



## STUDENT PROFILE

### STUDENT NAME

Qi Wan

### NATIONALITY

China

### PROGRAMME

Graduate Diploma in  
Teaching (ECE) (Level 7)

### STUDY YEAR

2024

### CAMPUS

NZTC Online



## QI'S STORY

NZTC Student Success Story

### Background

Hi, I'm Qi. I'm originally from the northwest of China and moved to New Zealand in 2023. I studied the Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE) at NZTC and finished my course in 2024. Before that, I used to teach Economics in an international high school in China and even worked in hospitality while living in Australia.

### What Brought Me to New Zealand

I did some research before applying and found that NZTC is well-known for its experience in ECE and flexible study structure. I really liked the idea of having a home centre—it gives you hands-on experience and helps with job opportunities after graduation. That was a big reason why I chose this college.

### Course Experience

*The programme was online, which meant I could access everything through the NZTC portal. It covered a wide range of topics from theory to cultural knowledge, especially, bicultural practice in Aotearoa. I became more aware of Māori culture and how to apply that understanding in my teaching.*

### Home Centre and Employment Journey

I found my first home centre by reaching out to centres myself. After my practicum there, I worked as a reliever. Later I moved to the suburbs and NZTC helped me find a new placement. After doing my practicum there, I became their student teacher, then a reliever again—and **now I'm working full-time at that centre.**

## Support from NZTC

The pastoral care team was amazing. They checked in with us regularly. When I caught COVID during my course, they helped me reorganise my practicum and looked into extra support options. That really made me feel looked after.

## What I Learned About Teaching

ECE is not just about teaching—it's about learning from others too. I observed different teachers with very different styles, from firm to gentle. I learnt there's no one-size-fits-all approach. You need to adjust your teaching style based on the child's needs and personality.

## Challenges Along the Way

Studying while living in a new country wasn't easy. Financially it was tight, and physically it was demanding—especially during practicum. You work full-time hours, write reflections, gather evidence, and meet assignment deadlines all at once. It's exhausting, but planning ahead made it manageable.



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## Different Approaches to Wellbeing

In China, parents often focus on whether their children are warm enough—if they're wearing socks, shoes, enough layers. But here in New Zealand, there's a strong focus on emotional wellbeing. We care about whether children feel safe, happy, and respected. I love how children are treated as individuals here.

## Cultural Diversity in My Centre

I work in a culturally diverse centre, especially with many children from Muslim backgrounds, along with Chinese, European, and other Asian families. Being bilingual is a plus. Some parents love when we speak Mandarin to their children. It creates a stronger connection.

## Looking Ahead

I'm now a provisionally registered teacher and on a post-study open work visa. My next step is applying for residency. Someday, I hope to open my own small home-based centre. I'd love to create a warm, holistic environment where children can grow together, including my future child.

## Advice for Future Students

Be prepared—mentally, physically, and financially. Plan your tasks, rest well, and stay strong during practicum. Do your research, know what you're getting into, and if you're ready, then go for it. You'll be surprised by how much you can achieve.

***"What I loved most about NZTC was the flexibility and the home centre model. It gave me real experience and helped me step straight into a full-time job."***

**QI IS SHAPING HER FUTURE.**

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