

DE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES



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School: [Burwood Girls High School](#)
Program: [International Student Program](#)



I completed my Year 11 and 12 studies at Burwood Girls High School (BGHS). What I loved the most about studying in NSW is the Higher School Certificate (HSC), which is equivalent to GaoKao in China.

English is the only compulsory course for the HSC. Students can choose any combination of studies they like from over 100 subjects. The final mark is determined 50% by in-school assessments and 50% by externally administered final exams. This arrangement means much less study pressure for HSC students and we can spend more time on various school activities.

My favourite subject at high school was English as a second language (ESL). Throughout the course, we explored how to create a sense of belonging. The content about belonging gave me meaningful guidance when I was fresh off the boat and is a deep influence on me to date. My ESL teacher, Ms Janice Raynor, who is caring, encouraging and fair to every student in her class, is like the lighthouse that led my first two years in Australia.

I still remember the ESL class made lollies and sold them in school to fundraise for UNICEF together. The activity taught me that even as an international student, I could still make contributions to my local community. I joined UNICEF as a door-to-door fundraiser during one university break to carry on Ms Raynor's philanthropy.

After I graduated from BGHS, I went on to study a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Sydney. Now, I am a full-time Master of Information Technology student at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and work part time as an Accountant/Operations Assistant at Mirvac. I look forward to combining my cross-disciplinary knowledge in data science and finance to pursue a career in data & analytics.

Some tips for all future students who are going to study in a NSW government school are:

- Firstly, do not be shy to raise questions or ask for help, as teachers are always there to support you.
- Secondly, attend as many school activities as you can.
- Thirdly, have a career path in your mind before selecting the subjects.