**An International Conversation**

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Therese: Would you like to sit with my husband so I can talk to your friend. Student: Yes all right. Therese: Kia ora my name is Therese. I would like to talk to you about being an international student. Jiali: Hello my name Jiali. Therese: How important is education to people in China? Jiali: Very important. It is very important that you get into a good university and children study very hard in China. Therese: What do you mean by a good University? Jiali: A university that is considered excellent. There are three kinds: ones that only take students with grades of excellence, then the next is the universities that take students who do well and then the college universities that take students who have pass grades. Therese: What subjects are important? Jiali: Maths is very important and so is speaking English.

Therese: Tell me a little about your culture. Jiali: I am an only child. My first language is Cantonese, my second is Mandarin with English. When I was little I was taught in Mandarin but now kindergartens are teaching in English. Therese: What others things does your culture value? Jiali: Financial knowledge, international change, environmental issues and protecting our environment and saving resources. Jiali: Chinese believe in 2012 it will be the end of the world and with all the natural disasters happening......... Therese: It is reinforcing that theory? Jiali: Yes Therese: Okay I have to go now. Thank you for your time. Jiali: Ni hoa

