

Profile: Cassie Lindsay



Hometown:

Dunedin, New Zealand

Program:

Work USA Plus

Length of time spent overseas?

1 year!

Tell us where you lived and what you got up to in the United States?

I am living in Salem Massachusetts. October was heaps of fun! It was like Halloween everyday with people coming into the store in their costumes and plus every weekend there was something happening downtown. I've been to New York City for an amazing week meeting tons of great people, 10 days in Washington DC which was super cool, and had lots of fun checking out Boston too!

What are some of the experiences that you had which made an impact on you?

The security over here is super scary and it's not just at the airports. A lot of the major tourist attractions have metal detectors, bag checks and it seems more rules than when you're flying! In DC there are guards all over the place carrying huge guns around the capital building, but it is just normal over here.

What Americans know about NZ is funny. They have no idea how far away New Zealand is! All the time I get asked questions like; Do you have T.V there? Is it summer all year round?

Were there any times that were hard?

Finding jobs can be tough in a small town especially in the off season. Also finding a place to live was the hardest. Rent here is crazy expensive and I found a lot of people just didn't get back to you.

What are your 3 favourite memories of living and working in the USA?

- 1) Having random strangers come up and calmly announce they are Psychic. This is okay and quite normal in Salem - just go with it!!
- 2) Being told you can't say "sweet as" to customers. My boss thought I was telling people "sweet ass".
- 3) End of Halloween work party! Good times and lots of laughs.



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How did you find employment in the USA?

The first job I got here was when signing up for an account at the bank. I was telling the bank manager all about my trip and he said he knew someone looking for help and took me right over to meet her where I was hired on the spot. I also spent a lot of time sending out emails and filling in applications at stores that are hiring.

Do you have any advice for someone who wants a American adventure?

Go for it! There is so much to see and do and so many great people out there for you to meet. Until you come to such a large country you don't realise how small NZ really is.

What is something unexpected/different/strange about the USA compared with other places you have lived?

One of the strangest things about the USA is they mostly work in cash or credit. You can't just charge everything to your eftpos card and a lot of places have a minimum credit purchase amount.

Has working in the USA benefited your career work experience?

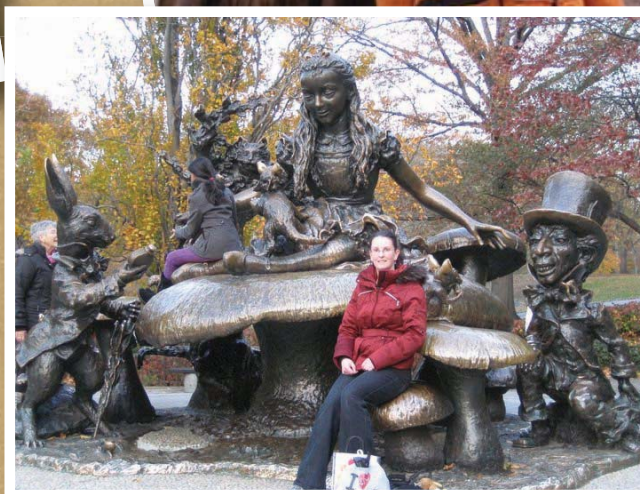
Definitely. I have some gained some new skills from the jobs I have been doing while here.

What did you find valuable in going to the USA on an IEP program?

The support is really amazing and communication from BUNAC is really good too! They give great advice and helpful hints on how to get work and where to find places to stay.

What next? Where to next?

When I get home I will head back to work to save some money . . . Europe here I come!



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