

# Gap-year teens staying away

GAP-YEAR students are trying to extend their overseas stays because of the UK's rising unemployment.

Projects Abroad said it was receiving a growing requests from young people who did not want to return home because of the grim prospects of finding jobs.

More than 130 requests have been made this year on behalf of youngsters working in third world countries.

The firm's founder and chairman, Dr Peter Slowe, said: "In nearly 20 years of operation we have never seen young people

basically not wanting to come back home. This is a new phenomenon."

Projects Abroad is the largest commercial gap year company in Britain, offering projects ranging from two weeks to 12 months in countries including Romania, Ghana, Brazil, Mexico and India.

A growing number of school and university-leavers are planning gap years because of the recession.

The news follows a report that this summer's school leavers could be the hardest hit in terms of finding jobs since the crash of 1929.

