

DE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES



Name: Enxi (Nancy) Lin
Year: 2019
School: Burwood Girls High School
Program: International Students Program

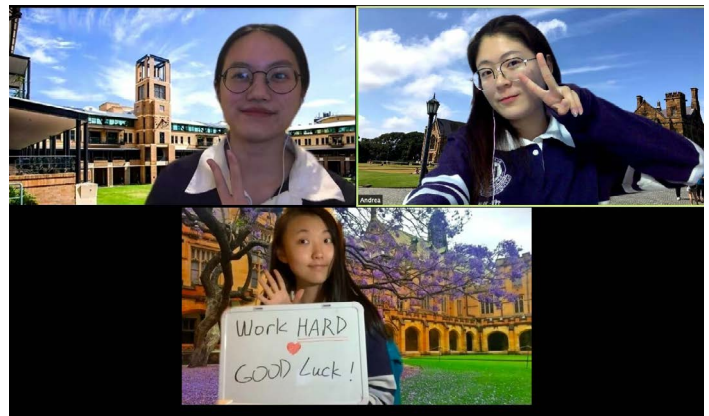


My favourite part about my school was the ‘high challenge, high support’ learning environment. The learning experience was enjoyable and fulfilling. As an ESL student, I was provided with personalised and adequate support to succeed in the mainstream classroom. For instance, my school employed learning support officers to cater to the needs of international students both in class and after school. Additionally, most subject teachers were experienced in teaching ESL students, and they always made sure we had acquired adequate literacy skills in that subject area.

The experience of living and studying in Australia away from family and home was not easy, but was made much better by our International Student Coordinators, who helped us in many aspects of our day-to-day life. They created a safe space for conversations and always tried their best to resolve any issues I had. This made me truly feel cared for and supported.

Additionally, I believe our voices were heard and our opinions were valued and respected. We were encouraged to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities and take on leadership roles. For example, I was inspired to initiate a film club for ESL students, where we watched movies with subtitles during lunchtime. I received overwhelming support from the ESL teachers and International Student Coordinators, and the experience of learning English while having fun with my friends was an absolute blast. Such a feeling of belonging to a loving and inspiring community has left a soft, and special spot in my heart, which still brings a smile to my face when I look back to it.

Moving forward, I aspire to become a secondary maths teacher; I doubt that I would have made the same career choice if not for my experience in high school. I am grateful for the teachers who led me to where I am and are still guiding me in my ongoing professional development.



Nancy (top left) worked with other Student Ambassadors on a video recording for students sitting the 2020 HSC.