

DE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES



Name: Shaowei (May) Tan
Year: 2017
School: [Randwick Girls High School](#)
Program: [International Student Program](#)



As a Randwick Girls High School student, I received support not only to achieve the Dux of the school but also opportunities to immerse myself in the diverse Australian culture.

My time in high school has enabled me to earn lifelong friendships and have a smooth transition from high school to university. I have realised how thankful I am for my high school teachers, who gave me a lot of confidence to speak in public, even though I am an introverted person. This inclusive environment helped me to develop a positive and independent attitude towards study and work and do my personal best at university.

I chose to study at the University of New South Wales because I appreciate the environment, the excellent academic culture and wide range of opportunities. As my high school is nearby, when I was a high school student, I came to visit and studied at the university library a few times, and I was sure that I wanted to spend my next four years here. I have enjoyed the experience at UNSW so far, as I have expected to since high school.

As I meet a lot of international students at university, I realised that although they are willing to know more about Australian culture and meet new friends, they are sometimes not sure where they can find these opportunities. Therefore, I joined the Cultural Mentor Program to support newly arrived students to get familiar with our culture and share my study skills to reduce their stress in academic life. It was a rewarding role and a wonderful opportunity to make new friends. I especially enjoyed the Sculptures by the Sea tour with mentees.

Overall, I am very fortunate to have so many amazing experiences from high school to university, they brighten up and enrich my life.