Classy vision for future

International education is on the radar as a major growth industry for the Northern Territory

Worth $61 million to the NT economy in 2013–14, the sector currently generates about 500 jobs for Territorians.

But there are plans to increase the number of international students studying with NT educational providers, this year sitting at 2100.

The Northern Territory’s newest group of international students is being increasingly recognised, with graduates becoming a valuable resource for the Territory’s tight labour market.

“People are friendly and concerned, and it is a place where I can enjoy an independent life, which is something I really value,” said Bivish Ghimire, Masters of Engineering student at Charles Darwin University.

Ghimire comprehensively researched Charles Darwin University before moving from Nepal to the Territory to undertake coursework, industrial work experience, and project work in civil engineering.

As a student intent on furthering his career overseas, the content of the course was of prime importance to the 20-year-old postgraduate.

Beyond the attraction of pure engineering, without any management components, Bivish was keen to study a European-accredited Masters program at an institution offering ample support to international students.

“The Office of International Services at Charles Darwin University has a lot of resources to simplify the lives of overseas students, such as helping to find cheap accommodation,” he said.

Now undertaking his second and final year of study, Bivish has opted to help new international students acclimatise to the university and the Territory lifestyle, volunteering as a university student ambassador.

“I participate in Orientation Week and the Open Day to familiarise international students with the geography of the university, the different faculties, places to eat on campus, and with accommodation,” Bivish said.

“I also serve on the university’s Academic Board representing Masters’ students and discussing policy from the students’ perspectives, both matters affecting courses and university operations.

Bivish is keen to pursue an internship at a Territory engineering organisation this November, citing the Department of Infrastructure, Power and Water Corporation, and the Darwin and Palmerston City Councils as preferences.

“As a civil engineer I see lots of scope for development in the Northern Territory,” he said. “It’s a huge, huge place with lots of resources.

“I love Darwin, and I feel really good about being here.

“People are friendly and concerned, and it is a place where I can enjoy an independent life, which is something I really value.”

To find out more about StudyNT, visit: www.StudyNT.nt.gov.au

And #StudyNT

BIVISH GHIMIRE
Masters of Engineering student

Masters of Engineering student

Bivish Ghimire has been particularly popular.

There also remains strong growth in Humanitarian and Community Studies, Emergency and Disaster Management, and the MBA.

CDU’s international students typically become deeply involved in activities on campus and within the wider community.

The university’s Student Ambassadors Program has great appeal for international students.

The ambassadors volunteer their time and energy to supporting CDU events as well as visiting high schools around Darwin on behalf of CDU.

The Student Ambassadors have just finished working on Semester 1 Orientation Week during which they welcomed new students on to campus and helped them to settle into their lives as university students.

In return the Student Ambassadors have the opportunity to get to know people and places in Darwin that they might not have access to otherwise, and they gain skills in leadership, public speaking and team work. It is also an opportunity to expand their friendships through the 45-strong Student Ambassadors Program.

The new intake of CDU students who relocated to Darwin in a typically Territory fashion last week.

Northern Territory’s newest group of international students was greeted by a large python and a baby saltwater crocodile at a gala welcome function at Parliament House.

The students hail from countries including Nepal, the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia and will study at secondary schools, vocational education and training colleges, English language centres, as well as CDU.

The new arrivals bring the number of international students studying at Northern Territory institutions to more than 2100.