ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Alumni Highlight 2026



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Beyond Borders: Zhe Ji's Journey from ITBL to International Tax Consulting

Zhe Ji (Jessie) | ITBL 01 | China



As the International College, KMUTNB, celebrates its 12th anniversary, ICANc highlights the experiences and perspectives of its alumni. In this feature, Zhe Ji, or Jessie, an ITBL graduate from China, shares her journey into international tax consulting and reflects on the academic and personal foundations developed at the college.

"I have been working as an international tax consultant ever since I graduated. The International College played a crucial role in preparing me for this position. First, its English courses laid a solid theoretical language foundation for my daily work, where I often deal with clients from different countries. Second, the college's emphasis on case studies and group projects helped me develop strong analytical and communication skills—both essential for advising clients on cross-border tax planning and compliance issues. What's more, the exposure to diverse cultures and international faculty at the college made me more adaptable when collaborating with global teams, which is a key part of my job now."

For Jessie, the transition from university to international tax consulting reflects the practical value of an education that combines language proficiency, analytical thinking, and intercultural collaboration. Her experience shows how classroom learning and exposure to an international community can become everyday professional strengths, particularly in a field where effective advice depends on understanding both clients and the wider business environment.



"In my role as an international tax consultant, I once advised a client on cross-border payments and transfer pricing for goods imported from Asia. The client was struggling to align their tax policies with their actual logistics and customs processes.

"Because I studied Supply Chain Management in the International College, I already understood key concepts like Incoterms, title transfer, and inventory flow. This allowed me to quickly map their supply chain, identify where value was added, and explain how these operational details affected their tax treatment.

"As a result, I helped them design a compliant transfer pricing policy that matched their real business activities, reducing tax risks and improving the alignment between their tax and logistics teams. My supply chain background gave me a practical edge in connecting tax rules with on-the-ground operations."

One assignment in particular demonstrates how Jessie drew on her ITBL background to solve complex client problems. Her knowledge of supply chain management helped her connect the movement of goods and the realities of business operations with international tax requirements. By bringing these perspectives together, she was able to support a transfer pricing approach aligned with the client's actual activities, illustrating the importance of applying knowledge across disciplines.



"The international mindset and cross-cultural skills I gained in the International College have significantly strengthened my performance at work. Working with clients and colleagues from diverse backgrounds requires understanding different communication styles, business expectations, and regulatory cultures. My study experience in ITBL helped me develop the ability to adapt quickly and communicate clearly across cultures. These skills help me work more efficiently, avoid misunderstandings, and deliver practical, client-oriented solutions."





Beyond technical expertise, Jessie credits her international education with strengthening her ability to navigate different professional and cultural contexts. She sees adaptability and clear communication as essential to building productive relationships, preventing misunderstandings, and developing solutions that respond to clients' needs. These qualities form part of a broader personal development that, in her view, began well before her professional career.

Lessons Beyond the Classroom

Jessie talks about some of the important benefits she received studying at IC.

“First comes kindness and integrity. During my time at the International College, I developed strong values and a clear sense of right and wrong. This helped me build an independent, kind, and complete personality that has supported every stage of my studies and career. Perhaps it is not directly related to my daily work, but I truly believe these qualities are the most important foundation for any person in their whole life.



“Second is a positive and optimistic character. I was very shy in high school, but the supportive environment at IC—with caring teachers and friendly classmates—helped me become more outgoing and confident. Looking back, there were moments I now feel so embarrassed about, but I’m very grateful for the patience and acceptance I received from ajarns and my dear classmates. Those experiences shaped me and helped me grow into a better, more positive person. This helps me work smoothly in the real working world.



“Third are independence and the ability to thrive alone. Coming to Thailand as an international student was the first time I lived far from home. With the support of teachers and friends, I gradually became more independent and self-reliant. This strength later helped me study in the UK and work in Beijing.

“Although the above three points are far from enough to describe what I learned from IC, I really appreciate my experience at IC; studying in Thailand changed me a lot.”

When reflecting on what she gained from IC, Jessie places personal character alongside academic achievement. Kindness, integrity, optimism, and independence stand out as enduring lessons from her years in Thailand. The encouragement of teachers and classmates has helped her grow in confidence, while living away from home prepared her for later experiences in the United Kingdom and Beijing. Together, these memories reveal an education she values as deeply personal and transformative.



Here's a warm, genuine, and succinct message you can share with prospective or current students:

"Studying at the International College was one of the most transformative experiences of my life. It gave me far more than academic knowledge—it helped me grow as a person. The diverse environment, supportive teachers, and close-knit community shaped my values, confidence, and independence in ways that continue to benefit me today.

"If I could tell prospective or current students one thing, it would be this: Embrace every opportunity to learn, connect, and step out of your comfort zone. The friendships you make, the challenges you overcome, and the person you become during your time at IC will stay with you long after graduation. It's not just a place to study—it's a place where you grow into who you're meant to be."

Jessie's advice to students follows naturally from her own journey. Make the most of the opportunities, relationships, and challenges that university life offers. She describes IC not simply as a place to acquire knowledge, but as a community that helps students discover their confidence and independence. As the college marks its 12th anniversary, that sense of lasting connection also shapes the gratitude and hopes she wishes to share with the next generation.



"On the occasion of the International College's 12th Anniversary, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and warmest wishes. My time at IC was truly transformative. It shaped my values, taught me academic knowledge, broadened my perspective, and helped me grow into the person I am today. The knowledge, friendships, and memories I gained there continue to inspire and support me in my career and life.

"I wish the International College continued success in the years ahead. May it keep nurturing young minds, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and empowering students to dream big and make a positive impact on the world. Happy 12th Anniversary!"



Jessie's journey embodies the spirit of the International College, KMUTNB—where international education goes beyond borders and academic excellence extends beyond the classroom. Through its internationally oriented learning environment, multicultural experiences, and supportive academic community, IC empowers students not only with the knowledge and professional skills to succeed in a global workplace, but also with the confidence, integrity, and adaptability to thrive in an ever-changing world. Her achievements reflect IC's commitment to nurturing globally minded graduates who are prepared to embrace opportunities, overcome challenges, and make meaningful contributions wherever their journeys may lead. As International College, KMUTNB celebrates its 12th anniversary, stories like hers reaffirm the College's enduring mission: to develop capable professionals, inspire personal growth, and connect future generations to a world of possibilities.