

Skilled Migration Case Study

SANTOSH KHANAL

Dr Santosh Khanal moved to Sydney from Glasgow, UK in July 2008 on a business long stay 457 visa. Santosh was offered a full time appointment as a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Western Sydney (UWS).

Santosh started his research career in Nepal when he was awarded funding from the World Health Organisation in 2001 to conduct research on childhood blindness. He continued his career as a teaching fellow in Glasgow, UK while studying for his doctoral degree at the School of Life Sciences at Glasgow Caledonian University. He later became a Life Scientist Research Fellow conducting clinical trials and evaluating diagnostic tests in the same university until his move to Sydney in 2008. At UWS, he was involved in developing new treatment for a condition called 'dry eye', evaluating the efficacy of biomedical devices and investigating the possibility of using nanoparticles to diagnose diseases of the surface of the eye. Throughout his career as a life scientist, he has published peer-reviewed articles in high-ranking international scientific and clinical journals.

Santosh had been working for more than six months at UWS when he decided to apply for a NSW Skilled Sponsored 176 visa as a Life Scientist in early 2009. He was granted the visa by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in September 2009. Santosh says that "the skilled migration program offered by NSW is very streamlined and worked brilliantly for me". He believes that if the program can keep its momentum going, potential migrants will benefit from it.

Santosh is currently working as a Program Evaluation Officer at NPS: Better Choices, Better Health, an independent organisation funded by the Federal Department of Health and Aging to promote quality use of medicines and medical tests. He is very interested in his current work as it has very wide implications for society. His current role offers many opportunities and flexibilities and most importantly, he has been able to utilise the research experience he has gained to contribute towards better health in Australia and overseas. Santosh is currently studying for a Masters in Public Health part time to augment his knowledge and skills in public health.



Santosh says migrants should 'keep doing what you do well, once you're in Australia its very easy to settle and find a job.'

His wife Jyoti is working as a dental assistant at HCF, a health insurance fund. She is studying towards a certificate in oral health. Celina, their only child goes to child care.

Santosh says that he 'likes the lifestyle in Australia and enjoys going to parks with his family on weekends.' His skills opened many doors for him to live in other western countries but says that 'only Australian way of life' appealed to him.

His message to migrants is to 'keep on doing what you do well, once you're in Australia, it's very easy to settle and find a job.'

For more information on migrating to NSW go to

www.business.nsw.gov.au