

**By Katie Walker**

**Paula Yin**

**Sept 30, 2006**

Before staying at home for a year with her baby son, Paula Yin's last job was working at a supermarket – now she is a full time loan reviewer at Westpac Bank. She credits the Skilled Migrant course with this change.

In China Paula had worked in the Beijing financial markets; after coming to New Zealand in 2002 she completed a Masters in Applied Finance at Victoria University, supporting herself with part-time supermarket work. When ready to re-enter the workforce, Paula joined the Skilled Migrant course.

As part of the course, she completed a six week work placement at Kiwibank where she completed a research project on risk management. It suited her down to the ground. "The relevant work experience is very useful," she says. "[The course gives] new migrants more communication skills - for example New Zealanders always talk about the weather," she laughs.

Paula enjoyed the practical aspects of the course – such as preparing to find jobs. "To look for jobs is very difficult for Chinese because of the language barriers," she says. But the course really helped with interview and CV preparation and setting up networks with organisations. "[Of the] nine to 10 on my course, most got jobs," she says.

Paula is now a full time loan reviewer with Westpac Bank. "This present job is excellent work experience for me but not challenging of my skills and qualifications," she says. Yet at the moment that is just how she wants it, so she can put more energy into her son. "It is flexible hours so I like it very much." She believes the course placement, matched to her interest and skills, was a significant factor in helping her get the Westpac job. "I have told my neighbours and my friends about it."