



Teaching Swimming Abroad

Sophie Bannister
Swimming Teacher
Camp America



UK teaching qualifications are recognised in many countries. There are a number of companies around the world which offer opportunities for qualified swimming teachers from the UK to teach in the sun!

After successfully completing the ASA Level 2 Swimming Teacher Qualification through SwimUKs Swim Up programme, Sophie Bannister has shown what can be done with qualifications like these.

Over the summer Sophie worked on a summer activity camp for children in Cape Cod. When she came back we took the opportunity to discuss her experiences:

What did you do whilst you were there?

I worked primarily as a general counsellor helping look after a cabin of 8 children. I used the qualifications and skills I gained from the apprenticeship and taught swimming to all the children who picked this as their 'interest group' every morning for the whole summer from 9-11am. I life guarded once a day when the kids had their beach party .I also learnt and taught new skills such as windsurfing, canoeing, horse riding, and climbing.

How did your apprenticeship help make this possible?

The camps hire you for skills and personality. Having the apprenticeship on my record really did help. It made my employer take serious note of my application. It shows I have worked hard to gain my qualifications in swimming, my NVQ and my **NPLQ**. I also did Paediatric first aid and sports leadership - I think they helped too!

So many people apply to work at summer camps abroad and many get turned away as competition is fierce. Camp America only wants the best they can get and straight away I was assured I would get a great placement due to my qualifications. Many people often get asked to take a lifeguard course or the American Red Cross certificate but because I had the skills and qualifications, I automatically did not need to do this and could get straight on with my new role.

How do you think the experience has developed you?

All the experience I had also helped me to be confident to enter the unknown and teach what I knew in a completely new environment. The apprenticeship programme really gave me the skills I needed and which I can now take back home and continue to develop my career.

Useful Contacts:

Camp America: www.campamerica.co.uk

Thomson Holidays: www.tuitraveljobs.co.uk

Buna Camp: www.bunac.org/swimming Email: camps@bunac.org.uk

To find out about training to be a swimming teacher, contact us

01273 414214 www.swimuk.org