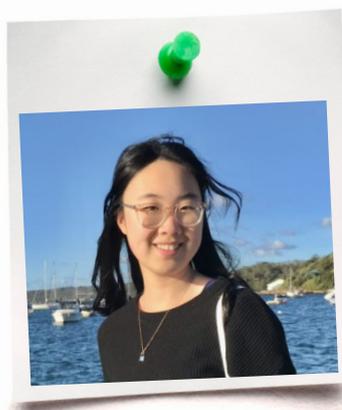


DE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES



Name: Yimei Zhao
Year: 2021
School: Mosman High School
Program: International Students Program



As the winner of the 2022 NSW Government Schools International Student Leadership Award, I would love to share my journey with you.

It all began with enrolling in Mosman High School, a NSW government school. While I had a simple purpose of immersing myself in the authentic culture of a Western country, now looking back, I realise the abundant, vibrant, and diverse cultural and social experiences Mosman High School provided me.

English was my favourite subject. I couldn't be more grateful for the unlimited support from my teachers, for every learning experience and the excursion opportunities that enriched my view of the world.

Walking out of high school, I'd learnt how to think on my own, critically and maturely.

Reflecting upon the leadership experiences I've had:

- being elected as the school vice captain
- joining Zali Steggall's Youth Ambassador team to take care of our local society
- leading Mosman High School in the Zero Emission Program through waste recycling, and growing a community garden together with the Environment Committee.

These experiences have all shaped the person I've become today. Someone who's not afraid anymore. Not afraid to step up, take the lead, and be the change I want to see. It is the process of trying, in contributing to our community, that is the most precious.

Living in Sydney NSW, was truly a blessing. There are always more spectacular hikes and beaches waiting for you to explore. Moreover, it is those friendly smiles walking down the street that always make your day.

Right now, I am studying a Bachelor of Health Science at the University of Queensland, engaging with the campus life, and taking the liberty to join as many sports clubs and camping trips as I can! After graduation, I will continue studying Medicine, and pursue a career in this field.

A tip I would give to future students coming to study at a NSW government school, is don't be afraid to put yourself out there, and be the change you want to see! What if it turned out better than you could've ever imagined?



Yimei Zhao, 2022 International Student Leadership Award winner, assisting with the community garden.