

Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide

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A prospective student taking counselling from New Zealand officials over education opportunities in that country in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

'Kiwis lure us with wine classes'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: What better way to attract Indians to New Zealand than a lesson or two on making delicious wine! Well, with wine being the fifth largest export in New Zealand and the country grabbing titles for some award winning wines, the demand for experts in wine production, tasting, packaging, marketing and sales is increasing. The country is promoting its Viticulture and Wine Science courses in India in a big way to rope in some interested students.

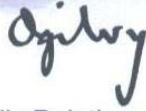
"Wine is very popular in our country and we have about 450 vineyards. We are trying to promote our wine courses and also have a tie up with an institute in Nasik which sends its students to New Zealand for some experience," Paul Vaughan, trade commissioner, New Zealand High Commission said.

Indian students have diplomas, certificate courses and bachelor degrees to

choose from and are given an overview of grape and wine production, evaluation and tasting, winery engineering, microbiology, chemistry and excursion.

"Students who pass out from our wine courses can get absorbed into any aspect of wine making, be it in production or the final sales. They can expect about 30,000 New Zealand dollars per annum, which is very good according to New Zealand standards. Since it is a specialised area, which requires skilled people, it is easier to get permanent residency with a year or two of work experience. And with the courses giving equal importance to theory and practical work, work opportunities are available and aplenty," Vivienne Kingsbury, international manager, Otago Polytechnic said

While some Indian students intend to come back to India and develop their vineyards or pioneer wine production, many others are lapped up wine companies in New Zealand itself. Anything for wine!



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New Zealand calling

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY

The picturesque locations of New Zealand have often been tempting for Indians. But there is one more reason to get tempted now, particularly for the student community. Foreign students planning to pursue research and join a Ph.D programme in New Zealand Universities will have to pay the fee prescribed for local students instead of what international students pay. It means Ph.D students end up paying 80 per cent less fee than what International students pay for other courses. "The Government has decided to encourage research in NZ universities and encourage international students to pursue research here," says Paul Vaughan, Trade Commissioner, New Zealand in India. Another enticing rider is that the spouse of the researcher would be allowed to work full time in NZ for the entire period of research. It is a double benefiting offer for researchers and I am sure it will attract

lot of Indian students," Mr. Vaughan felt.

Mr. Vaughan said the number of Indian students opting for NZ is growing every year as they have come to realise that education system of NZ is internationally high standards and degrees are accepted all over the globe. The part-time working hours for students have also been increased for foreign students making it further attractive. The PR is also easier to get if the degree is from NZ, which is another attraction for Indian students. The Seven State universities in NZ have introduced innovative courses like Viti Culture (Wine Tasting), Hospitality Management, Film Design Studio, Nursing Technology and Sports Management to attract foreign students. "When you study in New Zealand, you get real value for money as living conditions and tuition fees are among the lowest," Mr. Vaughan says. For further information one can log on to www.newzealandeducated.com/india.