

Sungji's story

Yoobee Student Success Story:

From Bachelor of Software Engineering to Master of Business Informatics

Student profile

Name: Sungji Kim

Nationality: South Korea

Programme: Bachelor of Software Engineering (Y1) → Master of Business Informatics – Healthcare Informatics

Self-introduction and background

Q1. Can you please introduce yourself?

Hello, my name is Sungji Kim. I completed a double major in Occupational Therapy and Social Welfare in Korea, and later spent several years in Australia and New Zealand on working holidays, working in different roles and environments.

Living abroad helped me rethink my long-term career direction, and that's when I became interested in the tech field. I am now studying for a Bachelor of Software Engineering at Yoobee Colleges. My goal is to combine my background in understanding people with technical skills to create practical and meaningful digital solutions.

Q2. What brought you to New Zealand and what was your first impression?

After finishing my working holiday in Australia and returning to Korea, I realised that I wanted to keep living abroad long term. I was deciding between going back to Australia or trying New Zealand, and I chose to come to New Zealand first to experience life here for a year before making a final decision.

My first impression of New Zealand was that it felt very relaxed, and the nature was amazing. I found a café job shortly after arriving, and both my coworkers and customers were genuinely friendly, which made settling in much easier. On my days off, I explored the areas around Auckland and was surprised by how many beautiful places were just a short trip away.

Reason for choosing this course of study

Q3. What made you switch from Occupational Therapy to Software Engineering?

When I was in Korea, I worked at a company in the IT industry, and during that time I had many chances to talk with developers. Listening to their work and seeing what they did made me think that the tech field could actually be interesting for me. When I started planning to settle in New Zealand long-term, I wanted to choose a career that I could genuinely enjoy. That's why I decided to study Software Engineering and take a new direction professionally.

Q4. What was the biggest reason you chose Yoobee Colleges?

The main reason I chose Yoobee Colleges was its project-based learning style. Compared to other schools, Yoobee places a strong focus on building real projects and working closely with teammates, which I felt fit the way I learn best.

I also believe that using English actively is the fastest way to improve, so a collaborative environment was important for me. And since practical projects and a strong portfolio are essential for getting a job later, Yoobee's teaching style matched exactly what I was looking for. After starting the programme, I realised it was the right choice, and I'm genuinely satisfied with my experience so far.

Learning experience

Q5. How did you feel after completing one year of the Bachelor of Software Engineering programme?

The first year went by incredibly fast. It feels like I just started, but suddenly I was presenting my final project. In the beginning, I often wondered if I was learning too slowly, but looking back now, I can clearly see how much I've improved. My technical skills have grown, and my English has naturally improved as well. It wasn't always easy, but it was definitely a rewarding year.

Q6. What were the most memorable and challenging parts of your academic experience?

The most memorable part of my studies was the CS104 assignment. I had to build an app on my own using a database provided by the New Zealand government. At first, I honestly had no idea where to start, but as I planned and designed the project, it gradually became something I was excited about.

The development process was challenging (constant errors, and rewriting logic more times than I expected). But finishing the app properly and receiving a good grade made it the most satisfying moment of my studies so far.

Q7. How did your actual experience differ from your expectations regarding the faculty, curriculum, practical learning environment, etc.

In Korea, I didn't have many opportunities for direct communication with professors, and even asking a simple question required booking a meeting in advance. So I didn't expect much interaction when I started studying again.

But Yoobee turned out to be very different. The tutors were always accessible, and even on days without classes, I could message them freely. When I was stuck on a development problem, they often approached me first, asked what I was working on, and helped me think through solutions. I especially had many conversations with Kevin, and I feel that I learned a lot thanks to his guidance. The support from the tutors was one of the parts I appreciated the most.

Change of study plan

Q8. What led you to change to the Master of Business Informatics – Healthcare Informatics course rather than progressing to the Bachelor of Software Engineering year two, and what do you hope to gain from this new programme?

I found out that Yoobee College recently introduced the Master of Business Informatics – Healthcare Informatics programme. During my first year of study, I realised that I enjoy working with databases, but my current degree doesn't cover that area as deeply as I'd like. So when I saw this new programme focused on informatics and Python, it felt like a much better fit for me.

Another reason it appealed to me is that my previous studies in the healthcare field can be directly applied. It feels less like changing direction and more like naturally connecting my past knowledge with the technical skills I want to develop. Since it's a one year programme, my goal is to deepen my understanding of healthcare-related databases, and by the end of the course, I'd really like to get an internship in this field.

Life in New Zealand and career goals

Q9. How did your working holiday and employer-sponsored work visa experience influence your academic and career plans?

My working holiday experience helped me understand how different workplaces operate depending on the country and environment. Working with people from various backgrounds made me more aware of what kind of work style and environment suit me best. During my employer-sponsored work period, I took on more responsibility, which made me realise the importance of building a career with real expertise. That experience pushed me to choose a path where I could develop technical and analytical skills, and it has had a strong influence on my current academic and career plans.

Q10. What made you want to stay in New Zealand long term?

Living in New Zealand made me realize that the lifestyle and the way people interact here suit me well. Workplaces are less competitive, people are respectful, and the overall pace feels much more balanced compared to what I was used to. From my cafe job to my student life now, I've always felt that work-life balance is a natural part of everyday life here, and that made me think, "I could actually live here long-term."

The environment is another big reason. Even short trips on the weekend lead to beaches, parks, or quiet nature spots, and that has helped me a lot whenever I felt stressed. All of these experiences made me want to continue building my life in New Zealand.

Q11. What are your career goals after graduation?

Ideally, I hope to start an internship in healthcare analytics or informatics before I graduate and continue working in that field afterward. Even if that doesn't happen right away, I plan to keep looking for roles related to my major and build my career step by step. My long-term goal is to continue working in New Zealand, so once I meet the requirements, I plan to apply for residency as soon as I'm eligible.

Advice for future students

Q12. What do you think is the most important thing students should consider when choosing a school?

I think the most important factor when choosing a school is knowing what you want to study. Making sure the programme you're interested in is offered, and understanding how it's taught, should be the first priority.

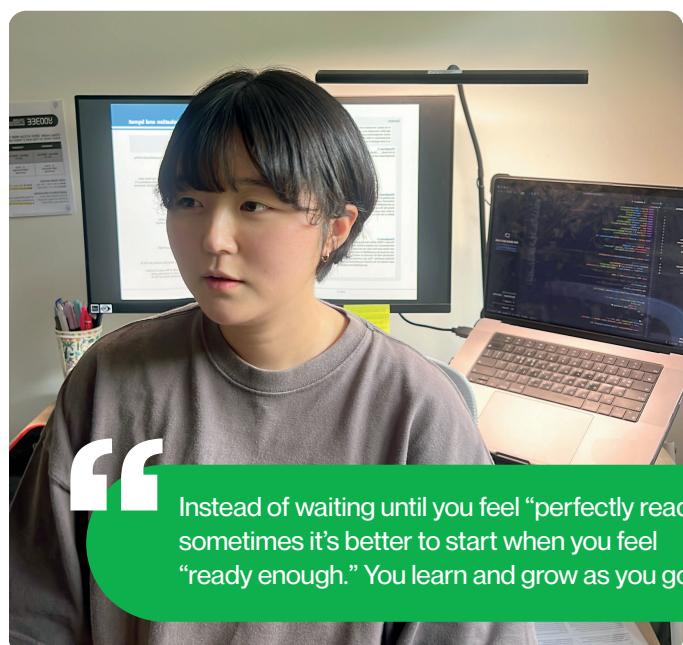
The next thing is the learning environment. Yoobee College is located in Auckland City, which makes commuting easy, and the classrooms and common areas are well-organised. It's not a large university campus, but it has everything you actually need for studying.

For international students, tuition fees are also a major consideration. Yoobee is relatively affordable compared to other schools, and there are scholarship options available. Students also have enough time to work part-time, and almost everyone in my class is working either on weekends or a few days during the week. Looking at both the academic side and the practical side together is important when choosing a school.

Q13. What advice would you like to give to international students considering this programme?

The main advice I want to give is: you won't know until you try. I tend to think a lot before making decisions, and I usually hesitate with big changes. Studying abroad and changing my field were things I spent a long time thinking about.

But looking back now, I honestly feel that I could have started earlier and been fine. My biggest worry was studying and communicating in English, but once I actually started, I realised that effort really does show. Your English improves, and you manage each assignment one step at a time. Instead of waiting until you feel "perfectly ready," sometimes it's better to start when you feel "ready enough." You learn and grow as you go.



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