



Jaden's story

A Pathways Link Programme Success Story

Can you tell us about yourself?

Hi, my name is Jaden and I'm from South Korea. I finished middle school in Korea and went to high school for a short time, but I decided to drop out and study in New Zealand instead. I joined the PLP (Pathways Link Programme) at the University of Auckland International College, and now I've moved on to the Foundation programme.

Why did you choose New Zealand?

I picked New Zealand because it's a safe country with beautiful nature, so I thought it would be a good place to focus on my studies. Also, compared to other English-speaking countries, the cost is lower, but the education quality is still really good. I also liked that there are people from many different cultures, especially in Auckland. I wanted to study in a city like that.

What subjects did you take and what was your timetable like?

The timetable wasn't as packed as in Korean high schools. We usually started around 9 a.m. and finished around 3 p.m. There were break times between classes and a lunch break too. There were no extra classes after school.

I studied English, Mathematics, Health, Physical Education, Biology, Accounting, Business. The schedule was pretty relaxed, so I could focus better and wasn't too stressed.

What was the hardest and easiest subject for you? And how did you overcome the hard one?

Accounting was the hardest for me. I'd never learned it before in Korea, and there were lots of numbers and new things to remember. But the teachers were really kind and explained everything well. At first, I was too shy to ask questions, but they told me not to be afraid and to ask anything. That helped a lot. I also studied with friends in small groups, which made it easier. The easiest subject for me was probably Health. I found it more interesting and easier to understand.

Student profile

STUDENT NAME

Jaden Kang

NATIONALITY

South Korean

PROGRAMME

University of Auckland
International College
Pathways Link Programme
(level 1)



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



PLP helped me improve my English naturally and gave me time to get used to studying in a new country. It also helped me become more confident.

What did you enjoy the most about the PLP course?

The best part was that it wasn't just about studying. We got to do lots of fun activities like squash, yachting, bowling, going to museums, and even playing golf. I also liked hanging out with friends during break times, sometimes we'd go to the convenience store or just chat. The school atmosphere was really friendly and chill.

What was the most fun activity you did?

I think the yachting activity was the most fun. I really like water, so it was cool to connect my body to the boat and ride with the wind. It felt exciting and also peaceful at the same time. Plus, I got to enjoy the beautiful nature of New Zealand.

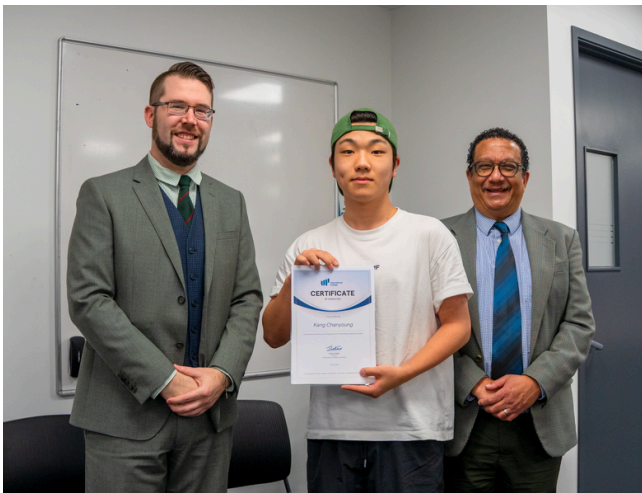


What's the biggest difference between PLP and Korean high school?

The biggest difference is the way we learn. In Korea, it's all about memorising and exams, and the classes are more strict. But in PLP, we talk more, and teachers want us to ask questions and think for ourselves. The teachers also treat us more like friends, not just students. I felt more free and comfortable here than in Korea.

What was the hardest part of studying? And how did you get through it?

The hardest part was that we didn't have one big exam period like in Korea. Instead, we had small tests and assignments all the time. So I had to study a little bit every day. At first, that was hard to get used to, but after a while, I found a study routine that worked for me and learned how to manage my time better.



Would you recommend the PLP and Foundation programmes? If yes, why?

Yes, I'd really recommend those programmes to other students who want to go to university in New Zealand. PLP helped me improve my English naturally and gave me time to get used to studying in a new country. It also helped me become more confident.

If you want to prepare, I'd say focus on your reading and writing skills before coming. And don't be afraid to ask questions in class. If you join in actively, it'll be much easier to adapt.

Why did you choose UoAIC and the University of Auckland?

The University of Auckland is the best university in New Zealand, and it's well known around the world. The campus is beautiful, the teachers are great, and the classes are high quality. Also, there aren't many places where you can study at a top school and enjoy nature at the same time. I'm really happy I chose this place.

What was your homestay experience like?

During the PLP course, I lived with a host family. My first host traveled a lot, so I had to move around to a few different homestays. At first, it was annoying to pack and unpack all the time, and I was worried about adjusting to new places. But later, I realized it helped me learn how to adapt to new situations, and it turned out to be a good experience. Now for the Foundation course, I'm planning to live in the dorm.

What are your future goals?

I want to major in Media and Communication, and my dream is to become a content creator. I want to make fun and meaningful content that gives people positive energy. I also hope to connect with people from different countries through my work. My goal is to share my stories and make the world a little warmer.

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JADEN IS SHAPING HIS FUTURE.

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

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