



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA



Daryl's Story

A University Partner Success Story

Tell us about yourself

My name is Daryl Neo and I am from Singapore. I commenced the Foundation Studies Programme in January 2017 and upon completion, I progressed to Victoria University of Wellington. Recently, I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Criminology and Human Resources and Industrial Relations (HRIR), making me the first student to complete both the Foundation programme and undergraduate course.

Why did you take the Foundation Studies programme?

Due to my academic background, I was unable to enter a local university, so I explored my options of studying overseas. Prior to joining UP Education (known as ACG then), I had attained my Diploma in Business Administration and gained an interest in Criminology. I learnt about the courses at Victoria University of Wellington and the fact that I could take up both Commerce and Criminology majors in a single degree stood out to me. That is also when I came across the Foundation programme offered by UP Education and the direct pathway it provided.

Describe your learning experience at UP International College.

During my Foundation programme, I felt very supported as the teachers took on a student-focused approach and they were experienced with teaching international students. In addition to teaching the subjects, they played a role in the notable improvement of my language and critical thinking skills. I also received valuable feedback on my progress and advice regarding university.

Student Profile

STUDENT NAME

Daryl Neo

NATIONALITY

Singaporean

PROGRAMME

Victoria University of Wellington
Foundation Studies Programme,
January 2017

UNIVERSITY DESTINATION

Victoria University of Wellington,
Bachelor of Commerce

"At UP Education, not only do you build knowledge, you also gain the skills and confidence for success at the university and beyond."

How did the Foundation programme help with your transition to university?

The Foundation programme helped me to be academically successful by providing a seamless journey to university. On top of academic subjects, I learnt about the local history and culture beyond the classroom. An example is gaining knowledge on the Treaty of Waitangi prior to starting my degree. It enabled me to understand better in class and is useful even now as a jobseeker. While studying at UP, I was also able to acquaint with university staff through events, making my transition smoother.

Did you win any scholarships? If so, how did it help you?

Yes, I was awarded the Pathway Scholarship upon completion of the Foundation programme. My participation in various school events, like assisting new students during orientation, played a big role. The scholarship award helped to reduce the financial burden on my family which I was grateful for.

How was it like having an opportunity to work at UP Education?

After completing the programme, I was offered a part-time role and my duties included administrative tasks and involvement in orientations. Through this, I learnt about the working culture in New Zealand as well as the structure of organisations, which came in useful as I was able to apply my knowledge at university.

What's life like outside class?

I occasionally volunteer with Community Patrols of New Zealand, an organisation made up of volunteers to help the Police make the local community safer for everyone. During patrols, I am exposed to numerous interactions with my community and it improved my interpersonal skills. During my spare time, I also enjoy going on fishing trips and have forged new friendships doing so.

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

Currently, I am seeking a full-time job in the Human Resource and Criminology sectors. It's been a journey from completing my Foundation programme at UP Education to holding a bachelor's degree and I look forward to the upcoming opportunities.

What advice would you give to students who are interested in studying abroad?

One thing which helped me, and may help others, is knowing my interests or where my passion lies. This meant I enjoyed what I was studying and that helped me stay motivated throughout my journey. Keeping my goals in mind also made sure that I pushed through any obstacles. Lastly, having a balanced lifestyle is important too so while you study hard, be sure to enjoy the fun activities and beautiful landscapes that the country has to offer as well.

Would you recommend UP Education? Why?

Yes, it provided me with a seamless transition to Victoria University of Wellington and to where I am now. At UP Education, not only do you build knowledge, you also gain the skills and confidence for success at university and beyond.



"Lastly, having a balanced lifestyle is important too so while you study hard, be sure to enjoy the fun activities and beautiful landscapes that the country has to offer as well."

DARYL IS SHAPING HIS FUTURE.

To shape yours, enrol with UP Education, New Zealand.

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