



Bianca's Story

A University Partner Success Story

Foundation Journey at UP International College

Q1. Tell us about yourself

Hi, I'm Bianca Louis. I'm originally from India, but I grew up in Dubai. I'm currently in my first year at AUT, double majoring in Marketing and International Business (as of July 2025).

Q2. Why did you choose to study in New Zealand?

New Zealand stood out to me because of its beautiful landscape, welcoming culture, and the sense of safety. My brother, aunt, and uncles had also studied here, so it felt like a trusted choice. And honestly, it's been a really good decision.

Q3. How did growing up in Dubai shape your experience as an international student in New Zealand?

Growing up in Dubai meant I was always surrounded by people from different cultures and countries. So when I moved to New Zealand, it felt familiar in a good way. I didn't feel like an outsider. I found it easy to adapt and connect with people, especially since New Zealand is also so multicultural and welcoming.

Q4. How did you first hear about the Foundation programme?

When I applied to AUT, I wasn't directly eligible because I hadn't finished Year 13. They recommended AUT Foundation course, and I'm glad they did! It gave me a direct pathway to university and made the whole process so much easier.

STUDENT PROFILE

NAME

Bianca Catharine Louis

NATIONALITY

India

PROGRAMME COMPLETED

Auckland University of
Technology Certificate in
Foundation Studies
(Accelerated)

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

Year 1, Bachelor of
International Business,
Bachelor of Marketing
(Double Major) –
Auckland University of
Technology



Q5. What was the Foundation programme like?

It was a fast-track, six-month course that really prepared me for uni life. We had regular classes five days a week, and I took subjects like Marketing, Economics, English, and Māori history. It helped me develop time management and responsibility early on.

Q6. Was the Foundation programme tailored to your future university major?

Yes! At UPIC, they actually help match your subjects to your future major. Since I wanted to study business, I got to take economics and marketing. Others who were going into computer science or health had different courses. That really helped with the transition.

Q7. Did Foundation programme helps you get familiar with AUT?

Absolutely! During the Foundation course, we visited AUT at least four times. We got to explore different faculties, meet the lecturers, and see what uni life would be like. By the time I officially started at AUT, I already knew my way around. It made a big difference.

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“Don’t be afraid to ask questions or talk to people. Everyone’s nervous at first, but making friends early really shapes your experience.”

Q8. Can you tell us more about one of your memorable teachers at Foundation?

One teacher who really stood out was Mr September. He taught us about Māori culture, and his classes weren’t just about history, they were about understanding New Zealand’s identity and how to respect the culture as newcomers. That stayed with me even after moving on to university.

University Life at AUT

Q9. What do you love most about AUT?

AUT is very practical. There are fewer exams and more assignments and workshops, which suits my learning style better. The environment is flexible and supportive, and the staff are super approachable, even some of our tutors are senior students, which makes it easier to connect.

Q10. What kind of support does AUT offer for job searching and career development?

AUT gives us so many opportunities! We have career fairs where you can meet real employers, ask questions, and build connections. In my third year, I’ll be doing an internship through the university. They also help with CV writing, interview prep, and even offer jobs on campus.

Q11. Looking back, what would you tell yourself one year ago?

I’d tell myself not to be scared, and to step out more. University life doesn’t last forever. Do explore, meet people, and enjoy the experience. Don’t just focus on study. New Zealand has so much to offer, and you’ll never regret making the most of it.

Q12. What are your future goals?

I hope to get my resident visa and start a small student café here in New Zealand. I’d love it to be a place where students can hang out, relax, and enjoy their time. Maybe I’ll see you there one day!

BIANCA IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.

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

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