Gillian Gan came from Malaysia to study in New South Wales (NSW), Australia and chose Carlingford High School as her destination. When speaking about her school and her teachers she said, “My teachers were exceptionally helpful in my studies and just getting to know the place. The school staff were great and so helpful with all the paperwork, becoming familiar with the school and Australia as a country.”

“They (the teachers) organised heaps of excursions to the city and we had a group discussion among all the international students at school where we could relate our experiences and talk about everything that we are going through, the similar journeys that we were experiencing. It helped me settle in and get to know Australia as a country so much more.”

Carlingford High School is located approximately 20 kilometres North-West of Sydney and endeavours to achieve a whole-of-person approach to education through balancing the academic, social, cultural, emotional and physical needs of the students. Sydney is a great study destination for international students. It has been voted the world’s best city* in 2007 and 2008 for its beautiful landscape, climate, friendly people, affordable accommodation, and quality education and training. It also ranks as one of the top three global cities for employment and business opportunities, alongside London and New York.

“School-wise my teachers were also great, they knew that I was new and that I wasn’t here for the first years of high school so they helped me so much with getting to know what subjects I wanted to do and how the assignments and examinations worked. I really thank them for all that they’ve helped me with and what I’ve achieved is all part of their contribution.”

Gillian completed Year 12 at Carlingford High School with a Universities Admissions Index (UAI) of 97.00 meaning that she came in the top three percent of NSW and was nominated for DEC International’s 2008 International Student Academic Award.

“My advice for the students coming to Australia and NSW for their studies is that it’s a great, great experience. The expectations that I had were high but I never expected to go through such an amazing journey. I’ve grown so much and I’ve learned so much, not only through the education system but from the culture and from everyone who was here and helped me so much to understand and to learn about myself, and to gain more knowledge about a different country.”