

Atit Tunsuwan

Country: Thailand

Course: Diploma of Hospitality Management (including Commercial Cookery)

Institute: TAFE NSW – Sydney Institute, Ultimo College

Atit Tunsuwan first heard about TAFE NSW from IDP education agency in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He began taking English courses at the IDP several years before he came to TAFE NSW.

“I decided that I wanted to come and learn English in a western country. I first travelled to Tasmania to get a feel for the language and then came home for a few months and made the final decision to move to Australia permanently to learn English and attend TAFE NSW.

When he first arrived in Sydney he took some English language classes at TAFE NSW and worked part-time in a restaurant. He enjoyed the food industry and enrolled at TAFE NSW – Sydney Institute in order to improve his English and culinary skills.

The Ultimo campus has a hospitality management and commercial cookery facility which includes the campus restaurant The Apprentice, which is open to the paying public, operated by students under the guidance of their teachers and provides silver-service standards.

Atit loved the facilities at Ultimo College. He was impressed by the high standard of kitchen equipment. He found the baking facilities well stocked with modern equipment.

The biggest challenge Atit overcame was developing his English language skills. He found it difficult in the beginning to understand the teachers but after his English language course and attending tutorial classes in the library, his English improved.

His favourite part about studying at TAFE NSW was the teachers.

“All the faculty members were friendly and well educated. And I learned a lot from them.”

Upon completion of his diploma Atit found work in a hotel through a college job placement scheme and eventually applied for permanent residency because he loves Australia and eventually wants to be a head chef or own a restaurant.