

By Katie Walker

Jane Tang

Sept 30, 2006

For twenty years Jane Tang had dreamed of leaving China and travelling to other countries. She had achieved success as co-owner of an electronics manufacturing company and as a business consultant. She had a chemistry and chemical engineering degree. But it was not enough. "I wanted to do some interesting things, not just get along with my life," Jane, 37, says. "I felt I had to fulfil my dream otherwise I would regret it."

In July 2002 she took the plunge and migrated to New Zealand, as a skilled migrant, but with no job to go to. While her qualifications and skills were what New Zealand wanted, she says, there were few big companies doing chemical engineering here. She postponed job hunting for a while and spent a year travelling around the US and UK, satisfying her long-held travel bug.

On returning to New Zealand in 2003, Jane started a Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management at Victoria University. Telecom offered her an accounts payable position when she finished the course, and in July 2005 she started the three-month Skilled Migrant course.

"The course was helpful," she says. Jane liked the way the course was split into both classroom and placement learning. "You get the classroom [part] to first plan it, and then the placement you get to use it," she says. "We learned how to talk to clients, how to use the system, how to say things indirectly to people. "The best part of the course was a lot of role play and mock interviews."

Jane completed her six-week placement at EGL, a courier company, where she worked as an administration assistant. "The highlight was the placement – you got to come back [to class] each week and review things."

In June this year Jane scooped a job at NZ Post as a Senior Payroll Officer. She plans to take some more university papers, aim for a job in human resources and is looking at becoming an ESOL job mentor. And did the skilled migrant course help? Jane smiles. "I have already told other people about this course," she says.