S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Chemical engineer

Enjeñeiru kímiku

Petroleum, energy & engineering · ISCO-08 2145

Chemical engineers design and run the processes that turn raw materials into fuels, chemicals and other products. They plan plants, set quality and safety rules, and solve production problems. The national plan names chemical engineering as a key training area for the petroleum industry, and the Government plans a refinery and petrochemical complex on the south coast. These jobs depend on when the projects are built, so treat this as a job for the future.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**To confirm** Scholarships abroad are named in the national plan
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Priority · future demand** Depends on Tasi Mane project timing
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$292 / month** Average for all professionals in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Research and design: Study chemical processes and how to improve them; Design equipment and the layout of a plant; Choose materials and production methods.

Run production: Supervise how the plant runs; Set and check quality standards; Make processes work better and waste less.

Keep it safe: Set safety rules for chemicals, fire and gas; Plan how to handle waste and pollution; Check equipment and investigate problems.

Plan and report: Estimate the time and materials a job needs; Write reports for managers and regulators; Work with operators, technicians and other engineers.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 2145, Chemical engineers.

WHERE YOU WORK

Refinery and petrochemical complex (Planned on the south coast, with its own laboratory); Gas plant (A planned LNG plant for gas from Greater Sunrise); Downstream industries (Such as fertilizer, cement and petrochemicals); National oil company (TIMOR GAP is the lead facilitator of the refinery project).

Plant work is done in shifts, with protective clothing and strict safety rules. Design and planning work is done in offices.

In 2023 the refinery was still waiting for its environmental licence, and the gas pipeline from Greater Sunrise was still being negotiated. The National Employment Strategy says downstream petroleum industries could create many jobs, but low technology and skills hold them back.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Chemistry, maths and physics, Solving hard problems, Working carefully and safely, Working with data and computers, Teamwork.

You like: Science and laboratories, Machines and big plants, Improving how things are made, Planning for the long term.

English is needed: the oil and gas industry works in English. Because jobs depend on project timing, related skills such as mechanical engineering keep more doors open.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Scholarships in chemical engineering** · The national plan names chemical engineering for scholarships, civil service training and secondments to oil and gas companies.
- **Higher Polytechnic Institute of Engineering, Suai** · Planned in the Government programme 2023–2028. Courses: to confirm.

No chemical engineering degree in Timor-Leste is listed yet; the list here may be incomplete. Course length and fees: to confirm. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Chemical engineering student** · One route is a scholarship abroad
- **Chemical engineer** · Learn on the job, in Timor-Leste or abroad
- **Plant or project manager** · Years of experience; business and project management

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 2145 Chemical engineers https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
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3. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028, §4.3 Tasi Mane project (refinery, LNG plant) and higher technical education https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
4. National Employment Strategy 2017–2030 (Government Resolution 44/2017): downstream petroleum https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/National-Employment-Strategy-2017-2030.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/chemical-engineer/?lang=en