

Higher Education at TAFENSW

A record number of people graduated this month with TAFE NSW higher education degrees.

Enrolments in TAFE NSW Higher Education degrees have grown from 23 in 2011 to 772 students enrolled in 2014. This year, TAFE NSW is offering eight degree programs to potential students.

The 27 graduates from Sydney TAFE's Design Centre Enmore and Northern Sydney Institute graduated with a Bachelor of Design (Interior Design), a Bachelor of 3D Art and Animation, an Associate Degree in 3D Art and Animation or a Bachelor of Information Technology (Network Security).

Speaking at the graduation held at Parliament House, Pam Christie, Managing Director of TAFE NSW, said TAFE NSW moved into higher education delivery to expand higher education opportunities.

"Employers and students want degrees that focus on applied skills and can immediately translate into employment – a proven strength of TAFE NSW," Ms Christie said.

"All our degree programs are developed in close collaboration with industry, to ensure currency and relevance so students are work ready and employers can be assured that graduates have the skills they need.

"Our class sizes are small to support personalised learning.

"Whether it's in the classroom, a studio or workplace learning, our students learn through a range of individual and group-based tasks with opportunities to demonstrate skills and knowledge within a friendly and supportive learning environment," Ms Christie said.

One graduate, Lucia Slappendel, who studied a Bachelor of Design (Interior Design) at Sydney TAFE's Design Centre Enmore, said she chose to study there because it had a really good reputation.

"I knew people who'd studied interior design and also graphic design there. They recommended it to me," Lucia said.

"I enjoyed my time there very much as there was a good community feeling and I made great friends.

"It was different to university where you're really on your own. The classes were a lot smaller at Design Centre Enmore.

"The teachers were there for you and there was a support network.

"I'm currently doing an internship, but I see my future overseas.

I would love to work internationally – especially in London," Lucia said.

Tim Strain from Drummoyne, who studied a Bachelor of 3D Art and Animation at Sydney TAFE's Design Centre Enmore, said he decided to do the three year degree since it would be globally more recognised and it would make him more employable.

"I really enjoyed my time studying at Sydney TAFE's Design Centre Enmore," Tim said.

“The teachers were really friendly – the kind of guys you could have a beer with or go to for advice.

“Thanks to my Head Teacher Richard Cass, I’m hoping to get an internship with a prestigious studio very soon.

“In five to 10 years’ time I want to be heavily involved in the animation industry, making something that I love,” Tim said.

Rabi Imam who complete the Bachelor of Information Technology (Network Security) at the Northern Sydney Institute Meadowbank Campus, said he decided to study the course because of the practical learning style and my previous study experience with TAFE which he enjoyed.

“I was able to directly contact the course coordinator at the Institute and find out that all the subjects offered in this degree were very relevant and appealing,” Rabi said.

“I enjoyed the strong practical component of the course and working with my fellow students in hands-on competitions such as the Cyber Challenge.

“I had great support from academic staff and heaps of opportunities to further both my theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

“The course had a very strong focus on building practical skills, unlike similar courses provided by other providers.

“I am currently applying for roles in IT, but my dream is to set up my own IT Company in the next 5-10 years and conquer the world,” Rabia said.

TAFE NSW has a reputation for quality and responsiveness, and strong links with industry. This ensures our graduates gain skills most needed and valued by employers. We are proud that our graduates are immediately employable and productive in the workplace.

For more information about TAFE NSW HE Courses go to <http://www.highered.tafensw.edu.au>