



STUDENT PROFILE

STUDENT NAME

Rachel Li

NATIONALITY

China

PROGRAMME

Graduate Diploma in
Teaching (ECE) (Level 7)

STUDY YEAR

2024

CAMPUS

NZTC Online



RACHEL'S STORY

NZTC Student Success Story

Background

Hi, Kia Ora! My name is Rachel and I'm from Suzhou, China. I came to New Zealand in 2022, originally on a working holiday visa. I used to work in sales, but I found a new direction in Early Childhood Education after working as a relief teacher. I graduated with a Graduate Diploma in ECE from NZTC in 2024.

What Brought Me to New Zealand

Before COVID, I saw a Korean TV show about a road trip in the South Island—it looked so beautiful! That really inspired me to come and see this country myself. Later, I also realised New Zealand offers **a good work-life balance, and a clear path to residency**. So it felt like the right choice.

Why I Chose NZTC

When I was doing reliever work at ECE centres, a lot of teachers recommended NZTC. They said it had **lots of practicum opportunities and a flexible study structure**. So that's why I chose it. And I'm really glad I did.

Life in Auckland

I chose Auckland because, honestly, I'm a city girl—and this is the biggest city in New Zealand. It has more job opportunities and feels more convenient for daily life.



New Zealand
Tertiary College



My Learning Experience

The course was online, which made it flexible. I could repeat tutorial videos and ask questions anytime. Sometimes I wished I knew my lecturers and classmates better, but having a home centre helped me feel connected. Overall, the online format worked well for me.

Learning Through Practicum

During the course, I had four practicums in different centres. Each one had a different teaching philosophy, which helped me understand how ECE can be done in many ways. It made me more confident, more mature, and definitely more ready to become a teacher.

Challenges Along the Way

As an international student, the beginning was tough. I had to do everything on my own. I still remember my third practicum—it was winter, I was sick, had to move house, and still finish all my reports and assignments. It was a lot, but I got through it.

Daily Life at the Centre

In the morning, we welcome children with cuddles to help them settle in. Then we set up activities, have mat times, meals, naps, and more play. In the afternoon, we tidy up and combine with the baby room. It's a full day, but always rewarding.



From Reliever to Registered Teacher

I started as a reliever while studying, and that helped cover my bills and gave me experience. Now I work in a small centre in South Auckland as a qualified teacher in the toddler room. I love working with my team and watching the children grow.

About Childcare in NZ

In China, most kids start kindergarten at 3, but here I've cared for babies as young as 4–5 months. I was surprised at first! But I think it's great—childcare here is like a small society where children learn to socialise early and become more confident.

My Goals for the Future

Right now I'm a provisionally registered teacher on a work visa. I plan to get my full registration in two years. And if possible, I'd love to become a room leader someday. I enjoy taking responsibility and leading a team.

Final Thoughts

It's not an easy journey, but if you plan well and go step by step, you can do it. I'm happy I made this decision, and I'd say to anyone considering it—just do it.

“Every time I passed a practicum or submitted an assignment, I just felt a big relief. It's hard—but it's worth it.”

RACHEL IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.

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