



Rita's story

NZST Student Success Story:
Building a future in hospitality
management

Student profile

Name: Rita (Yun-Chen Hsieh)

Nationality: Taiwan

Programme: Diploma in Tourism &
Travel Management (Level 5)

Q1. Can you please introduce yourself?

Hi, I'm Rita, a 20-year-old girl from Taiwan and I arrived in New Zealand on the 1st of July. My original university was National Chi Nan University. I'm here to study Diploma in Tourism & Travel Management (Level 5).

Q2. Why did you choose to come to New Zealand?

Many of my classmates from my university in Taiwan chose to study in other countries like Canada, Australia, or Japan. But I wanted to take my own path and create my own journey. That's why I decided to come to New Zealand.

Q3. How is your life in New Zealand so far and what do you like about studying in New Zealand?

Life here is very different from Taiwan. Back home, I was always under a lot of pressure and didn't have time for exercise or self-improvement. Here, I can balance study and life better, I can go to the gym after class, take online English courses, and really focus on myself. People here are very kind, including my tutors and classmates. I can talk openly with my tutors, and I feel that everyone is very supportive.

Q4. Any interesting experience with New Zealand culture?

I had heard about Māori culture from movies like Moana, but it's so special to experience it in real life here. Taking part in local cultural events has been a unique and memorable experience for me — something I'll always treasure as part of my journey.

Q5. Where are you staying and how did you find the accommodation?

I live at UniLodge, which is really convenient because it's located in Auckland city centre and to NZST. The rent includes electricity, water, and access to shared facilities like a gym, dining room, kitchen, and even a table tennis area. It's a comfortable and safe place to live.

Q6. Why did you choose NZST and what do you enjoy most about studying at NZST?

I chose NZST because it's related to my major in Taiwan, which was hospitality and leisure tourism. The programme here gives me international experience and the opportunity to prepare for an overseas internship, which is something that can really help me in my future career.



Q7. What's your favourite class or subject so far and why?

I really enjoy marketing. I like analysing consumer behaviour and creating strategies to promote different products. I'm also interested in social media marketing, which allows me to be creative and practical at the same time.

Q8. How is studying tourism in New Zealand different from your home country, Taiwan?

I think tourism study in New Zealand is more practical. In Taiwan, most of what we learned came from textbooks, but here, we get to apply what we learn through activities and real-life situations. I think that's a big difference and something that helps me understand the industry better.

Q9. How many hours of internship do you need to graduate the school?

To graduate from NZST, I need to complete 200 internship hours. My university in Taiwan requires a total of 720 hours for graduation, but studying at NZST counts for 300 of those hours.

Q10. How will the skills you've learned in your course help you in the future?

I've learned a lot of soft skills, like communication and presentation, especially in English. These experiences have helped me gain confidence and improve my second language. I believe these skills, along with what I've learned about tourism, will be very useful for my future career, especially if I work in a travel agency or at an airport.

Q11. What are your plans after you graduate?

I hope to study for a master's degree in a business or tourism-related field, either in New Zealand or another English-speaking country. I also want to keep improving both my academic and communication skills.

Q12. What advice would you give to future NZST international students?

My advice for future NZST international students is that even if your English isn't perfect, don't worry — you'll improve a lot here. NZST has a flexible schedule, so you'll have time to manage your own study and focus on self-improvement. Make good use of your time, stay positive, and enjoy every opportunity you have here.



“

I wanted to take my own path — to have an independent journey and create my own life story in New Zealand.