

Outdoor Education



Being skilled in outdoor education is enables graduates to work in many fields — from teaching in schools, working in outdoor pursuit centres, to being adventure tourism operators and — given the right experience — in management.

INDUSTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To become an outdoor recreation instructor you need to have a first aid certificate and depending on the specific activity you choose, you may need certain qualifications.

HOW MUCH COULD I EARN AFTER MY DEGREE?

Pay for outdoor recreation instructors varies, but they usually earn between \$20,000 and \$45,000 a year. Many instructors are self-employed or work on short-term seasonal contracts. According to the 2006 Census, outdoor recreation instructors earned an average of \$23,900 a year and worked an average of 27 hours per week. This includes full and part time workers.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB?

Chances of getting a job as an outdoor recreation instructor are good for people who are well qualified and experienced. The number of outdoor recreation guides and instructors doubled between 1996 and 2006, from 594 to 1,314.

WHAT TYPE OF EMPLOYERS CAN I WORK FOR?

Outdoor recreation instructors can be employed by:

- Schools, polytechnics and universities
- Adventure and tourism companies
- Outdoor recreation centres such as Outward Bound

CAREER PROGRESSION

Outdoor recreation instructors begin their careers as assistant instructors. As their skills and experience improve, they may progress to work in more specialised roles and become senior or sole charge instructors.

Due to the high intensity and physical demands of the work, many outdoor recreation instructors move into less physical demanding roles in coordinating or training as they become older. A large proportion of outdoor recreation instructors also move into management roles in outdoor recreation centres, and tourism and adventure companies.

Information Source: www.careers.govt.nz

Information in this brochure was correct at time of printing May 2010

Mike started at AUT with his eyes on a Diploma in Outdoor Recreation - he finished with a Bachelor of Sport and Recreation and his own tourism company on the Coromandel Peninsula. With seven tour guides working in the peak season, Mike's role can see him turning his hand from front-of-house receptionist duties and guiding kayak tours to marketing and advertising. "Like most jobs it comes with its fair share of challenges but is hugely rewarding and a lot of fun. Had I not attended AUT I would not be doing what I am doing today."



MIKE GROGAN
AUT UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF SPORT AND RECREATION
(OUTDOOR EDUCATION)