



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA



Bernice's Story



A University Partner Success Story

Tell us about yourself

My name is Bernice Lee and I'm from Malaysia. I've completed the Foundation Studies programme at UP International College. I am now studying towards my Bachelors in Education at Victoria University of Wellington. I chose childhood education as my major because I love children and am passionate about contributing positively towards their educational growth and development.

Why did you want to study overseas? Why did you choose New Zealand?

My parents always encouraged me to get an overseas experience as they wanted me to open up my cultural horizon as well as learn English. The idea of going overseas was instilled in me since I was young and New Zealand was an easy choice as it is known for being peaceful, green, and friendly.

Why did you choose Victoria University of Wellington?

Victoria University of Wellington is a well-regarded university and was recommended to me by my friends and family as it is in the top 2% of universities worldwide. It is also located in the capital of New Zealand and I thought it would be a great way to immerse myself in the Kiwi culture.

How did you find the learning experience? Did you feel supported by your teachers?

The teachers were very attentive and friendly which created an open environment so we were able to ask questions freely. I felt supported and reassured every step of the way.

Student Profile

STUDENT NAME

Bernice Lee

NATIONALITY

Malaysian

PROGRAMME

Victoria University of Wellington
Foundation Studies Programme
(Standard), January 2020

UNIVERSITY DESTINATION

Victoria University of Wellington
Bachelor of Education/ Early
childhood

"Comfort is the biggest obstacle to adventures and opportunities of a lifetime. Have confidence in your self and do not be afraid of taking risks."

Can you describe your everyday schedule for us?

I woke up around 8 am in the morning, had breakfast and would head off to the first class of the day. If I had free time in between, I would head to the library or study room and go over my homework or the lesson of the day. After all my classes and self-study was completed, I would head home, make dinner, and watch a movie to relax.

What do you do in your free time?

I wanted to focus on my studies so I could achieve an IELTS of 7.0 to get into my chosen bachelor's degree, therefore, I spent most of my time studying. Whenever I did have free time, I spent it hanging out with friends or relaxing by myself.

What is the most exciting thing you have done in New Zealand?

I explored the city of Wellington, made new friends, had lots of delicious food but I have not had the opportunity to travel to other parts of New Zealand yet. However, I have added the Queenstown bungee jump on my list of things to do.

You have been accepted into Victoria University of Wellington degree course for teacher training which requires an IELTS 7.0 (same entry requirement as law), could you tell us how you achieved this and what advice you would give to others wanting to do the same?

Prior to coming to New Zealand, I studied the basics of English for 5 years which gave me an advantage in picking it up much quicker once I arrived. After brushing up my English through the Foundation Studies Programme, I became more confident in my speaking and writing abilities which made the examination process much easier. I also studied very hard and practised by testing myself with the past year papers.

What is the next step for you, career wise and education?

After completing my Bachelor's degree in Education, I would like to pursue a Master's Degree.

If you have any advice for other students who also want to get an overseas education experience, what would it be?

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