



Eui Kyun's story

A Foundation Connect Success Story

Tell us about yourself

Hello. My name is Jin Ui Gyun, and I completed the Foundation Connect programme at the University of Auckland International College. Currently, I am enrolled in the University of Auckland Foundation (Standard) programme.

I completed my primary, middle, and high school education in Korea. After finishing the Foundation Connect programme (6 months), I am currently pursuing the University of Auckland Foundation programme (1 year).

Before starting these programmes, I was studying music in Korea. However, due to military service and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing my musical pursuits became difficult. Following recommendations from my parents and acquaintances, I decided to shift my academic focus to marketing at the University of Auckland.

Why did you choose NZ and take the Foundation Connect programme?

Originally, I was planning to study in the United States, but the fact that the U.S. is a country with widespread firearm ownership was a significant concern for me. During my contemplation, a strong recommendation from a friend of my parents led me to explore New Zealand. I was captivated by the natural beauty and atmosphere of the country. The University of Auckland, which can be considered the Seoul National University of New Zealand, resonated with me. While researching its admission process, I discovered UP International College, which offers a concentrated Foundation Connect programme providing essential academic knowledge and English classes before entering my desired major.

Student profile

STUDENT NAME

Eui Kyun Jin

NATIONALITY

South Korean

PROGRAMME

University of Auckland
International College
Foundation Connect (6 months)



The University of Auckland
Certificate in Foundation Studies
(level 3) (Standard)



"I chose to study in New Zealand for its natural beauty and atmosphere, and was drawn to the University of Auckland International College's Foundation Connect programme for their supportive learning environment in marketing."

What are the classes and teachers like?

Before entering university, I was searching for a preparatory course that would provide a solid foundation in English basics as well as knowledge in marketing and management. UP International College's education, starting from these fundamental aspects, was highly satisfactory. The academic atmosphere is different from classes in Korea, with a more relaxed environment. Although the total number of students is significant, they are divided into groups (A, B, C, D) with 15-20 students in each, facilitating smooth class proceedings. I am quite pleased with the guidance of the teachers; they are readily available for questions and have been very helpful.

How did the semester (term) and timetable work?

The Foundation Connect programme, which I completed, spans a total of 6 months. I studied English and mathematics for the entire duration and covered business, earth science, general science, and media studies over two three-month periods. Each class lasted approximately one hour, with my first class starting at 11:30 AM and ending at 5:30 PM. The timetable was reasonable, with classes spread out during the day, and there were 1-2 hour breaks between classes for meals or previewing upcoming lessons.

Tell us about what you studied and learned during the Foundation Connect programme?

I studied six subjects: English, mathematics, business, general science, earth science, and media studies. The difficulty level was not as challenging as I initially thought. The classes focused on solidifying fundamental knowledge that I already had or providing explanations for concepts I either forgot or didn't know. The challenge was mainly adapting to English as the medium of instruction. During the initial classes, I often revisited topics I didn't understand, leading to numerous "aha" moments during later reviews. The Foundation Connect programme felt like a preparatory step for academic subjects, particularly in English related to these academic topics.

Would you recommend the Foundation Connect programme? Why?

I strongly recommend the Foundation Connect programme. Even if you are confident in English or have substantial knowledge in your chosen field, adapting to a new environment like New Zealand, where everything is conducted in English, may not be easy right away. I believe a minimum of 6 months is required to adapt to this new academic environment. During this programme, I solidified my existing knowledge and gained insights into things that were unclear or unknown to me. Before starting the 1-year Foundation programme, this course provided an invaluable period to familiarise myself with exam formats, study methods, and time management.

The 1 year and 6 months duration of the Foundation Connect and Foundation Standard programmes doesn't feel excessively long. In extreme terms, it's like thoroughly preparing for war and entering the battlefield. Time passes surprisingly quickly. If the financial burden is manageable, I highly recommend starting with the Foundation Connect programme. Small differences, such as using engineering calculators for mathematics (which is often not allowed in Korean schools), can make a significant impact. Currently, during the Foundation Standard programme, I feel that the Foundation Connect course was very helpful. Not only has my English improved, but I've also enhanced my academic foundation.

What are your plans for your future?

Once I complete all the university programmes, I plan to work and experience professional life. Understanding the culture will be essential for this. I consider myself fortunate to have asked many questions to teachers, gaining a better understanding of the local culture. While I haven't outlined my future after employment, my immediate dream is to enjoy a fulfilling university life and then embark on a professional career.



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The University of Auckland International College offered a supportive environment and helpful teachers, making my transition to university smooth and fulfilling.

EUI KYUN IS SHAPING HIS FUTURE.

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

PROGRAMME DELIVERED BY **UP EDUCATION**