

## Travel Counsellor training program

# WorkFaces

A weekly look at who does what job in Manitoba



## Breanne Gilchrist

- **TITLE:** Travel Counsellor
- **SALARY:** \$19,000 - \$40,000 per year

"I guess you could say that traveling is in my blood", says Breanne Gilchrist "I can't see myself doing anything else." Breanne credits her parents for her love of travel, as her family has been taking trips since she was born.

Breanne has transformed her love of travel into a successful career as a Travel Counsellor, working for TravelCUTS at the University of Manitoba campus. She first attended the Travel Counsellor course at Robertson College which prepared her for her chosen career.

"Without the knowledge that I gained from Robertson I would not be able to do this job", says Breanne. "I was actually able to work part time in the industry while I was still in school, and upon my graduation I was able to work full time for TravelCUTS."

The Travel industry is currently experiencing a shortage of qualified counsellors. There are a number of unfilled job opportunities awaiting candidates with the proper training.

Robertson College is the only school in Manitoba to offer a Travel Counsellor training program, and the program is endorsed by the Canadian Institute of Travel Counsellors.

The College proudly boasts a 100% job placement rate for graduates.

Breanne advises that a typical day consists of "booking, issuing and re-issuing tickets. We sell a wide variety of things from airfare, insurance, and sun packages to rail passes and hotels." She says that "someone wanting to become a travel counsellor should have good people skills", as a great deal of each day is spent communicating with clients and service providers.

When asked what her favourite part of the job is, Breanne responded "I'm always learning something new. My brain definitely gets a work-out, some days more than others" and her least favourite part is the constant temptation to take advantage of the great deals and "just get away".

Breanne points out that a new Travel Counsellor should expect to obtain a starting salary in the \$20,000 range, but that can also be supplemented by bonuses and commission when "targets are met".

Individuals interested in pursuing a career in the travel industry are encouraged to contact Robertson College at 943-5661, or visit their website at [www.robertsoncollege.com](http://www.robertsoncollege.com). The next Travel Counsellor program is scheduled to start in January 2006.

**ROBERTSON  
COLLEGE**  
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