TAFE Illawarra assists skilled migrants to secure jobs with the English for Employment program

TAFE Illawarra will be running the English for Employment program to assist skilled migrants with their job search strategies and language skills in Semester 1, 2012.

“We are very excited about the program which will help migrants to prepare for work, learn customer service and problem solving skills, prepare resumes and develop specific language skills to enter the workforce,” said Maureen Wren, Acting Head Teacher of English for Speakers of Other Languages.

According to former student, Liliya Apakova who came to Australia from Russia at the end of 2010 as a skilled migrant in tertiary education the program is very worthwhile.

“I was a University Lecturer and taught English as a Foreign Language. I also worked as a tour guide and translator in Russia,” she said.

“I believe that this course helped me, and will help other new migrants, to identify possible employment pathways. The course helps us to better present our experience and skills when applying for jobs,” she added.

“In fact the course consists of a network of people who are supportive and willing to share information and ideas. Especially the teachers who provide personal career path information and advice which helps to build our confidence,” she said.

“Overall the program is very positive and assists students with job seeking strategies such as canvassing employers, gaining personal contacts or doing voluntary work. All in all it is a great way for skilled migrants to realise their full potential,” she added.

English for Employment is a full-time course and is held three days per week, 15 hours per week for ten weeks. Participants will also take part in sessions run by human resource specialists and employers to provide them with helpful advice on the current job market as well as interactive workshops.

The entry level English language skills required are IELTS score of 5.5 - 6 or equivalent as well as permanent residency. The course is also government funded so it is free to all successful participants.

An information session will be held:
Date: Wednesday 14 March 2012
Time: 9.30am
Venue: TAFE Illawarra – Wollongong Campus
Building I, Room G2D
Foleys Lane, Wollongong

The course will start on Wednesday 28 March and finish on Friday 1 June 2012.

For more information on the course contact Maureen Wren on 4229 0477. For media enquiries please contact Maria Sevastis on 4222 2928.