

Jewellery students to sharpen design skills in Italy

28 September 2015 - Twenty five young South Africans will be jetting off this month to Italy to participate in goldsmith art, jewellery design and watchmaker programmes.

This two-year programme is an initiative made possible by the National Skills Fund (NSF), the Mining Qualification Authority (MQA) and IL Tari Academy. The students from all nine provinces will get an opportunity to study at one of the most renowned academies specialising in jewellery design.

The objective of the project is to increase the talent and skills of South African youth in mineral beneficiation by learning from one of the international leading markets. IL Tari is one of only two private training providers in Italy and accepts a limited number of 120 students per annum.

Speaking at the official send-off ceremony, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduzuzi Manana said that this pilot project to send students to Italy emanated from Minister Blade Nzimande's working visit to Italy. Minister Nzimande visited a jewellery design and manufacturing centre in Naples in October 2014.

"Today we are proud to be bidding farewell to 25 South African students who are going to Il Tari Design School. Ten students are going to study jewellery design and goldsmith art, ten students for jewellery design & precious stone setting and five students for watchmaking", the Deputy Minister said.

Students taking part in the jewellery making component will undergo training, laboratory and project work and internship programmes. They will also participate in the main Italian trade fairs in fashion, jewellery and design fields.

Ms Keketso Mohlala who will be studying jewellery design thanked the NSF and the MQA for providing her with an opportunity to broaden her knowledge in jewellery design.

"This is an excellent opportunity for me as a young upcoming jewellery design businesswoman. I design jewellery and after completing this programme, I will come back and expand my business and contribute to the economy of the country," said Mohlala.

Deputy Minister Manana congratulated the students for being selected and taking this leap to travel to Italy to further their education.

"This initiative is about more than just an opportunity to improve your own future; it aims to build South Africa's skills in this industry and strengthen the links between Italy and South Africa".

"I hope this will be the first of many groups of students who are able to access such an amazing opportunity. We look forward to working closely with Il Tari Design School in ensuring the success of this programme in the coming years," Manana concluded.

Il Tari Design School offers internationally recognized certificates which students will obtain at the end of their studies.