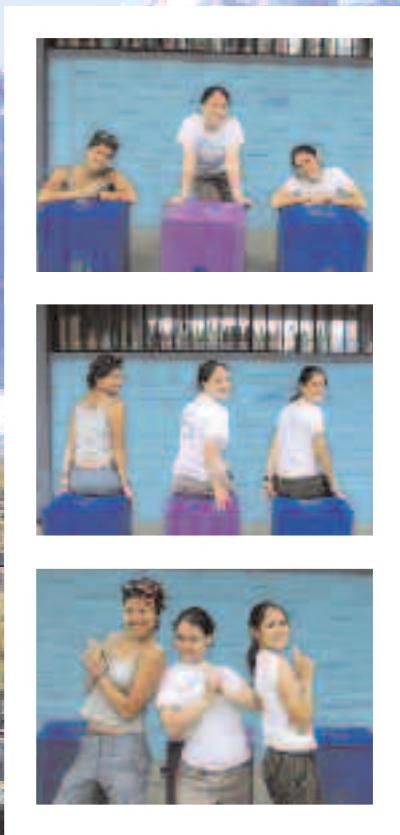


ONE MORE STEP ALONG THE WORLD I GO



Not sure what to do after school? Confused about university or just don't feel ready to get back into study just yet? A gap year may be just what you need to get yourself sorted...

BY ALICE MARMION

Most gap year projects give you skills that are valued by employers

Parents' view:

Some parents worry that their children might stop working and lose the interest to continue with their education, especially those who have to be encouraged to work hard at school, but all in all, few are actually against the idea. There have been some very sad and well-publicised cases of accidents and even deaths occurring during gap year programmes, which would naturally make most parents worry, especially if their child is doing a physically demanding activity or is in a remote area of the world. However, most organisations take health and safety very seriously; the Year Out Group works hard to promote common aims among organisations and has government backing to ensure gapers are safe.

University views:

Uni tutors are usually happy for people to differ entry but there are some exceptions, mainly in the science and maths field or in strongly academic universities. If tutors can see that a gap year will help the subject of study then they're bound to be impressed. In fact some tutors notice that gapers are usually highly motivated, well organised, communicative and mature. Similarly, employers are aware of the skills that could be gained or enhanced by a year out.