

GROWN UP GAPPERS ON THE INCREASE

Capitalising on the rise in demand for gap year programmes from older clients – usually incorporating travel with special-interest volunteering projects – a new company called Gaps for Grumpies has launched in the UK. The company is hoping its catchy name will attract the attention of the growing 40-plus market, populated by clients looking for an adventure later in life, a career break or the chance to make up for missed opportunities earlier on.

Gaps for Grumpies currently offers packages in

Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Peru and Fiji, teaming community development projects with the chance for a longer holiday in that country. Candidates may find themselves teaching English to students in the morning and helping to build the local school in the afternoon.

"[Our programmes] provide a chance for someone who has worked very hard for many years to recharge their batteries, or if they have recently retired or been made redundant, to do something completely different," said Mike Parker, Director of the company.

Another UK company active in the sector, Gap Year for Grown Ups, has revealed that it is women of a certain age who are far more likely to undertake such a project.

Last year, 83 per cent of bookings were from women travellers, mostly travelling alone. Almost half of these bookings were made by women aged between 30 and 40 years and the other main group was between 41 and 60 years.

Reasons given for grown ups taking a gap year included a career break, early retirement, divorce and life change. ■

Wyse standards translated in Taiwan

The guide to standards in the work and travel industry, produced by industry association, Wyse Work Abroad (previously Gwea and laewep), is being translated into Mandarin at the request of the Taiwanese authorities. The association reported that these guidelines – developed by members and launched in September 2005 – will now be used by emerging work and travel organisations in Asia.

Real Gap launches sports division

Real Gap Experience in the UK has launched a new sister company called Real Sports Experience (RSE). Rachael Wood at RSE explained that the aim of the company was to provide opportunities for people to incorporate their passion and interest for sport into a gap year experience. "Volunteers can choose between sports volunteer programmes, sports training abroad and sports adventure expeditions," she said. "We are giving a whole new range of choice to those looking to do something different."

Twin Group expands into Ireland

Internship provider Twin Group in the UK has expanded into Ireland, offering unpaid internships in areas such as marketing, tourism, IT and finance. Internships are available for European Union students only.

WORK PERMIT ACCESS IN UK IS RESTRICTED

The work routes into the UK known as the Sector Based Scheme (SBS) and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (Saws) are being phased out, as the UK considers there to be enough potential low-level temporary workers coming into the country from the enlarged European Union, particularly Bulgaria and Romania.

SBS ended on December 31 for all nationals, except those from Bulgaria and Romania, who can apply to enter the UK for the SBS food manufacturing programme.

Meanwhile, Saws will exclusively recruit Bulgarians and Romanians from January 2008.

In Australia, the government has announced that Work and Holiday programme places for Thais have been filled until further notice. Figures released for 2005/2006 for Working Holiday visa issuance (similar to Work and Holiday visas for Thais, Chileans and Iranians) reveal that Koreans were the second most likely nationality to take up a Working Holiday visa, after Britons. ■

INTEREXCHANGE OFFERS HOTEL TRAINING IN USA

InterExchange Career Training USA, a division of work placement company InterExchange, has launched a hotel internship and restaurant training programme that provides experience in a wide range of positions in this service industry.

By rotating through various departments, candidates get to work in hotel and resort management, food and beverage management, accounting and finance, human resources, front desk operations, the IT department and marketing and

sales. The programme launched late last year and feedback so far has been extremely positive from both interns and employers, according to Programme Manager, Anneka Street.

She told *Work Wise* that since the launch, more internship options have been developed, including those in business management, IT, marketing, engineering and media. Previously, InterExchange has organised work exchange and helped clients who found their own internship. ■



Live+Learn+Work
@ IH Vancouver

Work Experience Programs

- Work & Study (English for Hospitality)
- Work & Travel
- Professional Internship & CareerConnect™
- Cambridge International Work - Experience Certificate
- Farmstay

International House
VANCOUVER | WHISTLER
2/F, 1215 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1G7
Tel: 604-739-9836 | Fax: 604-739-9839
www.ihvancouver.com

CAPLS ACELP



CLIC

Live and love your

Spanish work experience

International House
A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE WORLD ORGANISATION

www.clic.es
just clic!

Q&A

DI PILLING SET UP AUSTRALIAN INTERNSHIPS NINE YEARS AGO. SHE ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT HER BUSINESS.



Company name: Australian Internships
Year established: 1998
Main business: Professional internships
Contact details: Suite 1, Savoie Fair Park Road, Brisbane, 4064, Australia.
 Tel: +61 7 3305 8408
 Fax: +61 73305 8404
 Email: info@internships.com.au
 Web: www.internships.com.au

Q How is business developing at Australian Internships?
 Australian Internships saw a 10 per cent growth in application numbers from 2005 to 2006. The 2006 launch of the Professional Paid Hospitality Programme was a great success. In 2007, we shall be introducing the Australian Abroad program; a reciprocal program for Australians wishing to go abroad to complete internships, undertake language programmes, volunteer programmes or au pair courses in countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, Brazil, Ghana, the UK, China, the USA, Chile and Peru.

Q Which nationalities are most likely to enrol on your internship courses?
 We currently work with 62 nationalities worldwide for internships in Australia. Close to 30 per cent of all interns in Australia are German. High enrolments also come from Japan, France, India, Korea, the USA, the Philippines, Brazil, the Netherlands and Mexico.

Q How do you promote your courses internationally?
 We participate in the leading career and agents' fairs throughout Australia and the globe and promote the programme in a variety of magazines and websites annually. We have also established partnerships with several leading universities and agencies around the world.

Q Why did you set up Australian Internships?
 My personal reason for setting up the business was a passion and dream to be part of the industry that brings the world to our youth!

STUDENT PROFILE



Student Name: Julia Munhos
Nationality: Brazilian
Age: 23
Placement: Paid work at the Grange Hotel, London
Placed by: Aspect Career Services

EMPLOYER OVERVIEW:
 The Grange City Hotel is a five-star facility located centrally in London near the world famous Tower of London and the financial district. It boasts 307 bedrooms, conference facilities and a luxury health club. Part of a chain of London-based hotels, the Grange City also has three restaurants.

- JOB ENTAILS:**
- Setting up conference rooms
 - Working in the bar for reception drinks and cash bar during functions
 - Blocking spaces for conferences in the computer system
 - Checking emails and forwarding on information to specific members of staff
 - Printing menus for dinner and lunch functions
 - Printing the function sheets and distributing them to all the departments in the hotel

CANDIDATE FEEDBACK:
 "I have really enjoyed working in the Grange City Hotel. I started as a waitress and now I'm an events coordinator. The team is great, my English skills have improved a lot and it is a big step for my career as well. The Aspect team has definitely helped me to achieve my goal in hospitality. I'm having a great time working and studying in London, and I will probably stay here longer than I had planned."



The 2007 Language Travel Magazine Star Awards for International Education

Voting for the 2007 awards starts on 2nd April 2007. Go to www.hothousemedia.com


The LTM Star Awards are voted for by you and your industry peers and reflect excellence in business performance. What better way to thank your star partners than to vote for them in the LTM Star Awards?

The LTM Star Awards will take place during ALPHE UK in London, on Saturday the 1st September 2007 and they will be followed by a gala dinner and dancing for 500 of the world's top agents and educators. All ALPHE UK attendees and Star Awards nominees attend the Star Awards for free: additional tickets may be purchased for £235.00.



LIVE, LEARN, WORK

WORK & STUDY PROGRAMS
ANYWHERE IN CANADA



global lifestyles CANADA

www.GlobalLifestyles.ca
info@GlobalLifestyles.ca
 +1 250.388.9973