

## Case Study: Shannon – From Cardiff to the other side of the world

### Details:

Shannon, was an undergraduate at Cardiff University, studying in the School of Earth and Ocean sciences. She had no sailing experience and wasn't sure on her career path post Cardiff University.

### Voyages:

Shannon joined Challenge Wales in 2014 initially on a 5 day Competent Crew course funded through Cardiff University. Subsequently she joined Challenge Wales for a Tall Ships Regatta which finished in London.



### The Results:

- Shannon enjoyed her sail training experiences on Challenge Wales and in 2015 decided to apply for the Association of Sail Training Organisations overseas exchange.
- She didn't think she would be successful in her application but was the only sail training trainee in the UK to be selected for the programme and Shannon went to Australia to sail on a Tall Ship. Her application was supported by Challenge Wales
- Shannon said that the sail training experiences on Challenge Wales and in Australia gave her the confidence to have a career in sailing
- On return to the UK Shannon successfully achieved her Yachtmaster Offshore Sailing qualifications after completing a 4 month course
- After passing her Yachtmaster exam Shannon started work on yacht deliveries overseas for several months gaining more experience
- A couple of months later Shannon started work as a Skipper and Sailing Instructor for an outdoor adventure programme in the British Virgin Islands working with 12 teenagers every three weeks
- Shannon is now back in the UK working with young people and planning her next sailing adventure and volunteers for Challenge Wales
- Sail training has given Shannon the opportunity to travel, meet new people and develop skills and confidence she never knew she had!



“ Even if sailing is not something you want to do, a sail training experience is 100% worth it! Without that first voyage on Challenge Wales I wouldn't have a career in sailing

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