



Cindy's Story

A University Partner Success Story

Tell us about yourself

Hi! My name is Cindy, and I'm from Taiwan. I'm currently studying the Foundation Programme at the University of Auckland International College (UoAIC), and I started in July 2024. I'll be completing the course in June 2025, and I'm excited to pursue my next academic step at the University of Auckland.

Could you tell us about your academic background and your journey to UoAIC?

Back in Taiwan, I was in Year 11 at Sacred Heart High School for Girls. My school introduced me to the UoAIC programme as a pathway to the University of Auckland, and that's how I decided to come here. I've always been interested in health sciences, and my goal is to study health science in University of Auckland and eventually become a pharmacist. I find the field fascinating, particularly because of the high salary potential and the ability to make medicine—it's both challenging and rewarding.

What made you choose New Zealand for your studies?

I chose New Zealand because it's a safe and beautiful country with great opportunities for students. I love the environment here, and I would eventually like to apply for citizenship. The education system is supportive, and the teachers are always available to help. I never feel like I'm on my own—my classmates and teachers make it easy to ask questions and seek guidance when needed.

Student Profile

STUDENT NAME

Cindy Yeh

NATIONALITY

Taiwanese

PROGRAMME

The University of
Auckland Certificate in
Foundation Studies
(Standard)

INTAKE

July 2024

UNIVERSITY DESTINATION

University of Auckland,
Bachelor of Health
Sciences-Population
Health

What do you find challenging about your studies?

Biology has been the most challenging subject for me. There are so many new terms to memorize, and it can be difficult. But my teachers advise me not to translate everything into Chinese first; instead, I'm learning to think in English, which is helping me improve. It's tough, but I'm confident that with practice, it will get easier.

How is your academic experience in New Zealand different from Taiwan?

The educational system here is very different from what I'm used to in Taiwan. Back home, we would mostly listen to the teacher and memorize everything. But here, we do more activities like teamwork and experiments. We're not just memorising facts; we're applying what we learn in real-life situations. I really appreciate this approach because it helps me develop a range of skills, like leadership and problem-solving, not just academic knowledge.

What was it like adjusting to life in New Zealand?

It took some time to adjust, especially with food. In Taiwan, we often have stir-fried vegetables (青菜), but here, I noticed a lot of vegetables are served less cooked, which was new for me. However, my homestay experience has been great. My homestay mother is from Brazil, and I get to eat rice every day, so that helps me feel more at home. Overall, the transition has been smooth thanks to the friendly people and the welcoming environment.

How has your social experience been at UoAIC?

At first, I felt a little lonely because I came here with just one friend. But it didn't take long to make new friends from different countries, and now I feel much more comfortable. We help each other with studies and often hang out together. My new friends have made my experience here more enjoyable, and I've adjusted well to both the academic and social life.

What advice would you give to students considering UoAIC?

Don't be afraid! Everyone here, from your classmates to your teachers, is really kind and helpful. If you have any questions or feel uncertain, just ask. You won't feel alone because the environment here is very supportive. It's a great place to prepare for university and the future.

What are your future plans after UoAIC?

After finishing my Foundation Programme, I plan to study health science at the University of Auckland. I'm eager to dive deeper into this field and work towards becoming a pharmacist. I hope to stay in New Zealand, as I really love this country and its welcoming environment.



"Back in Taiwan, it was mostly about the teacher lecturing, but here we learn through activities like teamwork, experiments, and writing reports. This system helps develop a range of skills, not just memorisation."

CINDY IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.

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