

November | 2015

## FUN FILLED ORIENTATION WEEK GIVES STUDENTS TASTE OF NZ

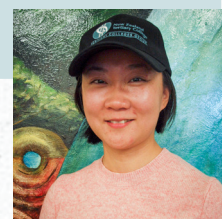
NZTC's October intake of international students immersed themselves in orientation week at the Auckland and Christchurch Campus. Students at the Auckland Campus enjoyed a fun filled day of Kiwi cultural experiences beginning with a traditional mihi whakatau (welcome ceremony) followed by a guided city tour of Auckland's historic and scenic sites. After an exciting and informative week, three new students shared their highlights with us.



*"The NZTC team is very warm and nice, and I just feel really welcome here. During the mihi whakatau (welcome ceremony) I could really tell how much heart they have!"*

**Wenjuan Huang**

Postgraduate Diploma in Education  
(Early Childhood Education)



*"The orientation tour was a good chance to move around, get familiar with the city, and communicate with others in my program. We had some group activities, which were a great way to build some teamwork."*



**Lingxiao Xu**

Graduate Diploma in Teaching  
(Early Childhood Education)



*"I think Auckland is a perfect combination of natural beauty and a metropolis. The birds and nature are living in harmony with people, and it's so clean!"*

**Silin Qian**

Graduate Diploma in Teaching  
(Early Childhood Education)





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## 2015 NZTC RESEARCH CONFERENCE A VALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

NZTC recently hosted its largest research conference to date, enabling over 100 delegates to engage in research around supporting young children in their emotional, social and relationship development.

The conference was attended by early childhood professionals and academics alongside a number of the College's international students. For these students, the conference was a unique opportunity to network with members of the early childhood community and learn from their expertise.

Zoey Chen, a Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education) student from China, commented, "I really enjoyed the whole conference, especially the discussion about emotional and social support in early education. I appreciate that the conference deeply inspired me and brought me fresh thinking about early childhood education."

One of the highlights of the conference for many was international guest speaker Dr Kay Albrecht, an award-winning teacher, scholar, author and policymaker in early childhood education from the United States. In her keynote address, Kay shared insightful ideas about the interactions between adults and young children, emphasising the importance of synchronous and reciprocal relationships and highlighting a key fact that "if we don't have emotional capacity, we don't have social relationships."

Additional presentations were delivered by a prestigious array of speakers, while a poster session gave NZTC's Academic Team and Master of Education (Early Childhood Education) students a platform to share their latest research.



*Dr Kay Albrecht (left) with NZTC Chief Executive Selena Fox*



*Zoey Chen enjoys the research conference*



*Delegates gain insights from an interactive panel discussion*



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## NZTC student profile



### Natalie Wu

Graduate Diploma in Teaching  
(Early Childhood Education)

Studying with NZTC has empowered Natalie to transform her educational psychology background into a rewarding ECE career.

Originally from China, Natalie moved to New Zealand five years ago and fell in love with the country's extensive natural beauty and multiculturalism. After completing a Bachelor's degree with a double major in education and psychology she decided that enrolling with NZTC would be the ideal way to expand her skills while working towards New Zealand teacher registration.

"I chose to study with NZTC because I knew their program has a lot of practical components," said Natalie. "For me, that's great because I already have theoretical knowledge, and NZTC is now helping me to put that theory into practice."

The experience and guidance Natalie has gained through her Field Practice placements has helped her develop innovative teaching strategies. She explained, "I call my teaching style 'frugal fun' because I believe that using second-hand, ordinary items, recycling them, and making them into something else really helps children develop their creative thinking, so I use a lot of that in my teaching." To further encourage creativity, Natalie teaches origami: a simple, inexpensive art form with limitless possibilities.

When she's not teaching, Natalie enjoys networking with sector peers as a board member of the New Zealand Early Childhood Education Association. She is thrilled that NZTC's international tutorials have also enabled her to build valuable connections with students from across the world.

"NZTC's international support is really great!" said Natalie. "They have the best lecturers to help us gain more knowledge, and they're really there to help us. I also find it helpful that international tutorials include both lectures and individual academic support."

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ With 85 letters, Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu, a hill in New Zealand's Hawke's Bay region, has the longest name of any place in the world!



### NZTC HEAD OFFICE AND AUCKLAND CAMPUS

Level 2, 1 Marewa Rd, Greenlane  
Auckland 1051, New Zealand

PO Box 17143, Greenlane  
Auckland 1546, New Zealand

p: +64 9 520 4000  
f: +64 9 520 4020

### CONTACT US

#### NEW ZEALAND

e: [international@nztertiarycollege.ac.nz](mailto:international@nztertiarycollege.ac.nz)  
w: [www.nztertiarycollege.ac.nz](http://www.nztertiarycollege.ac.nz)

### CHRISTCHURCH CAMPUS

Unit 12 & 13, 114 Sawyers Arms Road  
Christchurch 8052  
Canterbury, New Zealand

PO Box 5561, Papanui  
Christchurch 8542, New Zealand

p: +64 3 366 8000  
f: +64 3 366 8020

#### INDIA

e: [info@nztertiarycollege.in](mailto:info@nztertiarycollege.in)  
w: [www.nztertiarycollege.in](http://www.nztertiarycollege.in)

### MUMBAI OFFICE

No. 202, Makhija Chambers  
2nd Floor, 196 Turner Road  
(Guru Nanak Marg)  
Bandra (W)  
Mumbai 400050, India

p: +91 22 674 87070  
f: +91 22 674 87040

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