S.O.T. Systems of Timor
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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Chef / kitchen manager

Xefe kozinha

Hospitality & tourism · ISCO-08 3434

Chefs create dishes and plan menus, and run the kitchen: they plan, organise and check the cooking of meals in hotels, restaurants, on ships and in private homes. In Timor-Leste you can work toward it through the national cooking certificates, up to Certificate IV in Food Preparation.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**Certificate IV** INDMO national certificate
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**To confirm** No published demand data yet
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$320 / month** Average for all technicians and associate professionals in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Plan the menu: Create recipes and plan menus; Work out the cost of food and staff; Order food supplies.

Run the kitchen: Lead and organise the cooks and other kitchen staff; Talk with managers and waiters about the food; Help choose new kitchen staff and check how they work.

Cook and present: Prepare and cook special and difficult dishes; Decide how each dish should look on the plate; Check the quality of every dish before it goes out.

Teach and keep standards: Show cooks how to prepare, cook and decorate food; Check supplies, equipment and work areas; Explain and enforce hygiene and food safety rules.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 3434, Chefs.

WHERE YOU WORK

Hotels (Breakfast, lunch, dinner and events); Restaurants (Lunch and dinner service); Ships & trains (Also listed by the ILO); Private homes (Cooking for a family).

Chefs work long, busy shifts, often in the evening, at weekends and on holidays. You are responsible for the food, the costs and the team.

Hotels and restaurants in Timor-Leste also hire from abroad: in 2017, 116 foreign cooks and 69 foreign restaurant managers held work permits.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Leading a team, Staying calm under pressure, Planning and basic costs, Keeping high standards, Teaching others.

You like: Creating new dishes, Food from many countries, Being responsible, A busy place.

English helps in hotels and restaurants with foreign guests.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Certificate IV in Food Preparation** · INDMO national certificate
- **Tourism and Hospitality Training Centre, Dili** · Planned in the government programme 2023–2028. Status to confirm.

The Cook page lists the Certificate II and III courses below this level. Course length and fees: to confirm with INDMO and each centre. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Kitchen hand** · Entry job; Certificate I in General Hospitality (ISCO 9412)
- **Cook** · Certificate II in Food Production, then III in Food Preparation (ISCO 5120)
- **Chef or kitchen manager** · Certificate IV in Food Preparation
- **Your own restaurant or catering business** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · No official programme recruits Timorese workers for this job yet. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer first.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

1. ILO, ISCO-08 unit group 3434 Chefs https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
2. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
3. SEJT, Labour Market Outlook No. 7, Feb 2018 (foreign work permits 2017) https://www.laohamutuk.org/DVD/2018/LMOFeb2018en.pdf
4. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028, 18 Jul 2023 (Tourism and Hospitality Training Centre) https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
5. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
6. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/chef-kitchen-manager/?lang=en