



VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM

Name: Ho Thao Van

Programs: ESL & Early Childhood Education and Care (Diploma)

I have been attending Vancouver Island University (VIU) since April 2003. I started in ESL for 1 year, and then entered the Early Childhood Education and Care program. I soon became a member of the Peer Helper team because I know how it is like to be a "freshman". I have also joined in on VIU's Multicultural Week for the last 2 years and the one coming in Fall 2006. I am also a member of VIU Gym's Kayak club. VIU has not only given me the opportunities to study in a great environment with friendly, caring instructors and professors, but also the opportunities to discover my own strength - being a social person. I was also lucky to be chosen to receive a VIU International Education scholarship

My first volunteer job in the community was at one Sunday school. I was in charge for a Kindergarten class. Soon, I found out how much I could do for others by volunteering in the community. I was trained and became a certified Nanaimo Tourism's International Ambassador. I joined in many local events in the summer like the Farmer's Market, Dragon Boat racing, Silly Boat racing, Bathtub boat racing, Nanaimo Multicultural Society Event, Christmas Tree festival and the list can go on. Volunteering in many local events has helped me adapt more quickly to Canadian life in general and to Nanaimo's in particular because many international students, including me, might find this is something very different from what we have back home.

My main target of coming to study in Canada is to take the Early Childhood Education and Care program. I love working with children (and love being childlike sometimes). I don't know if I can ever find such a lovely, caring and experienced faculty like I have had in ECEC program. The instructors are always there to listen to every student's needs. Plus, I have all the opportunities to be out there on the field in order to practice and to become a professional educator, not like a babysitter when people think about the caregivers. I'm placed in the total of 8 different childcare facilities for practicum and able to apply the knowledge from the classroom on practice. There is no doubt that I have chosen the right path for my future career.

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