



# Tianyu's Story

## A University Partner Success Story

### Tell us about yourself

Hello, my name is Yang Tianyu! I'm from Zhejiang Province, China, and I'm currently studying in the Standard Foundation Programme at UP International College in New Zealand. My interest in science and nature began early, shaped by my upbringing and education in China where I developed a strong foundation in physics, chemistry, and history.

I am fascinated by the complexity of the natural world and have an insatiable curiosity to understand how things work. I decided to study abroad because I wanted to gain a global perspective and experience a different education system. New Zealand stood out to me for several reasons. The education system of New Zealand is known for its high quality, emphasis on critical thinking and practical application of knowledge. Pursuing the UP International College Standard Foundation Programme in New Zealand was a transformative experience. This programme was an important stepping stone in bridging the gap between my high school education and that of China.

By immersing myself in this new academic and cultural environment, I have opened new horizons and broadened my perspective in ways I never imagined. I am thrilled to have been able to realise my dream of attending UoA through the UP International College Programme. It has been a fulfilling and rewarding experience, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

### What are your plans for your future?

As my academic aspiration, I plan to major in computer science, which is a subject including Programming, Data Structures, Computer Composition, Operating Systems, Computer Networks, and Information Management, including core concepts, fundamentals, and related basic techniques and methods, as well as an understanding of the history and current status of the discipline. In the future, I aim to become a software architect, be responsible for Design and Oversight, System Integration, and provide guidance to development teams. Solving complex problems and crafting innovative solutions to meet diverse and evolving requirements really excite me. This career path not only aligns with my interests but also offers the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the field of technology.

### How did the Foundation course at Up International College help you prepare for university?

The foundation programme helps my transfer to university classes go more smoothly because of the intense attention on my essential subjects. Furthermore, throughout the curriculum, I learned how to collect, evaluate, and comprehend data through my participation in research projects, which are necessary abilities for independent research projects and academic assignments. In the aspects of socially, group projects and cooperative exercises taught me how to collaborate with people well. My leadership and communication abilities improved, which is beneficial for university group projects. What is more, getting to know peers from different backgrounds opened my eyes and helped me build a network of encouraging connections. Throughout university, this network may be incredibly helpful for both personal and academic assistance. For my self-improvement, the foundation programme helped me become more independent by promoting problem-solving and self-reliance. I gained the ability to overcome obstacles on my own, and it is an essential skill for college life. My ability to adjust to different learning contexts and teaching philosophies has increased. This flexibility will enable me to acclimate to the novel and varied experiences that academia brings.

## Student Profile

### STUDENT NAME

Yang Tianyu

### NATIONALITY

Chinese

### PROGRAMME

The University of Auckland  
Certificate in Foundation Studies  
(Standard)

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### How has your first semester at UoA International College been so far, and what goals are you currently pursuing?

In my first semester, I found it especially difficult to participate in class interactions because I was an international student. At first, it seemed intimidating to be expected to actively participate in class discussions. The linguistic barrier was another major obstacle. This made it challenging to pay attention in class and actively participate in conversations. To tackle these problems, I tried really hard in the second semester to participate more in class. I began by getting my notes and questions ready in advance, which gave me greater courage to speak. As time went on, I became more adept at joining in and adding to conversations. I use resources like vocabulary apps and scholarly books to pick up new words and phrases, and I read a lot to increase the number of terms in my academic and professional vocabulary, both inside and outside of my field of study. I also asked for help from tutors and teachers, which really helped me settle.

### Can you share the difference between the UoA International College and the college back in your country?

The most obvious difference between the UoA International College and the college back in my country is that the learning here is flexible. You can choose any four subjects you are interested in and in the start of the term, you can switch to one you're more comfortable with if you discover you're not very good at a certain subject. A stronger focus of UoA International College is placed on nurturing unique skills and interests as well as meeting each student's unique learning needs. In addition, in the Chinese educational system, some of the exams are quite important. In particular, the Gaokao is the main exam used to determine admittance to universities. There is a lot of pressure on students to do well on these important tests. In contrast, in UoA International College, there are many options for assessment, including ongoing evaluation through projects, assignments, and testing on a regular basis. It makes it possible to evaluate students all during the academic year as opposed to just using final exams, striking a balance between formative (ongoing) and summative (final) examinations. Meanwhile, by embracing many cultural viewpoints and fostering multiculturalism, the educational system integrates aspects of Māori and Pacific cultures. Students are encouraged to do their best work while taking into account their personal interests and well-being in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

### What challenges have you faced at university, and how did you overcome them?

The first problem I met was time management, which involves maintaining a balance between academics, extracurriculars, part-time work, and social life. To organise assignments and establish priorities, I use digital calendars or planners. Divide up the work into smaller segments and give each one a set amount of time. Setting deadlines in advance of the actual due date will help to avoid procrastinating as well. The other thing is that I used to get nervous when I studied here the first week, the deans at the school took the initiative to assist me by speaking with me and giving me information on licensed counselors after they learned about the circumstances. Professional assistance and coping mechanisms were offered by the campus counseling center, which provided company and a listening ear during trying times. Although I ended up not going for professional counselling because things got so much better, I'm still really appreciative of the support. Because of the unfamiliar studying environment and language barrier, consistently maintaining good scores not only requires my effort, but also the help of teachers. My comprehension of the subject was greatly improved by my teachers' constant willingness to provide wise counsel and explain complex ideas throughout these sessions. They gave me individualised advice based on my particular inquiries and academic requirements. In addition to giving me more self-assurance, this support was extremely important for my academic achievement, which improved my GPA.

### What advice would you offer to students who are preparing for the Foundation course?

An essential first step in the academic is getting ready for the foundation course. It's acceptable if you are first unconfident in some subjects; the course is meant to assist in the gradual development of those abilities. The secret is to keep learning approach positive and proactive. Meanwhile, make sure having a balanced study plan and are aware of the course prerequisites before anything else. Use time management tools or planners to stay on top of deadlines and prevent procrastination. Make use of all the resources at your disposal, such as study guides, internet resources, and textbooks, and don't be afraid to ask teachers or tutors for assistance when necessary. Working on exercises, old papers, and sample questions makes perfect. I remember that in Blackboard there are many e-books, practice questions and previous papers that can help a lot. Improve your note-taking abilities to succinctly outline important facts, and maintain organization to cut down on time and anxiety. Keeping up a healthy lifestyle that includes enough sleep, food, and exercise will be helpful in academic endeavors. Regularly ask for feedback to assess your development and make the required adjustments. Above all, maintain a cheerful attitude and make realistic goals. The passion for learning and enthusiastic attitude toward it will lay a solid groundwork to succeed in foundation course.

### Could you share how your family, mentors, or peers have supported you during your studies?

Family members provided emotional support and they will always encourage me through difficult times and recognize my accomplishments. Additionally, they relieved my stress through financial support for study materials, tuition fees, and other educational expenses can relieve stress and allow me to focus on my studies. Mentors provided valuable information about my academic learning, assisting me in overcoming obstacles and reaching well-informed conclusions. They helped me stay on track by helping me set reasonable goals and created a strategy to reach them. As for peers, we can share notes, study materials, and tips, which can be incredibly helpful. Meanwhile, peers who are also students know the feeling of being a university students can be supportive and encouraging. My family has, in my opinion, always been my pillar of support, providing constant encouragement and support. My growth has been greatly aided by the guidance and criticism I've received from my mentors. Peers have made the journey less intimidating and more fun by providing practical assistance and companionship. When combined, these support systems provide a strong network that promotes self-assurance, resiliency, and academic success.



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**TIANYU IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.**

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

**PROGRAMME DELIVERED BY UP EDUCATION**