

The logo for Auckland University of Technology (AUT) is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a black rectangular background.

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

NEW ZEALAND



Annol's Story

A University Partner Success Story

Tell us about yourself

My name is Annol Nhek, and I am currently embarking on my first year as an electrical engineering student at Auckland University of Technology. Originating from Cambodia, I completed my high school education at New Gateway International School. Through the Fast-Track Foundation course pathway provided by UP International College, I seamlessly transitioned from high school to pursuing my academic aspirations at AUT, marking the beginning of an exciting chapter in my educational journey.

Why did you pursue the Bachelor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering?

Throughout my academic journey, I discovered a natural affinity for STEM subjects, particularly mathematics and physics, finding intrigue in their ability to explain the complexities of our world. I've always been captivated by how things work, from towering structures to everyday appliances, like a microwave. This curiosity, coupled with a love for technology, propelled me toward the field of electrical and electronics engineering, where I hope to delve into the intricacies of technology and innovate solutions to real-world challenges.

How did the Foundation Studies programme prepare you for university?

Initially I was very skeptical about enrolling in a foundation course before attending university. However, it turned out to be the best decision I could have made, especially as an international student. Starting with the most obvious benefit, the foundation program has trained me on the essential course knowledge needed for my degree. The contents of these courses were extremely beneficial, but what I found most valuable, was the fact that the program prepares you for the overall transition into university. I was taught how to properly format my assignments, how to seek academic support, and how to maintain a study-life balance. As an international student, this course not only prepared me for university but also played a huge part in getting me acquainted with the New Zealand culture and the academic system as a whole.

STUDENT PROFILE

STUDENT NAME

Annol Nhek

NATIONALITY

Cambodia

PROGRAMME

Auckland University of
Technology Certificate in
Foundation Studies
(Fast-Track)

INTAKE

April 2023

UNIVERSITY DESTINATION

Auckland University of
Technology, Bachelor of
Electrical and Electronics
Engineering

What was your study experience like at UP International College?

➤ Environment:

UP International College is situated conveniently in the heart of Auckland CBD, where there is a park, as well as a plethora of restaurants just a short walk away. As for the campus itself, it is spacious and thoughtfully designed to enhance students' experience. Classrooms are always neat and equipped with modern projectors to facilitate effective learning. There is also a library, which offers a quiet place for students to study and catch up with their assignments, and a cafeteria which serves a variety of affordable and delicious foods, making it a popular spot for both students and college staffs. On top of it all, music enthusiasts can also take advantage of the dedicated music room to jam or practice with a large variety of instruments available. Additionally, every student requires an access card to enter the building, ensuring a safe and secure environment.

➤ Course curriculum:

Having been enrolled in the Fast-Track program, I only had to go through two semesters – equivalent to approximately four months in total. For semester one, I had to take three compulsory subjects (English 1, English 2A, Tertiary Study Skills), and two electives that are related to my desired major in university (Algebra and Statistics). In my second semester, there were two more compulsory subjects (English 2B and Culture and Society), and I took Accounting 1 and Physics-Mechanics for my electives. Both compulsory and optional subjects were extremely useful, and they very much complement one another to ensure that you are readily prepared for university. It is also worth noting that the class timetable was laid out in a way such that students have time to take breaks and recharge between sessions, enhancing student's overall well-being and academic performance.

➤ Study support:

I would like to commend the teachers at UP International College, not only they are kind and approachable, but they are also highly effective in delivering their lessons. They are extremely passionate individuals, always open to answering any questions from students, fostering an environment where students thrive. During exam weeks, some teachers even go as far as offering additional online classes in the afternoon to ensure that their students are well-prepared for their tests. At UPIC, study supports go beyond the classroom, as there are dedicated services to help students choose their majors in university, providing them with a comprehensive guide tailored to each student's interests and goals.

Do you have advice for international students coming to study at UP International College?

Even though I have only been in New Zealand for a year, I have learned a few handy things along the way that I believe future students might benefit from. Academically, in order to achieve good results, I really recommend all students to engage with the course materials regularly, attend all your classes, and make sure to interact with your teachers and tutors, developing a healthy relationship between them. Also, never hesitate to ask questions, always remember that, if you don't understand something, others probably don't understand it either; your teachers will always be there to assist you whenever needed. When it comes to sitting examinations, it is crucial to not just go through all the lecture slides at the last minute. I would advise all students to adopt a gradual approach to studying, understanding, and applying each concept thoroughly along the way. That said, I also encourage students to not just focus solely on your lectures, go out and make friends, explore extracurricular activities, and use it as an opportunity to gain invaluable real-world perspective that complements classroom learning.



"UP International College not only equipped me with essential course knowledge but also prepared me for a seamless transition into university life, helping me balance academic challenges with cultural adaptation as an international student."

ANNOL IS SHAPING HIS FUTURE.

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

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