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DIVERSE STUDENTS CELEBRATED AT NZTC GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Early childhood education graduates from around the world shared cultural traditions during the New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) graduation celebrations held in April.



The college honoured graduates from 16 different countries at ceremonies in Auckland and Christchurch, who paid tribute to their cultural heritage by wearing traditional clothes under their formal graduation robes.

"We celebrated 508 graduates throughout not only New Zealand, but the world. It's special to acknowledge the cultural diversity of our students, graduates and staff," said NZTC Chief Executive Selena Fox.

International student Orlene D'Cunha, from India, was among a small handful of students awarded for excelling throughout their studies.

She received an Academic Excellence award for the Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education).

"I was really happy about winning the Academic Excellence Award. It made me realise that nothing was in vain and all the hard work paid off!" D'Cunha said.

"Studying with NZTC was great, especially because of theoretical and practical knowledge going hand-in-hand. The 16 hours of field practice every week was really beneficial in applying course content, analysing existing concepts, and learning new concepts."

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHARE MOTIVATIONS FOR MOVING TO NZ DURING ORIENTATION

New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) international students from eight countries around the globe came together to kick off their early childhood education studies during orientation in April.

With reasons for studying as different as the countries they travelled from, students were welcomed to the college with a pōhiri (traditional Māori welcome ceremony), supported with information needed to settle into study and life in a new country, and explored their new cities on field trips in Auckland and Christchurch.



South Korea

“ I have been engaged in secondary education in Korea for around 15 years and I have always been interested in early childhood education. I believe that I will be able to improve my skills practically as well as theoretically when I study with NZTC. ”

Yim Jae Song

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE)



India

“ I was attracted to NZTC because they are well-reputed and their qualifications are internationally recognised. I can't wait to experience online study and am looking forward to exploring the country! ”

Divyansh

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE)



Bangladesh

“ What I'm most excited about is learning something new, as my background is in business studies. NZTC is a specialist in providing early childhood education programs. ”

Fatematz Zohra

Postgraduate Diploma in Education (ECE)



Indonesia

“ The most exciting thing for me will be learning something new and gaining knowledge from my lecturers as well as other students. I can't wait to apply all the knowledge in my work. ”

Marsya Angelica

Postgraduate Diploma in Education (ECE)

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Sri Lanka

“ I want to become a competent early childhood teacher and administrator in my country – therefore my plan is to continue higher study in the same field by obtaining a degree by an internationally recognised education provider in New Zealand. I chose NZTC because they have more than 35 years' experience in early childhood teacher education. ”

Sara Fernando

New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 5)



Fiji

“ I am excited about studying with NZTC because the delivery mode is flexible, with an emphasis on practical experience and the opportunity to work in a variety of early childhood settings with experienced early childhood teachers. I am looking forward to learning the ECE curriculum *Te Whāriki* and effective teaching practices. ”

Filimaina Varea

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE)



Philippines

“ I am looking forward to learning the New Zealand early childhood curriculum and practices, as well as understanding the roots of the country's values and culture. I am excited to start my journey as an early childhood teacher. ”

Christine Escandor

Bachelor of Teaching (ECE)



China

“ I've wanted to travel to New Zealand for ages for its fantastic natural scenery and outdoor activities – as an outdoorsy type, it's my dream country! I'm really excited to study a flexible program which not only allows me to gain theoretical knowledge, but also a great amount of practical experience. ”

Yuee Chen

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE)

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NZTC BUILDS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN INDIA

New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) graduate Saranya Thyagarajan believes leadership knowledge and skills are key to building "child-centred" early childhood education (ECE) in India.

Saranya decided to pursue NZTC's Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Early Childhood Education) to upskill in areas that would support her promotion to Centre Manager at KiwiLearners, an India-based centre that uses the New Zealand early childhood curriculum *Te Whāriki*.



Saranya Thyagarajan

"The courses were really useful. I learnt new ways to work with families and different team members to get them on board with the centre's vision. I really think I grew and built confidence as a leader."

The qualification's online discussion forums allowed Saranya to discuss ideas with other students around the world and reflect on her practice.

This community of like-minded professionals was especially valuable for Saranya because KiwiLearners' child-centred approach to ECE is quite unique in India.

"Professional childcare is a relatively new concept in India. Until recently, extended families (usually grandparents) looked after the children, so we didn't need early childhood centres. When grandparents look after children you get warmth, love and caring. I believe centres should copy the environment of a grandparent's home rather than set out to formally 'teach' children," she said.

The NZTC postgraduate program taught Saranya leadership skills and provided her with material that helped her share the benefits of a child-centred approach to ECE practice with her staff and centre families.

"It was very satisfying to be able to use research and articles from the postgraduate diploma to back up *Te Whāriki's* approach to child empowerment and lifelong learning. I found that sharing information with my staff and centre families really supported them to make a mindset shift in their approach to ECE," she said.

Saranya decided to come to New Zealand to gain teacher registration after finishing her postgraduate diploma through NZTC Online in India. Currently based in Christchurch at EduKids Kilmarnock, she is the head teacher in the two to three-and-a-half year old room.

Her move enabled her to attend the NZTC Christchurch Graduation, giving her fellow students, lecturers and support staff a chance to meet with her face-to-face and celebrate her success.

“

The courses were really useful. I learnt new ways to work with families and different team members to get them on board with the centre's vision. I really think I grew and built confidence as a leader.

- Saranya Thyagarajan

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NZTC STUDENTS JOIN FORCES WITH POLICE TO SUPPORT THEIR PEERS

A couple of international students at New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) are embodying the college's values of *Heart* and *Spirit* by giving back to the community while studying in New Zealand.

Ruchika Sharma and Sarabpreet Kaur, both Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Early Childhood Education) students from India, are volunteering their time to support other international students as members of the Auckland City District Police International Student Ambassador (ISA) Group.

The ISA group receives training by the police so they can head out into student communities and share important safety messages with their fellow students, enabling them to support their peers and develop relationships during their studies.

"NZTC's support of the ISA group provides overseas students with a wonderful opportunity to learn more about New Zealand society. I've really enjoyed developing my knowledge in this area to help my fellow students to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings," said Ruchika.

For Sarabpreet, being part of the ISA group has not only equipped her with knowledge of New Zealand, but also enabled her to enhance her communication skills through interacting with people from different countries.

"Being an international student, I grabbed the opportunity to join the group and learn more about New Zealand. This is the first time I have been outside of India, and because of the group I now have the confidence to move anywhere in my new city," said Sarabpreet.



Sarabpreet Kaur and Ruchika Sharma

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