

# Profile: Raewyn Brandon

## Hometown:

Te Kuiti / Hamilton

## Program:

Work USA Plus

## Tell us about where you lived and what you got up to in USA?

So far I have been in New York City the whole time. I have moved around in the city a lot though while I was trying to find a more permanent place – Long Island City, Upper West Side, Financial District and now Hell's Kitchen. The whole time I have been here I have been working full time. In the weekends I have been getting out and wandering the city and meeting people, eating great food and seeing the sites!

## Type of job?

I work for a company called Behance - the largest online platform for creative professionals. I am a graphic designer, and mainly do print design for them.

I lined this up before I came to New York. It was simply through my portfolio online that they found me and wanted me to join them.

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

Mainly the culture shock of being in a big city! I have never been to a big city before, but its great, I love being in amongst amazing architecture and design, everywhere you go in this city is so beautiful and different, very inspiring and creative.

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

1. Simply seeing the beautiful sites of the city.
2. Seeing all the diverse and crazy people in the city.
3. Going to the conference that my company holds and being part of the design of the whole thing.

## Were there any times that were hard?

Of course. The culture in the city is so different, New York is not an easy city to just relax and enjoy casually, it's a little more intense and difficult to get things done. This can be overwhelming at times, but slowly getting used to it.



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

Everything! I haven't been anywhere other than New Zealand, I hadn't even traveled New Zealand or lived in a big city before. The people are different, the way they do things, they way they see things. It's all so very different to where I have come from!

## Has working in the USA benefited your career work experience?

Heck yes! The company I am working with is awesome and getting pretty high up there and well known. It is going to look so great on my CV!

## What is your advice for someone who wants an American adventure?

If you want an adventure, then don't settle down into one city, travel all over the states, I want to do that more, but I am kind stuck in New York with my very busy job and lifestyle here.

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

The pre-departure session was very helpful in preparing me for the culture shock. The year long visa is great, having the freedom to both travel and work is great also.



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