



Shelley's story

A Pathways Link Programme Success Story

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

Hi guys, my name is Shelley and I come from China. I just finished the Pathways Link Programme (PLP) and I'm about to start the Foundation programme. In my spare time, I enjoy listening to music and travelling. I like meeting interesting people and trying new things.

Why did you choose New Zealand?

I came to New Zealand in 2023 and studied at a local high school in Christchurch first, but I transferred to the PLP because it is faster and helps you prepare for university life. I also really like the multicultural environment in Auckland, and I think it is such a welcoming city.

What exactly is the PLP?

The Pathways Link Programme is a one-year course designed for younger students, usually aged 15 to 17. It helps build a strong academic foundation and leads directly into Foundation Studies for the University of Auckland. It's a great way to prepare for university life.

What was a typical school day like?

We started at 9am and finished at 3:40pm. We did not need to choose our subjects. We studied English, business, accounting, geography and PE. All the teachers were really friendly, and our classmates were from different countries. It was a great place to learn from each other.

Student profile

STUDENT NAME

Shelley Chai

NATIONALITY

Chinese

PROGRAMME

University of Auckland
International College
Pathways Link Programme



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

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*“I got a scholarship,
and it made me feel
really confident.”*

What did you enjoy most about PLP?

The teachers were amazing. They were always supportive and happy to help. I also made friends easily. We spoke English at school, joined activities after class, and built strong friendships. The overall vibe was very positive for international students.

Did you get to do any fun activities?

Yes, we went to the museum, played golf and squash, and joined local sports. My favourite memory is playing squash with our teacher and classmates. We learned from a coach, played together and shared lunch. It was a great experience and a fun way to learn something new.

What was your proudest achievement?

I got first place in subjects like maths, English, biology, geography and business. I also received a \$5,000 scholarship. That really motivated me and made my parents proud. They came to visit me in New Zealand, and we travelled together around the South Island.

Tell us about your homestay experience!

My homestay family is Chinese and they live in a big house in Avondale. They have been very kind and supportive. When I was sick, they looked after me and even contacted the school. We always have dinner together and talk about school. They really helped me adjust to life in New Zealand.



What's the biggest difference between PLP and Foundation?

PLP has a fixed timetable, but in Foundation we choose our own subjects based on what we want to study at university. Foundation students are usually older, and each subject has a different teacher. It feels more like university already.

Why did you choose to study at UoAIC and the University of Auckland?

University of Auckland International College has a partnership with the University of Auckland, which is the top university in New Zealand. I want to major in finance or business, and UoA offers many great options with a diverse campus. I think it is the best choice for my future.

What are your future plans?

I hope to become an accountant or work at a well-known bank. I want to keep studying hard and hopefully receive another scholarship. Eventually, I would like to live and work in New Zealand. It is safe, beautiful, and full of opportunities.

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"I got first place in many subjects and received a \$5,000 scholarship. I'm really thankful for the support from my teachers and the school."