

- ▶ taking a gap year
- ▶ applying for a placement
- ▶ placement interviews

### Internet research

Search for the keywords *gap year* to read about some of the ways students (and other age groups) are using their gap years.

## 4.6 Case study Gap years and career breaks

### Brainstorming

**1** Brainstorm the advantages and disadvantages of taking a year off before or after university or in mid-career. How many different ways of spending a gap year can you think of?

### Listening

**2**  2.01–2.06 Listen to six interviews with people who took a gap year and answer the questions.

- 1 When and where did they take their year out?
- 2 Were their experiences positive, negative or mixed? Why?

### Scan reading

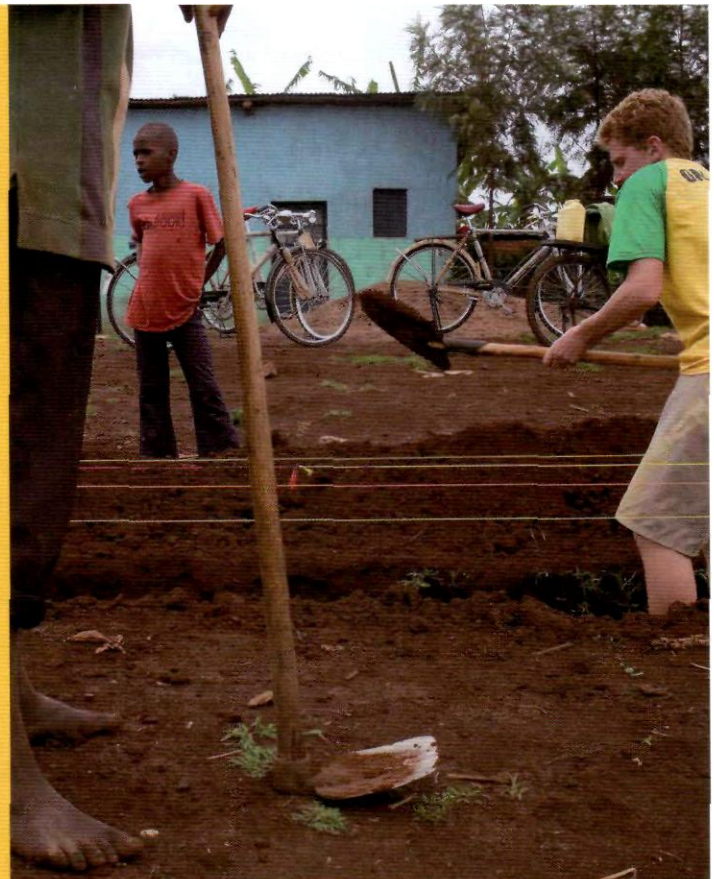
**3** Read the advertisement and answer the questions.

- 1 Who can apply for a gap-year placement, and when?
- 2 What are the four benefits of a gap-year placement mentioned in the advertisement?
- 3 What kind of work is available?
- 4 Do you get paid/have to pay?
- 5 How do you apply?

# Want to change the world, or just want a change?

Whether you are still a student or already in work, a gap-year placement is a unique opportunity to broaden your horizons, enhance your CV and step back from your studies or career to decide what you want to do with your life. Perhaps more importantly, a gap-year placement is the chance to do something concrete and tangible to help people in need in underprivileged areas of the world.

Placements are designed for people over 17 years of age, and run for six or nine months throughout the world. All placements begin with an intensive orientation course to help you find your feet; for some countries, an optional ten-day intensive language course is recommended. Participants work as volunteers in sectors such as education, conservation, medical support and care work. Food and accommodation are provided, but participants pay their own travel costs.



To apply, choose your destination and complete and send in the application form (downloadable from our website [www.gapyearplacement.org](http://www.gapyearplacement.org)) together with your CV.

Please note that, due to an increasing number of applications, places cannot be guaranteed. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a selection interview in their country of residence.