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How To Have A Purposeful Gap Year In 2018-19

As the Class of 2018 get ready to embark on their next adventure, BUNAC, the overseas work, volunteer and intern specialists, offer insights into the latest gap year trends and opportunities available to school and university leavers.

According to BUNAC, traditional gap years doing seasonal work or volunteering in popular destinations like Australasia, North America, parts of Africa and the Far East are still very much alive and well. However, the company's fastest-growing programmes for 2018 are those that feature an overseas internship placement; the company has seen an extraordinary five-fold growth in bookings this season, with young people increasingly keen to gain skills and training in their chosen industry during a stint abroad.

In response to this demand, BUNAC has introduced new Intern and Work Combo programmes in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, which allow participants to have the best of both worlds. These offer the ideal mix of a part-time, CV-boosting internship and part-time paid seasonal work – giving young people the chance to discover a new culture, gain invaluable life skills, earn money to fund their travels and enhance their prospects at the same time. A new USA Hospitality Internship will launch later this year, allowing students on related courses to spend up to 12 months training at some of the most exclusive country clubs and resorts across the States.

Comments Emma Beynon, Marketing Manager at BUNAC: "It's clear that the rising costs of going to university are making students much more focused on purposeful gap years that will really benefit their future studies and careers.

"In Australasia, Canada and the USA the opportunities for top quality, bespoke professional internship placements with interesting roles and structured training are almost limitless. Our overseas placement teams have a fantastic network of connections across a really broad range of industries, from law to marketing and business to advertising.

"Equally, a volunteer experience like Marine Conservation in Mexico or Wildlife Conservation in Africa can really benefit anyone keen to study and work in those fields, and are great option for those looking for a short term adventure as placements run for as little as two weeks. TEFL training with a teaching placement in Asia, a Camp Counsellor role on Summer Camp USA, or coaching sports to underprivileged youngsters in South Africa would be a perfect fit for someone looking to work with children."

Higher Education institutions are recognising the value of overseas work experience and internships, too. Cardiff University works closely with BUNAC and has introduced internship bursaries, which allow students to apply for a contribution of up to £1,000 towards a summer industry placement in Canada or up to £300 towards a summer camp experience in the USA. Heledd George, International Summer Programmes Adviser, says “Studying, working or volunteering abroad is a great way to broaden your academic knowledge, immerse yourself in another culture and gain skills that could be valued by employers”.

Here are BUNAC’s top picks for a purposeful gap year in 2018-19:

Intern and Work Combo

This new 12-month option is available in Australia, New Zealand and Canada; BUNAC pre-arranges an industry placement in your chosen field for 20 hours per week, plus a part-time job to help fund your travels and lifestyle. The programme fee of £899 also includes an exceptional level of support, from CV consultations and interviews to performance reviews and references, plus help with cost-effective accommodation (homestay or hostel), banking, tax, social activities, overnight trips and more.

Work Japan

Japan is an exciting up-and-coming gap year destination with a fascinating culture and unique traditions. BUNAC’s new programme includes intercultural training and optional Japanese language lessons, allowing participants to fit in and feel confident, both socially and in the workplace (although Japanese language skills are not required). Jobs include retail and hospitality roles, farm work and teaching English (no internships at present) or even a job at a top ski resort. The programme fee starts at £750 including the first week’s accommodation, orientation, comprehensive job -finding assistance and year-long support.

Summer Camp USA

BUNAC’s classic Summer Camp USA programme is an ideal way to build leadership experience working with children, and a whole range of other transferrable skills while enjoying fun and games around the campfire and making a network of international friends for life. The programme fees are £269 (or £499 with transatlantic flights) including orientation and training, visa support, placement, board and lodging at camp, pocket money of up to \$1,600 and medical insurance. Participants are free to travel around the States for up to 30 days after the end of camp.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language Internships

BUNAC Teaching Internships are available in China, Thailand and Vietnam – the perfect opportunity to gain a TEFL qualification plus valuable professional teaching experience while earning money and exploring your chosen destination during time off. Programme fees start from £995 and placements are for 6/7 weeks (Thailand), 4.5 months (Vietnam) or 5 months (China). All programmes include 120

hours' online TEFL training with a dedicated personal tutor, leading to an accredited qualification, comprehensive orientation and 24/7 support throughout the internship, transfers, accommodation and meals. A generous living allowance is paid to interns in Vietnam and China.

For further information about gap year opportunities with BUNAC, visit www.bunac.org/uk/, email enquiries@bunac.org.uk or call 0333 999 7516.

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MEDIA: For further information, photography and gap year case studies, or to speak to a gap year expert at BUNAC, contact Fiona Elliott at Counterpoint PR, tel 020 8398 1788 or 07917 322501, email Fiona.elliott@counterpointllp.com. Alternatively, contact Emma Beynon, Marketing Manager, emma.beynon@bunac.org.uk, tel. 0333 999 7516 (select 'marketing').