



Chinhyean's story

Foundation journey at UP International College New Zealand

Student profile

Name: Chinhyean Chao

Nationality: Cambodia

Programme: AUT Certificate in Foundation Studies (level 3)

Study destination: AUT, Bachelor of Engineering

Q1. Can you introduce yourself and what you are studying now?

Hi, I'm Chinhyean. I am from Cambodia, and now I'm studying at UP International College New Zealand for the Standard Foundation Programme. I plan to graduate around this December, and then I will go to AUT next year.

I am really excited to continue my education because I already did research about the Civil Construction Engineering major at AUT, and that's what I want to study.

Q2. What do you enjoy learning the most at UPIC?

My favourite subjects are physics and math. I really like how the lessons flow, because they are so interesting.

Studying here feels very different from Cambodia. Back home, we studied everything in Khmer, but here all subjects are taught in English. The words are so different, so it's very challenging for me. But I think that challenge helps me improve a lot.

Q3. How has studying in New Zealand been different from what you expected?

At first, I thought I might only meet students from the same country as me, but actually most students are from different countries. I was so surprised because every day I can speak English with friends from all around the world. The students are very friendly, and even if we just meet, we can help each other and spend time together. Sometimes we go out on the weekend, and that makes me feel like I am not alone here.



Q4. What challenges have you faced, and how did you adjust to them?

For me, living alone is a bit challenging. I need to control my time well, including how to study, practice, go out with friends, clean at home, and complete all assignments.

The term here is also shorter, only eight weeks, so I need to focus more on my studies. At first, it was hard because everything was new for me, but step by step, I learned how to manage my time. Now I can complete my assignments, enjoy time with friends, and feel more confident.

Q5. How has the Foundation course helped you grow?

The Foundation course has changed me a lot, especially in time management. Before, I used to sleep late, but now I go to bed early and wake up early because classes start at 9 am. I needed to prepare myself and change my daily routine.

I also meet different teachers for every subject and every term. They are very supportive and explain everything clearly, so it is easier for me to follow the lessons. This experience really taught me how to prepare myself better for university life.

"Studying at UP International College New Zealand really taught me how to prepare myself better for university life."