

Professional Speaking course builds confidence

Haina Ren found confidence in herself and her abilities through the Professional Speaking for Migrants course.

Haina Ren gained the Certificate in Professional Speaking in 2020. She arrived in New Zealand in 2018 and enrolled in the Professional Speaking for Migrants course in Rotorua to improve her confidence and communication with Kiwis. In 2022, Haina announced that she's begun a new career as a trainee pharmacy technician at Unichem Central Pharmacy Rotorua, who have offered her a chance to work and distance study through The Open Polytechnic of NZ.

Emma Carpenter reached out to her to ask her about her experience of the programme, how she came to find out about it, what the benefits have been, and if she has any advice for others

How did you learn about the Professional Speaking for Migrants course?

"I'm a member of Rotorua Multicultural Council, when I heard of the programme from Margriet Theron, I was very interested in it, I hadn't been very confident after moving to NZ because of language issues, I hoped to improve it by taking this programme."

What was your overall experience of the course?

"It's a fantastic experience to get through the 10-week classes with your classmates and the mentor, we fully supported and encouraged each other."

What have you been up to since finishing the programme?

"I managed a hostel with my partner while attending the programme in 2020, the accommodation business has dropped a lot since Covid-19 came, when MIQs were set up at Rotorua I started to work as a Mandarin interpreter for them, meanwhile, I worked at a sushi shop for almost a year until I got my current position."

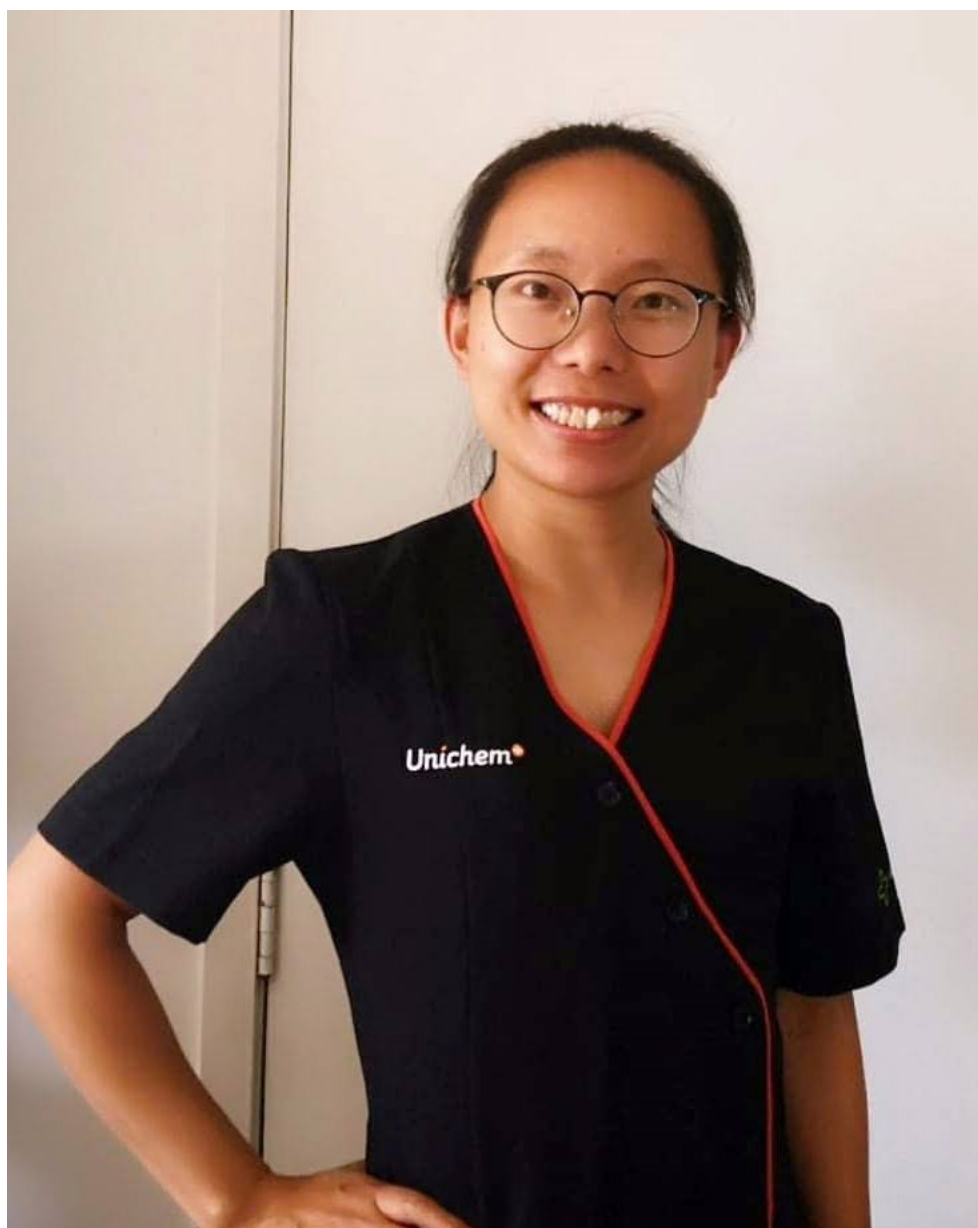
How do you feel the course has set you up to succeed in your future endeavours?

"It reminds me that practice makes perfect, maybe you are not very good at something, but it can be better if you keep doing it.

I have become more confident in reaching out to others and feel more relaxed when talking to people."

What are some of the skills you picked up during the course that you've already found useful in your everyday life and new career?

"I used to make the same pronunciation mistakes again and again, the tutors helped me correct them which helps a lot in my daily life."



Haina Ren

What advice would you have to others?

"Once you have started, do not give up easily and quickly, you might find it quite challenging at some points, but that's the way to conquer what you are fearful of.

It's a good way to meet some friends and extend your social network. Don't expect a sudden change in your life after finishing the programme, but everything you have done contributes a little to your future.

I especially want to say "Thank you" to Margriet, when I asked her to be a referee on my CV, she said yes without any hesitation and even offered to help me with my CV."

Congratulations and good luck as you embark on this new journey Haina – we could not be more thrilled with the role the Professional Speaking course has played in your journey!

If you have a success story you would like to share with us, or know of someone who does, please get in touch with the National Office at info@speechnz.co.nz or 04 498 9660

"I have become much more confident with myself... it offers a chance to help you realise that you can be better."

- Haina Ren