



Name: Veronica Fianza
 Age: 18
 Employer: Hyatt Regency
 Location: Sydney
 Chef Apprentice
 Studying: Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
 Citi New Recruits Program: NSW

Veronica Fianza fell in love with cooking when she was five years old. Visiting family in Chile, she spent quality time in the kitchen with her great grandma, learning how to make soups and empanadas.

Her passion for cooking has only grown, and now aged 18, Veronica is an apprentice chef in a kitchen that's part of the global hospitality company, the five-star Hyatt Regency in Sydney.

But, as a year 10 student with no experience yet a desire to learn, Veronica quizzed her school's careers advisor about how to pursue a hospitality career. That's when she heard about the free three-week Citi New Recruits Program and soon after signed up.

As part of the program, Veronica did a week's work experience in the kitchen at the Pullman Hotel in Sydney. There, she got her first real taste of life as a chef and what it involved.

"The head chef taught me lot of skills and gave me advice, and because I was new to the industry, that was really helpful", Veronica says.

Following this work placement, Veronica returned to school, finished year 12, and in February this year, started a full-time apprenticeship at the Hyatt Regency. Her day-to-day duties involve cleaning and preparing food for the finest of dishes. Her favourite meal to cook is gnocchi.

Veronica says the Citi New Recruits Program and her work experience so far has taught her a range of new skills and increased her confidence in all aspects of life.

"I'm quite a shy person. I was never able to catch public transport, but the program gave me confidence and now I am able to do that. I have come out of my shell more. I'm more confident talking to adults and I have learnt how to act in a professional environment."

For now, Veronica will continue to soak up as much knowledge as she can in the kitchen. Her goal is to own her own restaurant. "That would be the ultimate," she says.

For further information please contact:
info@saf.org.au

Citi Foundation



 Skilling
 Australia
 FOUNDATION

CITI
 THE NEW
 RECRUITS
 PROGRAM Real Skills Real Jobs