



STUDENT PROFILE

STUDENT NAME

Hannah He

NATIONALITY

China

PROGRAMME

Graduate Diploma in
Teaching (ECE) (Level 7)

STUDY YEAR

2024

CAMPUS

NZTC Online



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her full story

HANNAH'S STORY

NZTC Student Success Story

Background

Hi, this is Shuhan – or you can call me Hannah! I moved to New Zealand with my husband and our five-year-old son. We were looking for a place with better work-life balance, and after hearing from friends that New Zealand is like a heaven for children, we knew this was the right choice. And after arriving, we felt everything they said was absolutely true.

Why I Chose NZTC

NZTC was my first choice. As a mom and a night owl, I needed a flexible study option. With NZTC's online structure, I could arrange my learning around my family life. I studied mostly at night, after everything else was done. That flexibility really made it possible for me to manage my studies.

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE)

I studied the Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education) and graduated in 2024. It's an intense one-year programme, and while it required commitment, it gave me everything I needed to become a confident early childhood teacher.

Practicum Experience

My practicum centre became a big part of my journey. It was my home centre during my studies, and I worked there for around 16 hours each week. After I graduated, the manager was happy with my work and offered me a full-time position. **Now I'm a registered teacher at the same centre!**



New Zealand
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Learning at My Own Pace

I'm not a morning person—I work best at night. NZTC's flexible learning meant I could study when I had the most energy, usually late in the evening. I really liked being able to set my own pace and learning style. It gave me the freedom to fit study into my life, not the other way around.

Teaching the Under-Twos

I currently work in a lovely early childhood centre in North Shore. I'm in the baby room, caring for children under two years old. Our team of five teachers handles everything from feeding and nappies to sleep routines and learning activities. Recently, we've been exploring nursery rhymes with the babies – singing, reading, and making the environment fun and rich with music.

A Balanced Learning Environment

I really appreciate how early childhood education in New Zealand values children's social and emotional growth alongside learning. Children here are encouraged to express themselves, take initiative, and work together. It's different from what I saw in China, where things can be more academic. Here, children are growing up in a more balanced and holistic environment – and I see the benefits every day, even in my own child.



Challenges and Growth

The biggest challenge for me was time management. Some weeks I was in the centre five days for practicum and still had to complete coursework at night. It was intense, but it taught me how to prioritise and juggle everything. I became stronger and more organised through the process.

Visa and Residency Pathway

I started on a student visa and later switched to a Post Study Work visa. What surprised me was how clear the process was – I did all the applications for myself and my family on my own. Immigration NZ has a very easy-to-follow system. Now I'm on a work visa and plan to apply for residency at the end of this year.

Support and Advice

If I could give one piece of advice, it would be to stay positive and optimistic. Moving with your family and studying at the same time is a big step – but it's also a big opportunity. Don't get discouraged. Keep going, and always find a reason to smile.

Looking Ahead

I'm enjoying working as a registered ECE teacher, and I'm excited to keep growing in this field. My next goal is to get residency and continue building a life here in New Zealand for my family.

"The one thing I love about NZTC is actually it's got the students some experience of working in the centre, which is their home centre."

HANNAH IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.

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