

Five reasons TO STUDY HOSPITALITY AT NZMA

Two years ago Yang Qian (Joe) packed up his life in Fu Jian Province China, and headed Down Under. His goal was to gain his Master's Degree in Economics – but after finding out about NZMA's world-class hospitality courses he decided to swap university for the hands-on training environment at NZMA Sylvia Park. And guess what? He couldn't be happier!

My parents thought I was nuts. I had already completed a Bachelor of Economics in China, and was coming to Auckland to gain my Master's. But after learning more about New Zealand's hospitality industry I had a change of heart. Hospitality really appealed to me because it's so practical. Growing up I always loved to perform, and I've rediscovered that love through hospitality. There's so much theatre around bartending and making cocktails. My goal now is to build a career in the hospitality industry – I really feel like I've found my niche.



Choosing NZMA was one of the best decisions I've made. Here are my five top reasons why it's a great place to study:

1) Location. Auckland is consistently named one of the top cities in the world to live and study in. It's clean and green and everything is literally on your doorstep – great beaches, hiking, vineyards, water sports, great restaurants, cafes and bars. Sylvia Park is a thriving industrial and business hub, just 20 minutes from the CBD by train, and NZMA's Sylvia Park Campus is a short walk from New Zealand's biggest shopping complex! It's very convenient!

2) Environment. NZMA is like your New Zealand family. Everyone is very friendly and encouraging, and it's a fun, supportive learning environment. It's very multicultural - all cultures are respected and celebrated. My classmates come from all over the world, including Korea, India, New Zealand and China. My English has improved a lot by talking with them, and sometimes we hang out together in our free time which is fun. The facilities at NZMA Sylvia Park are really good – we have a student-run café, a bar, restaurant, barista training room and several commercial kitchens, so it's like a real workplace environment. Classes are small and the tutors all come direct from industry so they know their stuff!

3) Education. We are not sitting in a boring classroom all day. Courses are hands-on and practical – we're making cocktails and coffees, waiting on tables, working as cashiers in the café. This vocational industry-based training gives you real workplace skills. The last six months of my course is a 600 hour paid internship. I'm doing my internship in the SKYCITY Auckland Casino Bar. It's a great place to do it because SKYCITY is the largest employer of hospitality staff in New Zealand, and there are lots of opportunities within the organisation.

4) Competitions. NZMA students have the chance to test their skills against industry professionals through competitions such as the prestigious NZChefs National Salon. Last year I entered two events in this competition – Innovative Cocktails and Classic Cocktails. I won gold medals and Best in Show for both! That was my first competition and I was just a beginner, so I couldn't believe I did so well. I learnt so much from training for, and competing in, this event. Plus the awards look great on my CV!

5) Employment. Students and graduates get free employment support through NZMA Careers. Their careers and employment advisors work with us to fine-tune our CV's, help us prepare for interviews and line up job opportunities for us. Each year they host huge Careers Fairs – the perfect way to meet potential employers and find jobs. NZMA has partnerships with many of NZ's top employers, who come straight to our school when they want the best hospitality staff! Thanks to the Careers Team we get loads of opportunities to gain work experience, as well as land casual, part-time and full-time work. I got a job with Vital Hospitality through last year's Careers Fair. This was really good for me because it was my first hospitality job with a local company and it really helped improve my English. Now I'm working for SKYCITY which is awesome.

These are a few of the reasons why I love studying at NZMA. But don't just take my word for it – come and check it out yourself!