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## BRINGING A NEW ZEALAND PERSPECTIVE TO CHINESE ECE STUDENTS

NZTC's Field Practice Advisor, Carla Hedgeman, recently travelled to China to spend a month teaching students enrolled in the Sino-New Zealand Cooperation Program.



*NZTC Visiting Guest Lecturer Carla Hedgeman with Fujian students*

The Sino-New Zealand Cooperation program, launched in 2014, is an exclusive agreement between NZTC and the Fujian Preschool Education College, the second largest early childhood teacher college in China. It provides Fujian College students with the opportunity to study courses delivered by NZTC that lead to a China Ministry of Education Diploma in Early Childhood Education and an NZTC Certificate in Early Childhood Teaching (Level 6).

During her time in China, Carla taught the program's first intake of over 160 students. Her lectures focused on the New Zealand early childhood education system and philosophy — particularly Te Whāriki (the Ministry of Education's curriculum policy) and how it can be applied to teaching practice.

"The students were passionate and interested in the New Zealand curriculum. They're open to a range of different ideas

and to having conversations, and that's an important step to having a great partnership and becoming effective early childhood teachers," Carla explained.

To improve her understanding of the Chinese ECE environment, Carla also visited kindergartens where students in the program teach.

"Through building relationships in context and visiting kindergartens to see what students are doing, I was able to build a whole picture of who we are teaching and how we can best support them," she said.

Carla left with a great appreciation for the potential of the students enrolled in the Sino-New Zealand Cooperation Program and for the capacity of the program to provide exceptional early childhood teacher training.



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## EDUCATION COUNCIL OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND (EDUCANZ) ANNOUNCE CHANGE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY EXEMPTION

The Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand (EDUCANZ), which replaced the New Zealand Teachers Council in July 2015, have announced a change to the English language requirements for all students who have English as an additional language and are applying to study ECE qualifications that lead to New Zealand teacher registration.

Currently, students applying for the Bachelor of Teaching (ECE) or the Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE) who have already completed a Level 7 or higher degree in New Zealand or Australia, are not required to provide International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores unless New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) has concerns about their English language skills.

The change requires NZTC students who pathway from either the Bachelor of Education (ECE) or the Postgraduate Diploma in

Education (ECE) into our Graduate Diploma of Teaching (ECE) to provide an IELTS score of 7.0 in all components. Whilst this will be an additional step in the application process we are confident that our graduates will rise to the challenge.

Other applicants affected by this change are students applying to the NZTC Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE) after completing a degree at another New Zealand or Australian tertiary institution. They too will be required to provide an IELTS score of 7.0 in all components.

NZTC is committed to supporting our students (both current and prospective) through this change. If you have any questions about this change, please contact our Registrar at [registrar@nztertiarycollege.ac.nz](mailto:registrar@nztertiarycollege.ac.nz)

## NZTC HOSTS THE CHOOSE NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION ALLIANCE



*Bruce Cleland (third from left) and Eric Kong Kah Weng (fourth from left) with members of the NZTC Team*

NZTC welcomed the Chairman of Choose New Zealand Education Alliance, Mr Bruce Cleland, to the Auckland Campus in September. Choose New Zealand Education Alliance has been busy working on a number of marketing activities in Southeast Asia including participating in Education New Zealand fairs and meeting with prospective students and agents, while assisting to promote NZTC offshore.

The College also enjoyed hosting Eric Kong Kah Weng who won the Education New Zealand marketing essay competition. Alongside Choose New Zealand Education Alliance, Eric has been visiting a number of education institutes around New Zealand. His research of early childhood education in Malaysia has also provided some helpful statistics for the College.





## Subing Xuan

Postgraduate Diploma in Education (ECE)

### Tell us a little bit about yourself.


I'm from Beijing, China, and I've been in New Zealand for just two months. I'm very excited about my life and study here!

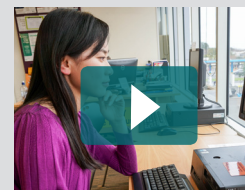
Before I came to New Zealand I worked at a graduate school of business as Admissions Manager, and before that, right after I got my Bachelor's degree, I worked at one of the world's biggest PC companies for six years as a Project Manager.

### Why did you decide to pursue a postgraduate qualification in early childhood education?

The graduate school I previously worked at offered education for adults, but we also cared about the well-being of children. We offered a full scholarship to a student who made a great contribution to childcare services and my job was to verify their profile. The children we were concerned about were orphans and children who live in poverty, or who suffer from serious diseases. I was greatly influenced and touched by these people who want to make a better world for these children, and that's why I decided to enter this field.

## WATCH THE VIDEO

To watch our interview with Subing please click the  button.



When I was choosing a qualification, I found that NZTC had many options. There are some programs that are more theoretical while some are more practical. I decided I wanted to start with theory, so I chose the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (ECE).

### What are the biggest benefits of studying with NZTC?

NZTC offers a high-quality education, they've got incredible staff, and the online learning mode is very flexible. It's allowed me to manage my family duties, study and work well.

I just got a job at a kindergarten. The manager knew I was from NZTC, and she was very impressed because she's previously employed students from our College who are excellent teachers. She understands that we have an online learning mode, which means I can be really flexible with study and work, and that's why I was hired!

### How does living and studying in New Zealand compare with other parts of the world?

I've spent time in America, Japan, Europe, and Korea, and I've found New Zealand is a really peaceful place. Auckland is a modern city, it's convenient, it's secure, and you can also find beautiful nature and the friendliest people here, so I'm really falling in love with it. I've also found the labour market here is really good. You don't have to struggle to make a life here - it's very easy to find a job, especially in early childhood education.

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