



IEP - GLOBAL WORK EXPERIENCES

1300 300 912 – www.iep.org.au

IEP – SYDNEY
Locked Bag 5065
Sydney South NSW
1235

IEP - MELBOURNE
PO Box 13278
Law Courts Post Office
Melbourne VIC 8010

Ph +61 2 9299 0444
Fax +61 2 9299 0399

Ph +61 3 9329 3866
Fax +61 3 9329 1592



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Press Release

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Overseas Work and Travel Options Still Popular Despite GFC

While school leavers, university graduates and those who have lost their jobs due to the economic turmoil assess their career options for the year ahead, there is one opportunity they may not have considered previously, an overseas working holiday.

International Exchange Programs (IEP) is a non-profit organisation that specialises in sending young Australians overseas on working holidays. Despite a rocky job market in many countries around the world, IEP has seen steady interest in their programs for Britain, Ireland, Canada and the US.

IEP's Marketing Manager, Tennille Balaz believes it is the opportunity to gain international work experience, regardless of the field it is in, as well as the lure of travel and life experience that is still making overseas working holidays a popular choice for Aussies.

"Young Australians who are eligible for working holiday visas seem to be aware that landing a job in their chosen career here in Australia is going to be challenging right now, and rather than settle for a casual position in hospitality or retail here at home, they may as well work in these fields abroad, earning a stronger currency and experiencing the world at the same time," Ms Balaz said.

In previous years IEP's focus at EOC expos has been on the gap year market, however this year they anticipate a wider range of enquirers as those who have been affected by the economic climate make the most of severance payments and career breaks and head overseas to work and travel.

In addition to the visa, insurance, banking and tax assistance IEP offers their participants to kick start their working holidays, a key element of their programs is helping their members look for work once they have arrived at their destination.

Working closely with international partners, IEP offers employment advice and contacts to their members as well as unlimited access to resource centres with free internet, phones, faxes, job and accommodation notice boards, so no IEP member is left to 'sink or swim' as they have ongoing support while living overseas.

"Australians are definitely still interested in working overseas despite obvious apprehension about job opportunities abroad," Ms Balaz said, *"however this is when IEP's experience, knowledge and employment contacts allow a certain level of security for people on our programs."*

IEP will be fielding questions at Adelaide's EOC Expo about their programs *Work Britain, Work USA, Work Ireland, Work Canada Fully Loaded, Work & Ski Canada Job Fairs as well as Volunteer Peru, Volunteer USA, Volunteer Costa Rica, Volunteer Cambodia, Volunteer and Work South Africa.*

****ENDS****

Media Contact

Naomi Joyce - Marketing/PR Coordinator

naomi.joyce@iep.org.au

International Exchange Programs (IEP)

P: 02 9299 0444

F: 02 9299 0399

www.iep.org.au