continue is fantastic news for thousands of eligible Australians who might have thought they'd missed out on the opportunity."*

Australians interested in learning more about the *Work USA* 12 month program can contact IEP on 1300 300 912 or visit www.iep.org.au

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