TAFE Illawarra offers Adult Migrant English Program to assist newly arrived migrants

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) offered at TAFE Illawarra assists newly arrived migrants to learn English and make a smooth transition to Australian society.

One student, Yu Qiang came to Australia in 2010 as a qualified Civil Engineer from China. Even though his qualifications were recognised by Engineering Australia, he chose to study English through AMEP at Wollongong Campus.

“My goal was to learn English so that I could say what I really meant and to find a job where I could use my qualifications and experience,” he said.

“I was very well supported at TAFE Illawarra and my teachers were excellent. Not only did I learn the language but I learnt about how to settle here into my new home,” he added.

“I enjoyed my English classes very much and in particular learning about the history of Australia, its culture and how the government works,” he said.

“I strongly encourage all new migrants to attend English classes and not give up on their dream to find the job that is best for them. It is also very important that migrants learn the jargon that relates to their chosen profession as well as everyday language skills,” he added.

Yu Qiang’s story is one of great success. After completing his Certificate in Spoken and Written English as well as a SkillMax course at Wollongong Campus, he was able to get a job as a Mining Engineer in Queensland.

The AMEP program provides a minimum of 510 hours of free English lessons and child care to newly arrived migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants. Classes are offered as full-time or part-time.

“If you are interested in learning English through the AMEP program you should attend an interview to assess your English level and develop a learning plan. You must also register for AMEP eligibility within six months of arriving in Australia,” said Ros Williams, Teacher of AMEP.

For more information on the AMEP program please contact Ros Williams on 4229 0025.