



Elaine's story

A story of courage and new beginnings: Meet our UoAIC scholar

Student profile

Name: Elaine Francine Thomson

Nationality: Indonesian

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

University Destination: Bachelor in Education (Teaching) at UoA



What subjects did you take during your Foundation programme, and which one did you enjoy the most?

I took Statistics, Geography, Communications, and Biology. I particularly enjoyed Communications as it covered various topics I was interested in such as film and media.

How would you describe the teaching style and support from your lecturers at UoAIC?

The teaching styles vary between lecturers, but it's definitely helpful to take notes as it keeps students present and on track in class. I was able to reach out to my lecturers on Microsoft Teams if I had any questions.

What was the most valuable skill or experience you gained during the Foundation programme?

When studying subjects with memorable information such as Biology, it's best to make mindmaps as it helps you truly understand the material and make connections when needed. For mathematical subjects, the most beneficial technique is practice (and no, you cannot skip that step).



Can you briefly introduce yourself?

Kia ora koutou! My name is Elaine and I'm from Semarang, Indonesia. I completed the accelerate Foundation Programme in UoAIC and am currently a first-year student in the University of Auckland studying a Bachelor in Education (Teaching). I love music, food, and people, as they fill my days with joy and keep my heart full.

Why did you choose to study the Foundation programme at the University of Auckland International College?

I saw this programme as an opportunity to build connections, broaden my field of knowledge, and get a head start since I get to skip a year of high school to do this programme and go straight to university following my graduation.

How did the Foundation programme help prepare you for university study?

As someone who went to an Indonesian national school, I learned basically everything school-related in Indonesian. This programme helped me learn everything I needed to know in English and familiarised me with the educational system and grading in New Zealand.



What was your favourite part of studying at UoAIC?

I absolutely loved hanging out with my friends and making memories with them along the way. My friendships were undeniably the highlight of my programme as well as my journey in New Zealand.

Why did you choose the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) program, and what is your career goal?

I chose the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) programme because I love working with children and teaching them, so I want to become a primary teacher. This degree also allows me to become a lifelong learner, which I strive to be.

What advice would you give to future students who are considering the UoAIC Foundation programme?

Go for it! Put yourself out there on the first day to make new friends. Study efficiently, strive to be the best version of yourself every day, and don't let the obstacles get you down.