

Media Release

August 2014

International acclaim in sports education

TAFE Queensland Brisbane in collaboration with the Thai Ministry of Sport and Recreation are offering Thai students a unique opportunity to learn English and study sport and recreation in Australia to improve the country's sporting education and international standing.

As part of the partnership agreement, the Thai government will provide each student a job when they return home as sports teachers in schools and universities.

Darryl Blumel, Director of Studies, General Education, Language and Literacy at TAFE Queensland Brisbane said the program enables Thai students to be educated in Australia and then return to Thailand as internationally educated professionals.

Pat, a young Thai woman and her four peers were the first cohort of students from Thailand last year to start this English to sport education journey at TAFE Queensland Brisbane.

"It's not an easy course, but it's not hard either!

"It was scary at first, not knowing how to speak a lot of English. People in Australia speak very fast," she laughs.

This is a four year program; many students do not get the opportunity to go home. Only two of the four students had visited their families in the last year.

The first two years of the program are studied at TAFE Queensland Brisbane's Southbank campus. Students undergo an intensive English language course, then a Certificate III and IV in Fitness, followed by a Diploma of Fitness. In the third and fourth years, graduating students gain credit and direct entry to complete a degree in Sport and Exercise Science with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

"I had to write a 250 word assignment every day, but the more I talked to local people and the more I wrote and read, the easier it became. I'm now in my second year doing a Diploma of Fitness," Pat says proudly.

The federal government's Australian Education International (AEI) arm works with the Thai Ministry of Education on education and training policy and systems. Cooperation in education, science and training is a significant aspect of the bilateral relationship between Australia and Thailand. The education program reinforces the strong links between the two countries, fostering social, cultural, intellectual and economic engagement.

For more information on international programs contact TAFE Queensland Brisbane on +61 7 3244 5100 or visit tafebrisbane.edu.au/international.

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