Gap Year Programs by Interest*

In addition to this listing, we recommend the book The Complete Gap Year, The Best Things to do Between High School and College by Kristin M. White for more comprehensive information about gap years.

International Programs

Volunteer/ Cultural Immersion/ Community Service

Adventures Cross Country – www.adventurescrosscountry.com or www.arccgap.com
800-767-2722
Adventures Cross Country offers GAP semester programs in Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) and Asia (China, Tibet and Thailand). Each program examines five essential themes throughout the semester; literacy and education, public health, urbanization and the movement of peoples, environment and conservation, and microfinance and economic growth. Students have the option to receive 3 or 6 semester credits.

Africa & Asia Venture www.aventure.co.uk
Africa & Asia Adventure sends 400 students a year on volunteer trips to China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Panama. Teaching, coaching and community service are the primary volunteer activities that students experience with their immersion in a new community.

African Impact www.africanimpact.com 800-606-7185
African Impact offers a variety of volunteer programs suitable for anyone looking to make a difference during their gap year. Their volunteer programs focus on making a measurable impact on the people and wildlife in Africa, as well as many other countries.

American Field Studies - www.afs.org 800-AFS-INFO
AFS sends more than 1700 US students to 44 countries for intercultural learning experiences. They have more than 125 study and community service programs. Participants live with a host family, learn a new language and become immersed in a new culture.

American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) – www.aifsabroad.com 800-727-2437
AIFS has more than 40 years of experience in organizing study abroad programs. They provide study abroad opportunities in 17 countries - Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, South Africa and Spain.
Andeo International Homestays - [www.andeo.org](http://www.andeo.org) 800-274-6007
Students can improve their language skills and learn about another country by living with a welcoming host family. There are customized programs in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Japan.

Aspire by API – [www.aspirebyapi.com](http://www.aspirebyapi.com) 877-600-8977
Aspire gap year programs provide recent high school graduates with the opportunity to travel and study abroad before starting their undergraduate program at home. All programs offer students the opportunity to earn college credit for their studies while abroad. Programs are at universities in France and Spain.

Carpe Diem - [www.carpediemeducation.org](http://www.carpediemeducation.org) 877-285-1808
Carpe Diem International Education runs international academic programs that work with youth in an educational capacity to get them both out of the country and out of their comfort zones. Their programs offer an educational alternative to the classroom environment by making learning real and active. Their programs are in Central America, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America. Their programs include volunteering, authentic cultural experience, language study and home stays.

Center for Cross-Cultural Study – [www.cccs.com](http://www.cccs.com) 413-256-0011
CCCS study abroad programs in Spain (Seville and Alicante), Argentina (Cordoba) and Cuba (Havana) focus on developing cultural and language skills. They have academically rigorous university-level study abroad and cultural travel programs.

CIEE offers semester and yearlong programs in Chile, Spain, China, the Dominican Republic, France, Japan and Spain. A gap year abroad with CIEE offers college bound students an opportunity to acquire a broader global perspective, foster independence and gain self-knowledge. Students seeking to stretch intellectually, explore new vistas, develop leadership and become responsible global citizens are ideal candidates.

EF International Language Schools - [www.ef.com/ils](http://www.ef.com/ils) 800-992-1892
EF is the world’s largest private language teaching organization. EF students are given the opportunity to learn French, Spanish, German, Italian and Chinese in non-traditional academic settings. With internships and volunteer opportunities available, EF Language Schools offers multiple outlets for self-discovery and the development of professional skills.

El Casal - [www.elcasalbarcelona.com](http://www.elcasalbarcelona.com)El Casal is a multi-faceted program combining seminars in Spanish language and other subjects, travel, outdoor activities, internships and community service in Barcelona, Spain.
ISA offers courses in over 100 subjects at recognized universities in 18 countries.

Leapnow - www.leapnow.org 707-431-7265
Leapnow provides students with access to thousands of diverse learning experiences in 126 countries giving students the opportunity to empower themselves. Cultural immersion, study abroad and work abroad are the main vehicles for learning about themselves and the world. Intense work and study experiences abroad are complemented with learning retreats at their northern California campus.

Leysin American School in Switzerland - www.las.ch
The Leysin American School is a coeducational boarding school in the French speaking part of Switzerland. They offer an opportunity to live abroad and experience European culture while taking credits recognized by U.S. colleges.

Magic Carpet Rides - www.magiccarpetrides.com 360-376-8900
Magic Carpet Rides is a gap year educational program empowering high school graduates to explore the world of possibilities before defining a life path. Guatemala’s rich cultural heritage and natural beauty provide a stunning setting for nine months of cultural immersion. Learn Spanish through one on one instruction, live with an indigenous family and volunteer your skills in one of Central America’s poorest countries.

Map the Gap International - www.mapthegapinternational.com 866-356-7120
MTG offers structured service learning programs that combine language and cultural immersion, community service, and sociopolitical insights from experts to create a meaningful adventure for students. Programs in Mexico, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Italy and Thailand include 3 weeks of intensive language study followed by ongoing language support, 8 - 10 cultural and recreational excursions, community service placements, presentations from experts about issues affecting the communities served, room and board (usually home stay), international health insurance coverage, transportation to and from airport in host country, 24 hour local support and possible college credit.

MASA Israel Journey - www.masaisrael.org 866-864-3279
MASA enables young Jews (ages 18 to 30) from around the world to build a lasting relationship with Israel, strengthen their Jewish identity, and gain meaningful and beneficial experiences by participating in a long term program in Israel. Established in 2003, MASA is the gateway to over 150 long term programs in Israel.

Oxford Advanced Studies Program – www.oasp.ac.uk 203-966-2886
The Oxford Advanced Studies Program offers young people an opportunity to study in the historic city of Oxford, England. The program provides a study abroad experience that will expand students’ intellectual and cultural horizons as well as being relevant to the academic work they will do when they return home.
Projects Abroad - www.projects-abroad.com 888-839-3535
Projects Abroad is the leading organizer of volunteer placements across five continents. They offer a diverse range of teaching, conservation, medical journalism and work experience projects, plus the opportunity to become part of an overseas community.

Rothberg International School – 800-404-8622 https://overseas.huji.ac.il/
Hebrew University’s Rothberg International School offers a variety of programs to graduating high school students. You can enroll in the freshman or gap year programs or spend a summer at RIS. Their program includes courses in Hebrew and/or Arabic language instruction, and a wide variety of courses taught in English which count towards your degree. Rothberg also offers financial aid, on-campus housing, extracurricular activities and excursions around the city and country.

Rustic Pathways - www.rusticpathways.com/gap 800-321-4353
Rustic Pathways provides travel and service programs for students in some of the world’s most welcoming countries. Their programs allow you to choose from an extensive list of destinations and encompass service, language, adventure, life skills and much more.

School Year Abroad - www.sya.org 978-725-6828 ext.117
School Year Abroad was founded in 1964 by Phillips Academy. They provide students with challenging courses taught in a foreign country, assist them with college counseling and administer standardized testing, thereby preparing them for admission to competitive American colleges and universities.

Soujourns Abroad - www.belcamino.org 305-877-4937
Soujourns Abroad is a program of cultural enrichment. The program combines homestay living accommodations, intimate language classes, cultural seminars, supplementary activities and weekend trips. The programs are located in Paris, France and Siena, Italy.

Thinking Beyond Borders – www.thinkingbeyondborders.org
Thinking Beyond Borders is designed for gap year students to explore international development through global service learning and academic study. They offer an 8 month international gap year program in four core countries. The itinerary immerses students in cultures and communities through homestays and service learning with locally based NGOs.

Up With People – www.upwithpeople.org
Up with People have students travel with 100 young adults from over 20 countries to many cities on several continents. They live with host families and perform a one hour professional musical production in each community, and earn college credit.

Where There Be Dragons – www.wheretherebedragons.com
Where There Be Dragons has pioneered small group learning experiences in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Through rugged travel, service work and remote wilderness exploration, Dragons provides authentic immersion in the cultural and development issues in the world’s most intriguing locales.
**The World Campus – Japan Program** – [www.worldcampus.org](http://www.worldcampus.org)
World Campus provides opportunities to gain international skills in the authentic backdrop of Japanese culture, politics and business. All participants experience both modern and traditional Japan by staying with local host families for a week at a time in each community they visit.

**Young Judaea** – [www.youngjudaea.org](http://www.youngjudaea.org)
Over the course of nine months, participants immerse themselves in all aspects of Israeli life and culture – learning Hebrew, interacting with their Israeli peers, developing an appreciation for their Jewish heritage and exploring Israel through a variety of volunteer placements. The year course program is organized in three semesters, each in a different and distinct location in Israel and each including academic study, Hebrew language and engaging in and contributing to Israeli society through intensive volunteering experience.

**Youth for Understanding** – [www.yfu.org](http://www.yfu.org)
YFU offers over 100 programs in more than 30 countries to learn a new language and global perspective. You live in a new culture, not as a tourist but as a member of a family.

**Youth International** – [www.youthinternational.org](http://www.youthinternational.org)
Youth International focuses on cultural exchange, volunteer work, home stays and outdoor adventure. Travel for 3 months from Sept. – Dec. or Feb. – May with a team of up to 14 people ages 18 to 25 and two leaders. Explore three different countries in Asia (Thailand, India, Vietnam) or South America (Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador). Help build an orphanage in Bolivia, live with tribal families in Thailand, meditate with Tibetan monks in the Himalayas, visit the Taj Mahal, do conservation work in the Ecuadorian rainforest, sail the Galapagos Islands, hike the Inca trail to Machu Picchu and much more.
United States Programs
Volunteer/Cultural Immersion/Community Service

AmeriCorps - www.americorps.org  202-606-5000
AmeriCorps is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Members commit to serve full time for a year at a non-profit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and strengthen community groups. Large nationally known groups such as Boys& Girls Club, habitat for Humanity, and the American Red Cross are part of AmeriCorps.

City Year - www.cityyear.org  617-927-2500
City Year was founded on the belief that young people can change the world. Their City Youth Year Service Corps unites more than 1,400 young people ages 17 - 24 for a demanding year of full-time community service, leadership development and civic engagement. These young leaders come from diverse backgrounds and put their idealism to work by tutoring and mentoring school children, reclaiming public spaces, and organizing after-school programs and school vacation camps.

Dynamy - www.dynamy.org  508-755-2571
Dynamy’s Internship Year accepts young people ages 17 to 22 for a nine month long residential program which includes full-time student internships, a wilderness expedition, individual advising and mentoring, community service, and optional college credit seminars through Clark University.

LEAPNOW - www.leapnow.org  707-431-7265
LEAPNOW provides students with access to thousands of diverse learning experiences in 126 countries giving students the opportunity to empower themselves. Cultural immersion, study abroad and work abroad are the main vehicles for learning about themselves and the world. Intense work and study experiences abroad are complemented with learning retreats at their northern California campus.

Rustic Pathways - www.rusticpathways.com/gap  800-321-4353
Rustic Pathways provides travel and service programs for students in some of the world’s most welcoming countries. Their programs allow you to choose from an extensive list of destinations and encompass service, language, adventure, life skills and much more.

Student Conservation Association – www.thesca.org
SCA is a nationwide force of high school and college aged volunteers who are committed to protecting and preserving the environment. Through internships, conservation jobs and crew experiences, SCA members are rising to meet environmental challenges while gaining real field experience.
Up With People – www.upwithpeople.org
Up with People have students travel with 100 young adults from over 20 countries to many cities on several continents. They live with host families and perform a one hour professional musical production in each community, and earn college credit.

Where There Be Dragons – www.wheretherebedragons.com
Where There Be Dragons has pioneered small group learning experiences in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Through rugged travel, service work and remote wilderness exploration, Dragons provides authentic immersion in the cultural and development issues in the world’s most intriguing locales.

Woolman Semester – www.woolman.org
The Woolman Semester offers a gap year that is similar to a semester abroad. Students are immersed in the studies of peace, social justice, and sustainable living on a 230 acre rural campus in Northern California.
Academic and/or College Credit Programs

American University - [www.american.edu/spexs/augap](http://www.american.edu/spexs/augap) 202-895-4859
American University offers a one semester or one year Gap Program that combines one part internship and one part college experience. Students engage in classroom work, discussions, guest speakers and site visits two days a week. The coursework is in American Politics, Global Business in the fall and American Politics and International Affairs in the spring. Three days a week they have a mentored internship in Washington D.C as well as advisors helping them with resumes and cover letters.

Aspire by API – [www.aspirebyapi.com](http://www.aspirebyapi.com) 877-600-8977
Aspire gap year programs provide recent high school graduates with the opportunity to travel and study abroad before starting their undergraduate program at home. All programs offer students the opportunity to earn college credit for their studies while abroad. Programs are at universities in France and Spain

Dynamo - [www.dynamy.org](http://www.dynamy.org) 508-755-2571
Dynamo’s Internship Year accepts young people ages 17 to 22 for a nine month long residential program which includes full-time student internships, a wilderness expedition, individual advising and mentoring, community service, and optional college credit seminars through Clark University

International Studies Abroad - ISA – [www.studiesabroad.com](http://www.studiesabroad.com) 512-480-8522
ISA offers courses in over 100 subjects at recognized universities in 18 countries.

Leysin American School in Switzerland - [www.las.ch](http://www.las.ch)
The Leysin American School is a coeducational boarding school in the French speaking part of Switzerland. They offer an opportunity to live abroad and experience European culture while taking credits recognized by U.S. colleges

Oxford Advanced Studies Program – [www.oasp.ac.uk](http://www.oasp.ac.uk) 203-966-2886
The Oxford Advanced Studies Program offers young people an opportunity to study in the historic city of Oxford, England. The program provides a study abroad experience that will expand students’ intellectual and cultural horizons as well as being relevant to the academic work they will do when they return home

School Year Abroad - [www.sya.org](http://www.sya.org) 978-725-6828 ext.117
School Year Abroad was founded in 1964 by Phillips Academy. They provide students with challenging courses taught in a foreign country, assist them with college counseling and administer standardized testing, thereby preparing them for admission to competitive American colleges and universities
Semester at Sea  [www.sea.edu](http://www.sea.edu)
While traveling the world on a cruise ship students take challenging academic courses. Students receive academic credit from the University of Virginia.

Sea Semester at Woods Hole  [www.sea.edu](http://www.sea.edu)
Students take courses in oceanography, science, social sciences, humanities and political science and credit is offered through Boston University. Students study on land in Cape Cod for six weeks and then take to the sea for advanced research.

Up With People –  [www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org)
Up with People have students travel with 100 young adults from over 20 countries to many cities on several continents. They live with host families and perform a one hour professional musical production in each community, and earn college credit
Language Study Programs

**Carpe Diem** - [www.carpediemeducation.org](http://www.carpediemeducation.org) 877-285-1808
Carpe Diem International Education runs international academic programs that work with youth in an educational capacity to get them both out of the country and out of their comfort zones. Their programs offer an educational alternative to the classroom environment by making learning real and active. Their programs are in Central America, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America. Their programs include volunteering, authentic cultural experience, language study and home stays.

**EF International Language Schools** - [www.ef.com/ils](http://www.ef.com/ils) 800-992-1892
EF is the world’s largest private language teaching organization. EF students are given the opportunity to learn French, Spanish, German, Italian and Chinese in non-traditional academic settings. With internships and volunteer opportunities available, EF Language Schools offers multiple outlets for self-discovery and the development of professional skills.

**Magic Carpet Rides** - [www.magiccarpetrides.com](http://www.magiccarpetrides.com) 360-376-8900
Magic Carpet Rides is a gap year educational program empowering high school graduates to explore the world of possibilities before defining a life path. Guatemala’s rich cultural heritage and natural beauty provide a stunning setting for nine months of cultural immersion. Learn Spanish through one on one instruction, live with an indigenous family and volunteer your skills in one of Central America’s poorest countries.

**Young Judaea** – [www.youngjudaea.org](http://www.youngjudaea.org)
Young Judaea Year Course in Israel, the largest gap year program for recent high school graduates. Over the course of nine months, participants immerse themselves in all aspects of Israeli life and culture – learning Hebrew, interacting with their Israeli peers, developing an appreciation for their Jewish heritage and exploring Israel through a variety of volunteer placements. The year course program is organized in three semesters, each in a different and distinct location in Israel and each including academic study, Hebrew language and engaging with / contributing to Israeli society through intensive volunteering experience.

**Youth for Understanding** – [www.yfu.org](http://www.yfu.org)
YFU offers over 100 programs in more than 30 countries to learn a new language and global perspective. You live in a new culture, not as a tourist but as a member of a family.
Art, Music & Theater Programs

Apicius. The Culinary Institute of Florence [www.apicius.it]
All cooking classes at Apicius are conducted in English and have a large number of international students. Many classes are offered; also Italian-language classes.

Art History Abroad [www.arthistoryabroad.com]
AHA offers a renowned six-week Italy tour. The course is a tour of Italy focusing primarily on the wonders of art, drawing, philosophy, music, literature and history. Most students have never studied art before.

Interlochen Arts Academy - [www.interlochen.org] 231-276-7200
The post graduate year at Interlochen is designed for the student who desires a academic setting to focus on greater artistic preparation before entering a conservatory, university or art school.

John Hall Pre-University Course in Venice [www.johnhallvenice.co.uk]
This is a nine-week introduction to some of the finest and most thought-provoking achievements in the Western World. The course is conducted through a series of lecture and visits, includes painting, sculpture, architecture, music world cinema, literature, painting, photography and Italian language. Also options to extend are available to Rome and Florence.

London School of Sound [www.londonschoolofsound.co.uk]
Aspiring music industry students can take courses in recording and mixing, sound engineering, music production and DJ.

New York Film Academy [www.nyfa.com]

Studio Art Centers International, Florence (SACI) [www.saci-florence.org]
SACI provides studio art classes and academic programs at the Palazzo dei Cartelloni, the schools own building. There is gallery space, classrooms, art studios, and media space.

Up With People – [www.upwithpeople.org]
Up with People have students travel with 100 young adults from over 20 countries to many cities on several continents. They live with host families and perform a one hour professional musical production in each community, and earn college credit.
Conservation, Environment, & Social Issues Programs

City Year - www.cityyear.org 617-927-2500
City Year was founded on the belief that young people can change the world. Their City Youth Year Service Corps unites more than 1,400 young people ages 17 - 24 for a demanding year of full-time community service, leadership development and civic engagement. These young leaders come from diverse backgrounds and put their idealism to work by tutoring and mentoring school children, reclaiming public spaces, and organizing after-school programs and school vacation camps.

Kroka Expeditions - www.kroka.org
Kroka is an earth living skills school dedicated to assisting young people in developing strong character, responsibility, community and a sense of place in harmony with nature.

NOLS (The National Outdoor Leadership School) - www.nols.edu 800-710-6657
For 41 years, students with the National Outdoor Leadership School have learned and mastered outdoor skills, developed leadership and studied environmental ethics. Past programs have traveled to Alaska, Patagonia, Baja California, the Rockies and the Australian outback.

Projects Abroad - www.projects-abroad.com 888-839-3535
Projects Abroad is the leading organizer of volunteer placements across five continents. They offer a diverse range of teaching, conservation, medical journalism and work experience projects, plus the opportunity to become part of an overseas community.

Student Conservation Association – www.thesca.org
SCA is a nationwide force of high school and college aged volunteers who are committed to protecting and preserving the environment. Through internships, conservation jobs and crew experiences, SCA members are rising to meet environmental challenges while gaining real field experience.

Where There Be Dragons – www.wheretherebedragons.com
For 21 years Where There Be Dragons has pioneered small group learning experiences in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Through rugged travel, service work and remote wilderness exploration, Dragons provides authentic immersion in the cultural and development issues in the world’s most intriguing locales. All of their programs offer sustainable community living experiences. There are eight semester gap programs to choose from in the fall and spring.

Woolman Semester – www.woolman.org
The Woolman Semester offers a gap year that is similar to a semester abroad. Students are immersed in the studies of peace, social justice, and sustainable living on a 230 acre rural campus in Northern California.
Youth International – www.youthinternational.org
Youth International focuses on cultural exchange, volunteer work, home stays and outdoor adventure. Travel for 3 months from Sept. – Dec. or Feb. – May with a team of up to 14 people ages 18 to 25 and two leaders. Explore three different countries in Asia (Thailand, India, Vietnam) or South America (Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador). Help build an orphanage in Bolivia, live with tribal families in Thailand, meditate with Tibetan monks in the Himalayas, visit the Taj Mahal, do conservation work in the Ecuadorian rainforest, sail the Galapagos Islands, hike the Inca trail to Machu Picchu and much more!
Adventure, Outdoor & Sports Programs

Altitude Futures Verbier – [www.altitude-futures.com](http://www.altitude-futures.com)
Altitude Futures offers a 10 week training course to become a fully qualified ski or snowboard instructor. Email is info@altitude-futures.com

Dynamy - [www.dynamy.org](http://www.dynamy.org) 508-755-2571
Dynamy’s Internship Year accepts young people ages 17 to 22 for nine a month long residential program which includes full-time student internships, a wilderness expedition, individual advising and mentoring, community service, and optional college credit seminars through Clark University

NOLS (The National Outdoor Leadership School) - [www.nols.edu](http://www.nols.edu) 800-710-6657
For 41 years, students with the National Outdoor Leadership School have learned and mastered outdoor skills, developed leadership and studied environmental ethics. Past programs have traveled to Alaska, Patagonia, Baja California, the Rockies and the Australian outback.

Outward Bound [www.outwardbound.org](http://www.outwardbound.org)
Outward Bound is a leader in character development, personal growth, experiential learning and outdoor education. With over seven hundred trips to choose from you can explore the woods, climb mountains sailing and so much more.

Outward Bound International [www.outwardbound.net](http://www.outwardbound.net)
An outdoor leadership course in an international environment located in over thirty-five countries. Travel some of the world’s most rugged landscapes while challenging yourself physically and mentally with group members from all over the world.

SeaMester – [www.seamester.com](http://www.seamester.com) 941-924-2900
SeaMester delivers unique educational journeys at sea where students spend a semester sailing between countless global locations. It offers students the gift of discovering the world by sea. Students earn college credits and work toward professional certifications in sailing and scuba diving in some of the world’s most incredible destinations.

Where There Be Dragons – [www.wheretherebedragons.com](http://www.wheretherebedragons.com)
For 21 years Where There Be Dragons has pioneered small group learning experiences in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Through rugged travel, service work and remote wilderness exploration, Dragons provides authentic immersion in the cultural and development issues in the world’s most intriguing locales. All of their programs offer sustainable community living experiences. There are eight semester gap programs to choose from in the fall and spring.
Youth International – www.youthinternational.org
Youth International focuses on cultural exchange, volunteer work, home stays and outdoor adventure. Travel for 3 months from Sept. – Dec. or Feb. – May with a team of up to 14 people ages 18 to 25 and two leaders. Explore three different countries in Asia (Thailand, India, and Vietnam) or South America (Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador). Help build an orphanage in Bolivia, live with tribal families in Thailand, meditate with Tibetan monks in the Himalayas, visit the Taj Mahal, do conservation work in the Ecuadorian rainforest, sail the Galapagos Islands, hike the Inca trail to Machu Picchu and much more!
Sailing and Tall Ships Programs

**Class Afloat** - [www.classafloat.com](http://www.classafloat.com) 800-301-SAIL
Class Afloat offers the unique opportunity to sail around the world for a GAP year or for university courses through Acadia University. Each year 40 students spend 10 months on board the SY Fryderyck Chopin and visit over twenty-five ports of call. Class Afloat students forge new standards in leadership, personal development and academic excellence.

**SeaMester** – [www.seamester.com](http://www.seamester.com) 941-924-2900
SeaMester delivers unique educational journeys at sea where students spend a semester sailing between countless global locations. It offers students the gift of discovering the world by sea. Students earn college credits and work toward professional certifications in sailing and scuba diving in some of the world’s most incredible destinations.

**Semester at Sea** [www.sea.edu](http://www.sea.edu)
While traveling the world on a cruise ship students take challenging academic courses. Students receive academic credit from the University of Virginia.

**Sea Semester at Woods Hole** [www.sea.edu](http://www.sea.edu)
Students take courses in oceanography, science, social sciences, humanities and political science and credit is offered through Boston University. Students study on land in Cape Cod for six weeks and then take to the sea for advanced research.

**West Island College Class Afloat** - [www.classafloat.com](http://www.classafloat.com)
Class Afloat offers young people from around the world the opportunity, in the microcosm of a sailing ship, to challenge a rigorous program of academic study. With Class Afloat, students are encouraged to stretch themselves outside their comfort zone to embrace global issues and set personal goals.
**Work and/or Internship Programs**

**American University -** [www.american.edu/spexs/augap](http://www.american.edu/spexs/augap) 202-895-4859
American University offers a one semester or one year Gap Program that combines one part internship and one part college experience. Students engage in classroom work, discussions, guest speakers and site visits two days a week. The coursework is in American Politics, Global Business in the fall and American Politics and International Affairs in the spring. Three days a week they have a mentored internship in Washington D.C as well as advisors helping them with resumes and cover letters.

**Dynamy -** [www.dynamy.org](http://www.dynamy.org) 508-755-2571
Dynamy’s Internship Year accepts young people ages 17 to 22 for a nine month long residential program which includes full-time student internships, a wilderness expedition, individual advising and mentoring, community service, and optional college credit seminars through Clark University.

**Global Routes –** [www.globalroutes.org](http://www.globalroutes.org) 413-585-8895
This unique teaching internship program offers an unparalleled exchange of knowledge and friendship within the four walls of a classroom. Whether you are considering Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, India, Tanzania or Thailand, all of their internship programs share the same model.

**Projects Abroad -** [www.projects-abroad.com](http://www.projects-abroad.com) 888-839-3535
Projects Abroad is the leading organizer of volunteer placements across five continents. They offer a diverse range of teaching, conservation, medical journalism and work experience projects, plus the opportunity to become part of an overseas community.
The Year of National Service - A Free Gap Year Option

AmeriCorps - [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org) 202-606-5000
AmeriCorps is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Members commit to serve full time for a year at a non-profit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and strengthen community groups. Large nationally known groups such as Boys & Girls Club, habitat for Humanity, and the American Red Cross are part of AmeriCorps.

City Year - [www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org) 617-927-2500
City Year was founded on the belief that young people can change the world. Their City Youth Year Service Corps unites more than 1,400 young people ages 17 - 24 for a demanding year of full-time community service, leadership development and civic engagement. These young leaders come from diverse backgrounds and put their idealism to work by tutoring and mentoring school children, reclaiming public spaces, and organizing after-school programs and school vacation camps.

National Civilian Conservation Corps - [www.corpsnetwork.org](http://www.corpsnetwork.org)
The Corps Network has a motto of ‘strengthening America through service and conservation’. There are many opportunities to serve in many areas such as disaster relief the environment and national parks to name a few.

Other Websites to Check

[www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com) A large resource of information regarding backpacking.

[www.nascc.org](http://www.nascc.org) The Corps Network operates in many states. Serving the nation to obtain abilities for work readiness, educational advancement, civic engagement etc.

[www.iicd-volunteer.org](http://www.iicd-volunteer.org) Institute for International Cooperation and Development. For people with a desire to travel the world and to do good at the same time. Volunteers take part in development and community work with projects in Africa, Central American and Brazil.

[www.gapwork.com](http://www.gapwork.com) A website of Gap Year ideas and resources.

[www.TheLeap.co.uk](http://www.TheLeap.co.uk) Information on how to find the best Gap programs for their interest and the countries they would like.
Questions to Ask Gap Year Programs

Who is leading the programs and how trained are these counselors and in what areas?

How are they equipped in an international setting?

What type of support system is in place?

Safety- What medical training do they have? What contingency are in place for emergency situations, evacuations, medical and other insurances?

What type of phone and computer service is available?

Day to Day what do the students do? Is there travel, community service, learning a language etc. Is it a structured program with supervision? How much time is spent each day doing this?