**CO: AUDIO James Clark’s gap-year** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92528052>

(doc raccourci joint)

* Transcript

‘ This summer as usual , high school graduates are searching for dorm rooms, bed sheets or lap tops for college. Others are getting their passports in order to head off on a kind of sabbatical.   
A growing number of students are taking what’s called ‘a gap-year’ after they’ve been accepted into college as NPR’s Tovia Smith reports:

As a self- described perfectionist at one of the best prep schools around Boston, James Clark didn’t really surprise anyone when he got into a bunch of top colleges: what was surprising was when he wrote back to his first choice saying he wasn’t coming … at least for now.

*- I mean , unless I turn out to be a Rock- and -Roll star or something like that , you know, I’ ll never have time to do whatever you want and so I knew that I had to seize this opportunity* so…

Clarks says he desperately needed time to get out of his books, as he puts it, and into the real world. So instead of hanging his corkboard in his freshman dorm, he’s off this fall to do field research in the Tibetan mountains, martial arts in Tiananmen Square and scuba diving somewhere in South America. Clarks says he can’t wait to do what he wants without worrying what colleges will think like he always had to do in high school.

- *You can’t just say Oh you know this is what I wanna do .I revise it in my head , you know, saying: ‘is this right?’   
 I wanna do things a little bit differently than I have been doing them.*

*- You want to loosen up a little?*

*- Yeah definitely! I mean I wanna unwind.*

Gap-years have long been popular in Europe. In the US there’s no hard national data but colleges, consultants and travel abroad programs all say more kids are doing it.