



John's story

A Pathways Link Programme Success Story

Hi John! Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Hi, my name is John. I'm 17 years old and I'm from Taiwan. I just finished the Pathways Link Programme (PLP) at the University of Auckland International College and now I'm moving on to the University of Auckland Foundation Studies.

Why did you choose New Zealand?

Because I like Western culture and I wanted to experience overseas life. I also have a family friend here, so it felt like a safe place to start. I really want to be part of Kiwi life and eventually become a resident here.

Why did you choose to study at the University of Auckland International College?

I actually wanted to go to a local school in New Zealand, but my agent recommended the University of Auckland International College. It's faster if you want to go to the University of Auckland, and they said it's one of the best international colleges in New Zealand. I think it was a good choice.

What's your homestay like?

My homestay is my dad's friend's place, and they're also from Taiwan. I live in Remuera. The food is Chinese so I really enjoy it, and we sometimes play board games together on the weekend. I feel really comfortable living there.

Student profile

STUDENT NAME

John Chen

NATIONALITY

Taiwanese

PROGRAMME

University of Auckland
International College
Pathways Link Programme



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



*"I really liked
the vibe in the
PLP class."*

What was it like starting the PLP programme?

At first, I felt a little bit nervous. Everything was new for me – the teacher, the classmates, the school. I had to make new friends and adapt to a different environment. But after a while, it felt really good.

What did you enjoy most about PLP?

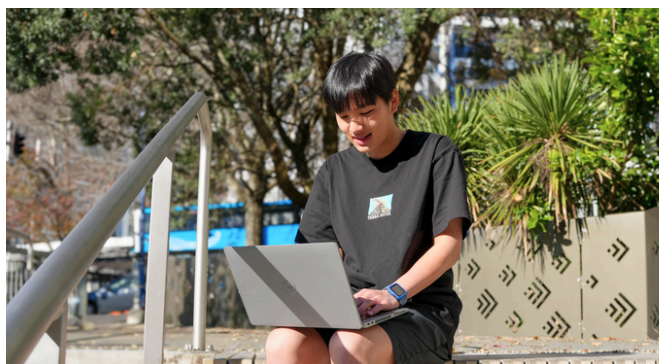
I really liked the vibe in class. Everyone got along well and the teachers were super nice. Our homeroom teacher, Mr McLeod, always gave us useful advice about foundation and university. He really took care of us.

What kind of subjects did you study?

We had PE, economics, accounting, maths and English. We went to school from 9am to 3:40pm, Monday to Friday. It was a full-on programme but also really fun.

What's been the biggest challenge for you?

Maths was the hardest for me – I'm not really good at it. But I think English and accounting were easier. Also, being independent was hard at first, like opening a bank account or getting a Hop card, but I learnt how to do it all by myself.



What did you do for fun outside class?

We went on trips like squash, golf, bowling, and even to the museum. Our Squash teacher was a two-time world champion – that was pretty awesome! I also liked hanging out at the school library, playing board games with friends.

What are your future study plans?

I'm going to do the Foundation Studies course next. After that, I want to study Early Childhood Education at university. I really like kids, and I think the teaching environment in New Zealand is quite different, in a good way.

Any advice for new students?

Don't be scared! If you need help, people will help you. Just speak up, even if your English isn't perfect. Study hard and keep going – you'll make friends and become more independent. Just come to New Zealand – it's really worth it!



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