


# Gap years in the UK

**Emma Parker**

**British Council**

- Common and well-established
- Around 7% of university applicants apply for “deferred entry”




at the heart of connecting people to higher education

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### Accepted applicants deferring for one year

Accepted applicants deferring for one year

Year	Accepted Applicants: Deferred	% of	Accepted Applicants: Total
2011 defer to 2012	16,299	3.3% of	492,030
2010 defer to 2011	33,426	6.9% of	487,329
2009 defer to 2010	34,049	7.1% of	481,854
2008 defer to 2009	33,171	7.3% of	456,627
2007 defer to 2008	28,863	7.0% of	413,430
2006 defer to 2007	28,524	7.3% of	390,890
2005 defer to 2006	31,059	7.7% of	405,369
2004 defer to 2005	28,435	7.5% of	377,544
2003 defer to 2004	28,727	7.6% of	374,307



- **“Gap year” is not a system; it is a culture**
- **Gap year participants do not belong to any organisation**
- **Relies on understanding of universities, employers, parents, as well as government**
- **Gap years are an opportunity for young people to gain new experiences, become more independent, contribute to society**
- **Popular gap year options: short-term employment; travel; volunteering**
- **Gap years at any time**

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## Young people

## Planning a gap year



Taking a year out of studying to do something else can do wonders for your skills, confidence and CV. Many people take a gap year before starting college or university, but you could take one at any time.

## Gap years: the possibilities

In your gap year, you could do anything:

- volunteer abroad
- do some work experience in the UK to build up your skills
- see a bit of the world

Taking a gap year is a good way of gaining more experiences before going on to further study at university.

It could be your first time away from school or college with no teachers or assignments to worry about. If you choose to work, it might be the first time you've worked full-time. Whatever you do, taking a gap year could be a good way to help your confidence and to become more independent before university.

- ▶ [Volunteering if you're between 14 and 19](#)
- ▶ [Voluntary work placements](#)
- ▶ [Getting into university and higher education \(education and learning section\)](#)

## Boost your career prospects

Even if getting a job seems a long way off, taking a gap year can also look good on your CV. Potential employers see that you have spent time broadening your horizons and learning new skills.

Volunteering for an industry or organisation you would like to get into in the future shows employers that you are dedicated to advancing your career.

If you want to return to college or university, a gap year shows that you are committed to your education. You may find that you approach learning in a different way after a year out.

- ▶ [Gap year information from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#)
- ▶ [Gap year advice - Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#)
- ▶ [Gap year checklist - Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#)

## Gap year options

## Working and travelling abroad

You may want to go travelling and sample life in other countries during your gap year. Many tour operators run gap year trips

## Volunteers wanted



**Aged 18 to 25? Make a difference to some of the world's poorest communities**

- ▶ [International Citizen Service](#)

## Do it online

- ▶ [Find a job now \(employment section\)](#)
- ▶ [Create your CV online](#)
- ▶ [Find a volunteering opportunity and apply online](#)

## Useful contacts

- ▶ [Find out about apprenticeships](#)
- ▶ [Pay and Work Rights Helpline](#)
- ▶ [Jobcentre Plus](#)

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Add a widget to your website and help promote volunteering.

**how about this?**

**Race for life**  
Ethnicity-specific events volunteers wanted for Cancer Research UK's, Race for Life. UK-wide.

**Young leaders**  
Only eight schools around panels need apply, in London only.

**Soccerball Umpires**  
Soccerball umpire, be a soccer umpire across London.

**best of volunteering**

**Jazz hands**  
Kara sets into the spirit helping to run a series of community events in Derby.

**Why are umpires hard to come by?**  
Simon is struggling to answer this question in his quest to find a volunteer for his baseball team.

**Volunteers Week 2012**  
There is less than a month to go until this year's volunteers take a volunteering willings volunteering.

Read more from our volunteers' blogs and features

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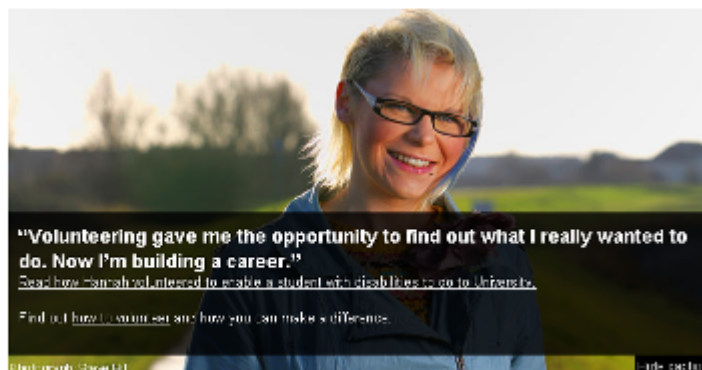
CSV responds to Stephen Peck's comment on 'bad' volunteers and how to counter them [more](#)

Green spaces in urban Scotland [more](#)

Guragh Aiken joins CSV [more](#)

The Professionals' unleash their skills [more](#)

BSS Fund



**"Volunteering gave me the opportunity to find out what I really wanted to do. Now I'm building a career."**

[Read how Hampshire entered to make a student with disabilities go on to University.](#)

Find out how to communicate and how you can make a difference.

Photograph: Steve Hill



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CSV Cathedral Camps welcomes 18-25 year olds to volunteer on week-long residential camps at historic churches and cathedrals across Britain.

# Full-time volunteering



## Looking for a holiday? Look somewhere else

18-25? VSO is offering you a once-in-a-lifetime chance to spend 3 months volunteering in Africa or Asia with International Citizen Service (ICS).

It's an opportunity to experience another culture, challenge yourself and develop your potential while working on genuine development projects that will have a lasting impact. [Find out more](#)

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Find out what volunteering with ICS can offer you

Current Teams  
Find out about our current ICS teams

### How It Works



Find out exactly what your VSO ICS adventure will involve

- Where will I live?
- What support will I get?
- What will I do?

### Volunteers



What's it all about?  
Find out more about our programmes

[Go to Volunteers >](#)

### News

**Posted on 31.05.2012 in news**  
**Volunteer for VSO ICS this summer**  
Would you like to volunteer this summer with VSO ICS? VSO ICS is a fantastic opportunity to volunteer...

**Posted on 25.04.2012 in news**  
**Bratislava or Bust Car Rally!**  
There are places still left on VSO's exciting car rally across Europe to Bratislava! The adventure...

"Before I now have questioned the impact a group of young volunteers could have on a community in three months, I can now, with every confidence and certainty, confirm our evident impact to have been positive, significant, and sustainable."  
**Charlotte Hay**  
[UK volunteer in Ghana](#)

VSO Youth Volunteering on Facebook

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**Foreign & Commonwealth Office**

## Travel & living abroad

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### Travel advice by country

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- When things go wrong
- Your trip
- Gap year**
  - Gap year planning
  - Gap year destinations
  - Gap year adventures
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### Gap year

Gap year travelling is a trip of a lifetime. We hope you will find useful advice and information in this section to make sure your gap year is the best it can be.

From top tips on insurance and money to advice on staying healthy and getting the right visa, you will find all you need to know to plan the safest and most enjoyable gap year travel.

#### Gap year planning

So you've decided to plan the best and end all of all gap years, the show stopping trip, the year that will change your life, but did you realise how much goes in to planning it, do you know where to start?

- Gap year visas and passports
- Gap year advice
- Gap year health
- Gap year insurance
- Gap year local laws and customs

### See also

- Travel advice by country
- Giving us feedback on our services

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FCO travel - travel advice from the Foreign Office

16,140

FCO travel - travel advice from the Foreign Office shared a link.

Kyrgyzstan travel advice

www.fco.gov.uk

An earth quake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale occurred 208 miles east of Bishkek in the capital city of 31

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Travel advice

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MADRID	ROUND TRIP	\$850	\$19
DUBLIN	ROUND TRIP	\$832	\$10
TOKYO	ROUND TRIP	\$829	\$47
SYDNEY	ROUND TRIP	\$1,218	\$21
SAN JOSE COSTA RICA	ROUND TRIP	\$514	\$38

Conditions apply. Questions? Call 1.800.781.4040 or Find a Store.

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## Gap year

If you want to take time out, see the world and learn new skills, a gap year is the perfect way to round off university life. You will find everything you need to know here about choosing and planning a gap year in the UK and abroad.

**In depth**

- [Gap year opportunities](#)
- [Why take a gap year?](#)
- [Gap year abroad](#)
- [Gap year in the UK](#)
- [Plan your gap year](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [Costs and fundraising](#)

**Case studies**

- [PGCE student: Ellie](#)
- [Assistant centre manager: PGL James Evans](#)
- [Volunteer Service Overseas \(VSO\): Katherine](#)
- [Balegh expedition: Amy Benson](#)

**Features**

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### Welcome to Inspired Breaks

Inspired Breaks is the new name for Gap Year for Grown Ups.

InspiredBreaks will take you beyond the typical tourist experience.

Looking for a break from the ordinary? Inspired Breaks provides level advice and support for anyone thinking of taking a career break or just looking for a more inspired way to use their annual leave. We provide the best options for career breaks, voluntary work with communities, conservation programmes, and exciting adventure tours worldwide. Let us help you create your inspired break abroad!

**What are you interested in doing?**

- [Volunteering](#)
- [Adventure travel](#)
- [Teaching](#)
- [Learn a skill](#)
- [Conservation](#)
- [Family travel](#)

**Choose your destination**

**Featured - Volunteering & Safari**

This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your family to experience life in Tanzania volunteering in one of a number of well care centres for orphaned children.

[Learn more](#)

**Try a life changing experience! These people have...**

- [Paul did conservation volunteering in Ecuador](#)
- [Jacqui learned Spanish and volunteered with orphans in Ecuador](#)
- [Craig went on a bike challenge in South America](#)
- [Susan did community volunteering in India](#)
- [Gilly travelled to Malawi on Fox Orange Lake Experience](#)

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# Gap years at any stage



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## Your selected question

### Q: How do universities and colleges view deferred entry applications?

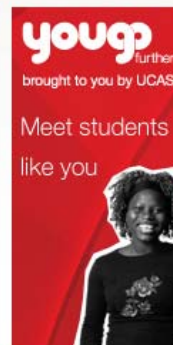
**A:** The value of gap year activities is widely documented and most universities and colleges will allow you to apply for deferred entry, but check with them before applying. When you apply, include details of your proposed gap year in your personal statement to support your application.

#### A note for international applicants:

Several countries require their citizens to complete mandatory military or national service. If this affects you, check with universities and colleges in advance to discuss when you should apply. You can defer through UCAS for a maximum of one year. It would be useful to include information on your military or national service in your personal statement.

## Related questions

- [How do I start using Apply?](#)
- [How do I apply?](#)
- [Can I apply to both the University of Oxford and the University of](#)



### International applicants

If you are applying from outside the UK or EU, whatever your nationality, you need to be aware of the three application deadlines, although many universities and colleges will consider your application up until **30 June**. This does not apply to applications for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science. For all of these, you must apply by **15 October**.

Universities and colleges do not guarantee to consider applications they receive after **15 January**, and some popular courses may not have vacancies after that date. Please check with individual universities and colleges if you are not sure. You are advised to apply as early as possible.

Remember to allow enough time for entry clearance or immigration; also travel and accommodation arrangements, which can take longer during the summer when immigration departments are busy.

If you think you may be assessed as a 'home' student (UK or EU) for tuition fees, you should apply by the relevant deadline at the top of the page.

Several countries require their citizens to complete mandatory military or national service. If this affects you, check with universities and colleges in advance to discuss when you should apply. You can defer through UCAS for a maximum of one year. It would be useful to include information on your military or national service in your personal statement.

### Application flowchart

[View deadline dates for the 2013 entry application cycle.](#)

[View deadline dates for the 2012 entry application cycle.](#)

### Taking a year out?

If you want to take a year out before starting your course, check with your universities and colleges that they will accept a deferred entry application. If you apply for deferred entry in 2013, you must still apply by the relevant deadline above, and meet the conditions of any offers by **31 August 2012**. If you accept a place starting in 2013, you can't reapply through us in the same cycle, unless your original application is withdrawn.

**You can only send us one application in each year's application cycle.** If you send a second application, it will be cancelled and you will not receive a refund.

# Gap years and university application

# Global Graduates into Global Leaders

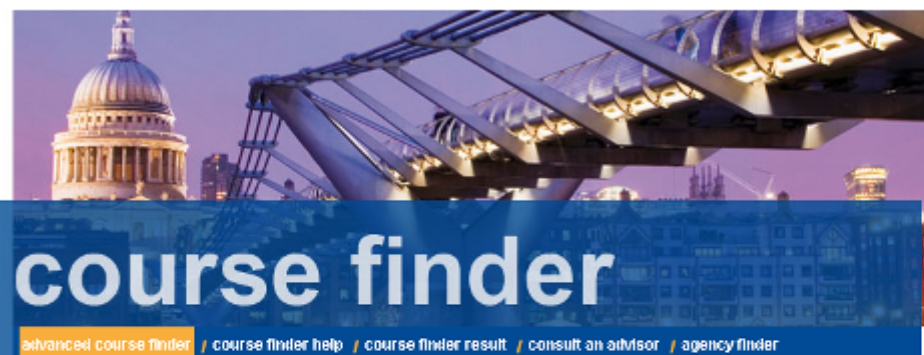
## Executive Summary

# Gap years and employability



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Months Open	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Course Length	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Age group	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Maximum class size	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Course hours per week	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Tuition fees per week (including accommodation)	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Beginners accepted	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Type of location	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Type of accommodation	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Disabled access provision	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Region	<input type="text" value="select"/>
Keywords	<input type="text" value=""/>
<input type="button" value="search"/>	

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Types of course

Region

Keywords

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## Gap year opportunities in the UK – language courses









代表ブログ よくある質問 お問い合わせ ENGLISH


一般社団法人  
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事業内容
[私のGAP YEAR時代](#)
ニュース

## 連載 私のGAP YEAR時代

今、第一線で活躍されている方々に、“青春時代の迷惘期間”にあたる「GAP YEAR時代」を振り返っていただきます。そこには、先達たちの人生の現在の自己形成に重要な影響を与えた価値観創りや生きる術(すべ)など個々の人生にとっての大きなターニング・ポイントが隠されているはずです。

### 第1回 日本が“ギャップイヤー”先だったBC駐日代表 プリティッシュ・カウンシル駐日代表 ジェイムズ・ジェイムズさん

2011.04.16

カテゴリー：私のGAP YEAR時代

1986年1月17日の朝に、ギャップイヤーを利用して来日。約3ヶ月間東京で過ごした。ケンブリッジ大に入学し、20歳の時に「日本研究」のための再来日し、1年間滞在。大学卒業後、金融マンとしてロンドンのシティに勤務。イギリスの銀行の日本支店にストラテジストとして来日。約10年間駐在した。1996年、再び金融マンとしてシティで活躍した後、ケンブリッジ大学経済学博士課程で日本の税制と企業に研究中に、初めてプリティッシュ・カウンシル駐日代表/英日文化使節文化参事官に就任し、2007年に再び来日した。

いまや先進国がこぞ導入している“ギャップイヤー”制度の発祥の地である日本へ、ご本人も自らギャップイヤーを利用して来日された経験をもつジェイムズさんに、お話を伺った。「私のGAP YEAR時代」インタビュー企画の初回として、もっともふさわしいゲスト



記事一覧
私のGAP YEAR時代トップページへ戻る

2011.06.09  
第2回 マグロ漁船にインタビューとして参加して、北大を教授 北海道大学経済学部経済学センター 教授 豊田 寛さん

2011.04.16  
第1回 日本が“ギャップイヤー”先だったBC駐日代表 プリティッシュ・カウンシル駐日代表 ジェイムズ・ジェイムズさん

この連載を解説

# Growing interest in Japan. What next?