



**CATHY ALDER  
EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT —BOTANY CAMPUS**

I have had jobs in various industries from banking to television but really didn't get into a full time customer service role until I went to Japan at 30 and worked in a golf resort restaurant for 6 months.

My aim when leaving TVNZ and going off to Japan was to get enough experience to apply for a job with Air New Zealand as an International Flight Attendant.

When I returned from Japan I applied immediately and got my dream job with Air New Zealand.

I spent 10 wonderful years travelling around the world and learning about new cultures, trying new foods and meeting some amazing people.....there was also a lot of shopping!!!

The feeling you get when you put on that uniform is one of pride and excitement everyday you go to work.

I loved the day the roster came out as it was the chance to see another new and beautiful destination.

I felt after 10 years it was time for a new challenge and time to learn new skills so I applied for a job with ITC. I had never been a teacher and I was terrified of speaking in public so this was my biggest challenge to date and I am so glad that I did it as I have grown and learn't so many new skills and my knowledge of the industry has grown through teaching the subjects we teach at ITC. I have also had the privilege of being the team leader of the wonderful Botany tutor team and now I am embarking on another challenge as the Employment Consultant for ITC. I'm excited and look forward to helping the students realise their dream of a job in Travel and Tourism by giving them the knowledge and tools they need to achieve this!

My advice to you all is to take chances, follow your dreams, be positive about your ability to do new things and just go for it!

You need to write a list of all the things you need to do to reach your goals and you need to do everything you can to cross every one of those things off your list.

Look at the big picture.....what is your end goal.....don't think about how hard it is... just think about how far you have come, how far you will go with the right attitude and how good it will feel when you achieve it!

INTERNATIONAL » »  
TRAVEL COLLEGE  
» » ITC » » OF NEW ZEALAND



### SARNDRA STEPHENS EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT — CITY CAMPUS

Oh so many years ago I started my career as a primary school teacher but travelling was very much a part of who I was. I had travelled to Australia on my own when I was only 16 and had taken a year off Teachers Training College to go and live and work in the USA when I was 18. As soon as I completed my 2 years teaching in NZ to get my certificate I was off on my big OE. I planned to be away for 2 years and was away for 5.

It was when I was living in the UK that I started my Travel career. I had an opportunity to join Top Deck Travel and work as part of a tour guiding team. I spent about 8 months of every year touring Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, the Eastern Bloc countries along with Greece and Turkey with a whole bunch of amazing people. The tours ranged from 21 days to 6 weeks and were full of incredible experiences. I'd finish each season exhausted and go back to teaching in London for the winter months before going back out on the road for another year of fun, adventures and challenges.

When I returned to NZ I became a tour guide with Contiki Holidays and loved traipsing people all over NZ showing them what an amazing country we have on our own doorstep.

After years of living out of a back pack I decided to settle down a bit and started working for Flight Centre in Newmarket. I loved sending people on their well deserved holidays to so many different exciting destinations. From Flight Centre I moved to the Corporate Traveller (up the stairs from Flight Centre) where I became a Million Dollar Consultant.

I blended my teaching and travel careers together when I came to work at ITC as a tutor. I taught for several years before joining the management team for a year. I would have continued at ITC had it not been for a lovely man who had me travel to the top of the Northern Territory in Australia to live. It was an Aboriginal settlement known as Nulunbuy or Gove and because I had my IATA Diploma I got one of the best jobs in Gove, working with Qantas doing Check-in and as a travel consultant, we would do both in one shift.

Brisbane was next and I worked for two Travel and Tourism colleges as a tutor before returning to New Zealand and ITC, where it has been a pleasure interviewing and enrolling so many great students over the years. My new role as an Employment Consultant is just as exciting. I now get to help pathway all you great students into the industry. ITC is an incredible place to start this journey and gain the tools and experience you need to be a success. So be the best you can be and enjoy your new career.