Focus On Volunteering Overseas

For students thinking of taking a year off to work or volunteer overseas after school - there are hundreds of gap year companies and programs. To make sure they choose the right company, they should compare costs between the companies - some will offer similar services and opportunities for varying costs. Ensure that parents/guardians will have access to 24 hour telephone support during the placement. Email young people who have participated in the programs so they can gain an independent opinion. Make a list of what the expenses cover (i.e., meals, accommodation, flights, VISA).

The following are examples of companies they can explore:

**Cultural Care Au Pair**: Students can work as a live in au pair in America. They must be at least 18 years of age. [www.culturalcare.com.au](http://www.culturalcare.com.au)

**Latitude Global Volunteering**: Students can undertake activities such as community service, medical assisting, outdoor education or teaching in countries such as Africa, Mexico, Spain, Poland, Japan, England etc. Placements range from 3 – 11 months. [www.latitude.org.au](http://www.latitude.org.au)

**Letz Live**: Students will stay in a boarding school and work as a gap year assistant in countries such as China, Canada, France, India, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, UK etc. Placements range from 3 – 12 months. [www.letzlive.org/australia](http://www.letzlive.org/australia)

**Camp Counsellors USA**: Students have three options. 1) Camp counsellor leading children in various sports and outdoor adventures in America, Russia, Canada or Croatia over the summer break. 2) Working up to 12 months in the USA, Canada or the UK in a seasonal resort, English pub or a variety of other hospitality positions. 3) Volunteering in one of over 50 projects in Africa, Latin America or Asia. [www.ccusa.com.au](http://www.ccusa.com.au)

**Antipodeans**: Students will work with other young Australians on a sustainable volunteer project in a developing country/area such as Kenya, Nepal, Tanzania, Vietnam, Thailand etc. They can work in volunteer projects such as building/construction, conservation, care work, community work and teaching. [www.antipodeans.com.au/gap-break/gap-break.htm](http://www.antipodeans.com.au/gap-break/gap-break.htm)

**World Youth International**: This is similar to Antipodeans in that you work on sustainable programs. Students can undertake placements in the following areas: Kenya, Uganda, Nepal, Cambodia, India and Peru. They can undertake projects in building/construction, care work, community work, health and sanitation and teaching. [www.worldyouth.org.au/Home](http://www.worldyouth.org.au/Home)

**Projects Abroad**: Students can work in one of 26 developing countries undertaking short and longer term projects such as care work, teaching, conservation/environment, sports, culture/community, archaeology, building and performing arts. [www.projects-abroad.com.au](http://www.projects-abroad.com.au)

**International Exchange Programs**: Students can undertake working holidays in the USA, Canada, Ireland, Britain and volunteer in Cambodia, USA, Peru, and South Africa. Working holiday placements include working in the hospitality industry, summer camps and skiing. [www.iep.org.au](http://www.iep.org.au)


**Work Experience**: If students can raise the funds required, they may be able to participate in work experience overseas. The following are two examples of companies that offer these types of placements:


**Gap Medics**: This program is for students in Years 11 and 12 who are interested in studying medicine, nursing, dentistry and/or midwifery in the future. Placements are offered in Thailand and Tanzania during school holiday periods. You will have the opportunity to shadow highly skilled professionals in a clinic during your placement. [www.gapmedics.com](http://www.gapmedics.com)