



IEP - GLOBAL WORK EXPERIENCES

1300 300 912 – www.iep.org.au

IEP – SYDNEY
GPO BOX 4096
Sydney NSW 2000

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



Press Release

Missed Out on a Uni Place? Head overseas!

13 000 Victorians received the disappointing news yesterday that they did not secure a university placement through the first round offers. An increase in university applications has been attributed to the uncertain state of the economy and a desire for people to become more educated and therefore more employable. It is this increase in university applications that means more young Australians miss out on placement, leaving them at a loose end for what to do in 2009.

Gaining a university education is not the only way to become more attractive to potential employers. Non-profit work and travel organisation International Exchange Programs (IEP) is encouraging young Australians who missed out on a university place this year to consider taking a gap year instead. A gap year offers participants the opportunity to gain valuable international work experience whilst seeing the world.

IEP's Marketing Manager, Jarrod Scott, suggests that a year working overseas proves far more impressive to future employers than a year spent working in your local supermarket waiting for your next chance at university.

"Moving overseas shows initiative, drive and a willingness to challenge yourself, this combined with skills learnt on the job and confidence that develops through travel, means those who have taken a gap year are a popular option for future employers," Mr Scott said.

For Australians nervous about the state of the economy and job prospects in other countries, there are options to secure work before departing Australia. Whether it be a job with a winter employer through *Work & Ski Canada* or working with children on *Summer Camp USA*, there is no need for concern about being stranded overseas unemployed.

IEP's other programs, including *Work Britain* and *Work Ireland*, provide year-round job support for the duration of the visa.

Options for volunteering in Peru, Costa Rica, South Africa, Cambodia and the USA are also available for those interested in a more unique cultural experience during their gap year.

"Missing out on university is disappointing, but we want young Aussies to know there are other options out there." Mr Scott said, *"Taking a gap year could end up being the best decision they've ever made."*

People interested in a gap year can contact IEP on 1300 300 912 or visit www.iep.org.au

ENDS

For interviews, photos or more information please contact Naomi Joyce on the details below

Media Contact

Naomi Joyce-Marketing/PR Coordinator

naomi.joyce@iep.org.au

P: (02) 9299 0444

F: (02) 9299 0399

www.iep.org.au