

ELLIE RYAN

2022: ADF GAP YEAR PROGRAM. AIR FORCE, AIRBASE PROTECTION



What inspired you to apply for the ADF Gap Year?

I always wanted to join the Defence Force but was unsure in what particular job role and entry method I wanted to join through. Throughout the Gap year Program, I have been able to experience what a full time Defence career looks like without the 4+ year commitment. The flexibility of the Gap Year meant I can keep my options open and have these 12 months to decide whether I want to extend my military career or potentially look at other avenues for my future. All while keeping myself financially secure, travelling around the country and making lifelong mates.



What has your year been like so far in the Gap Year program?

So far the program has been the most challenging but rewarding 6 months of my life. The initially military recruit training was one of the most challenging things I have ever experienced but the self-growth, maturity and mates I gained is priceless.

Describe a typical day in the program

For the particular training I am undertaking normal day starts around 6:30am. I drive over to the training facility and depending on the day either have weapons training or physical training. Weapons training consists of learning about the internal and external parts of the weapon and how to safety conduct drills to strengthen knowledge and capability of the Airforce security mustering. Physical training is a mixture between strength and endurance training. This takes place at the gym doing weights or running on the track. Lunch at the mess usually is around 11:30am and then back to work by 12:30pm continuing with weapons or physical training. 4pm typically marks end of day where Sargent will give us orders for the next day.

What are you looking forward to for the rest of the program?

I am looking forward to completing my security training, being posted out into a new Unit and getting the opportunity to be posted to another location around Australia.

What do you miss about Catholic College?

Strangely I think I miss the simplicity and routine of school. Seeing your friends and teachers each and every day. I also miss the support and advice Learning Mentors would provide throughout my six-year journey at Catholic College

How did being a student at Catholic College prepare you for the next phase of your life?

I think Catholic College and its careers pathway team was able to prepare me for the challenges I have faced through its extensive knowledge which made my entire recruiting process much easier.

Note: this was written in the second half of 2022.