



Gap Year Providers

Thinking about a gap year?

We have put together a sample of organisations in this guide, who offer a range of gap year experiences, although we are not in a position to make any personal recommendations for them. You will need to do your own research into the viability of what they offer. Please take time to find out what their pandemic policy is, just in case. And if you're going abroad, visit the UK Government website for travel advice and make sure you have travel insurance.

The organisations fall into the following categories:

- Gap year providers offering a range of experiences
- Specialised gap year providers
- Gap Year Work Placements
- Business Schools
- Cookery Schools
- Sports Opportunities
- Ski Instructor Schools
- Volunteering

Gap year providers offering a range of experiences



Gapforce is a leading provider of structured gap year programs and summer opportunities overseas.

They offer a wide range of global adventures including marine conservation, wildlife protection, community volunteering & healthcare, extreme expeditions, leadership training, working holidays, internships, sport coaching, ski instructor and leadership training.

For over twenty years, Gapforce has provided unique and rewarding programs to some of the world's most exciting and exotic locations. Their overseas staff are some of the most experienced in the industry. Gapforce offer a choice of group start dates throughout the year.

[GapYear.com](https://www.gapyear.com) provides some of the most varied gap experiences in the market. From Lion rehabilitation projects to working with children in India, Inter-railing is another popular choice with Gapyear.com whether it be island hopping in Croatia to Gondolas in Venice, there are plenty of choices for even the most discerning of travellers.





RealGap Experience offers a variety of gap opportunities from experiences that you pay for to other experiences where you can work and get paid.

They have opportunities across the world and are good at helping with gap travel advice.

One of the highlights with RealGap experience are the teaching courses you can take, where you can teach English in Thailand or China, whilst gaining an accredited qualification to teach English and making a real difference to children at the same time.

Year Out Group is an association of approved gap year providing organisations most of which are registered in the UK. At least one of the principal activities of each of these organisations is the provision of well-structured gap year programmes in the UK or overseas. Between the organisations there is a wide variety of activities available throughout the world



Specialised gap year providers



Camp America is a cultural exchange programme that gives young people the chance to spend their summer living and working on a camp in the USA.

They are the biggest international summer camp staff provider; recruiting thousands of young people each year and giving them the experience of a lifetime in America.

Blue Ventures is a science-led social enterprise that develops transformative approaches for nurturing and sustaining locally led marine conservation. The organisation works in partnership with coastal communities in places where the ocean is vital to the culture and economy. Volunteers contribute to the work by collecting data through Scuba diving and by collaborating closely with local communities in education and outreach projects.



Gap Medics are a specialist organisation dedicated to providing year-round hospital work experience for medicine, midwifery, nursing and dentistry abroad to students 16 years and over.



Programmes are offered in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean providing an opportunity to gain insight into the work of doctors, nurses, midwives and dentists before beginning clinical training.



Many of Oysters projects were founded in 2006 and have been nurtured and supported by them ever since. Oyster are known for running life-changing gap year programs, giving individuals the opportunity to make a genuine contribution and for the first class support they receive.

Oyster's wide range of popular gap year programmes, career break projects and volunteering breaks allow students to get under the skin of a country and to do something worthwhile whilst there.

Oyster's gap year volunteering projects are suitable for everyone— a real highlight of their volunteering trips in particular is the wide range of people that you come across from all round the world.

Planning a trip with Oyster Worldwide is straightforward, with all of their staff members having done their own gap adventures and responsible travel. Gap years include volunteering with monkeys and baboons in South Africa to caring for rescued elephants in Thailand.

[Au Pair America](#) has over 30 years' experience and each year send over 4,000 au pairs from around the world to the United States. They are dedicated to providing the best support both during the application and matching process. The au pairs will be international visitors who, on a J-1 Visitor Exchange visa, live with an American host family of their choice for a minimum of 12 months whilst caring for their children.



Gap Year Work Placements



The [EDT's Year in Industry](#) (Yini) is a UK scheme which organises gap year placements for pre-university and undergraduate students. Each year The Year in Industry places around 750 students in engineering, science, IT, and business.

The YINI programme offers students the opportunity to gain professional development by working at a reputable company. Students are placed in top UK companies every year, including Shell, Rolls-Royce, EDF, Network Rail and GKN.

EDT, formerly known as Engineering Development Trust, offer young people active learning experiences in STE(A)M related careers, giving them the opportunity to gain knowledge and exposure that will help them make decisions about their future. As well as gaining valuable experience for your CV, the YINI is a fantastic way to gain valid work experience, earn whilst you learn and can be an ideal way to check out alternative career routes including degree apprenticeships.

[The British Army's Officer Internship](#) is an opportunity to experience the role of an Army Officer for 6 to 18-months before, during or after university.



You will receive the same world class leadership training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as Army Reserve Officers and then further training afterwards, depending on your role. You will then spend 6 to 18 months attached to a regular Army unit, in the UK and on routine duties around the world, shadowing the daily role of an Army Officer, learning to lead up to 30 troops.

You will be paid throughout and take part in sports, adventurous training and military training exercises but you will not deploy on operations.

An Officer Internship offers unique and exceptional leadership training and experience, as well as an unrivalled insight into the life of an Army Officer. Once you have completed your internship, you can elect

to remain in the Army, as a Reservist or regular Army Officer, or you can choose a completely different career path.

Business Schools

The [Oxford Media and Business School](#) offers the one-year **Professional Business Diploma**.

This is a one-year intensive course known for providing practical workplace skills in depth. The course is delivered through classes, tutorials, group work, business simulations, problem-solving challenges and presentations.



All students also complete a work placement as part of the diploma. Inspirational speakers representing different business sectors give insights into the different roles students could enter at the outset of your successful career.

Cookery Schools



[The Orchards School of Cookery](#) specialises in training and recruiting Chalet Cooks and also runs Off-to-University courses, Designer Dinner party courses, Corporate Days and One and Two-Day cookery courses.

The Award-Winning cookery school has a new approach to cookery and tuition, courses are 'hands on' and lots of fun, each day concluding with a dinner party. Orchards Cookery also offers a recruitment service supplying cooks for ski chalets, private parties, shooting, hunting and fishing lodges, holiday villas, yachts etc. The

Orchards is a family home situated on a farm in the heart of England, near Stratford-upon-Avon and students live in cottages on site.

[The Avenue Cookery School](#) is family-run school, based in London offering a wide range of one- and two-week courses including From Basic to Brilliant; Off to Uni, Yacht host cooking, and Chalet cooking. Accommodation can be provided and tuition is delivered by experienced chefs with upbeat and professional teaching.



Sports Opportunities



Discover the World of Polo with [Polo Valley](#).

The Polo Induction Programme (PIP) will introduce you to the exciting sport of polo & riding, practical & theoretical horse care and the growing industry of leisure & tourism. Created with the goal of making the sport of polo more accessible to welcome and teach the next generation of polo players. The programme is

designed to accommodate all ability levels, from those with little or no riding experience through to accomplished riders.

It is a Polo Valley Accredited Course, where you'll experience a varied mix of practical outdoor training and theoretical classroom learning, ultimately studying for the Hurlingham Polo Association rules test certificate, and providing exceptional preparation for anyone interested in entering the equine industry and the polo world.

[Sport Lived](#) has been arranging for young people to play and coach sport in Melbourne, Australia, since 2004. They are committed to arranging high quality sporting gap year programmes in a school, club or sports academy in Melbourne. The sports covered are Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rowing, Rugby Union, Swimming and Tennis.



Ski Instructor programmes

[Powder Byrne](#) offer an 18-week Piste to Profession gap year ski season programme combining a multitude of ski industry disciplines with the opportunity to become a fully qualified BASI ski instructor.



Bespoke training is given with Powder Byrne professionals. The course programme covers subjects that will enable you to deliver a premium level of service to any age of guest. You will be given a Health & Safety Exec approved course covering all the requirements to gain your BASI qualification. The programme includes: 17/18-week course from December to April in Switzerland.

Return flights and transfers; Self-catered accommodation; Personal discounts on and off the mountain; Work permit for the whole season; DBS Check; Winter Medical Insurance Policy and Ski Instructors Insurance.

[Snowskool](#) is a popular gap year provider for ski and snowboard experiences. A ski or snowboard instructor course is a program that will qualify you as a ski instructor over three months or so, while also teaching you to ski better.



Opportunities are offered throughout Austria, Canada, and France being the most popular venues in the northern hemisphere and New Zealand in the southern hemisphere.

Most courses are packaged to include flights, transfers, accommodation, meals, lift passes, training, exam fees. Once qualified you can work globally, from South America to Japan and plenty of places in between.

Volunteering in the UK



[Do IT](#) offer volunteering experiences across the UK. The platform will connect you to do things with purpose or aims to help you discover your purpose.

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