Hansol Choi
Country: Korea
School: Marsden High School, Intensive English Centre

In the beginning Hansol Choi didn’t know much about Australia, New South Wales (NSW) or the schools available, and so trusted the advice of his aunt and an international student agency in Korea. He’s now happy he did this and decided to study at the Intensive English Centre (IEC) at Marsden High School saying, “I met the best friends and the best teachers.”

Intensive English Centres provide students with English courses for up to 20 weeks before they begin at their nominated high school. Classes are small (maximum 18 students) and English tuition is focused on the language skills they will need for further study. Many IECs are based in a NSW government high school and Marsden High School is one of these, this often aids the transition from an IEC to high school making it more smooth and cohesive.

Hansol has found learning English to be the biggest challenge since arriving in Australian but has been able to improve greatly since starting at Marsden High School, “They teach me passionately and I can understand easily because they teach in a way that I understand,” says Hansol. Meeting and making friends with both IEC students as well as those studying in the high school area has also helped this and added to his overall experience. “I love Marsden High because teachers are kind, facilities are good quality and students are also kind and enthusiastic.”

Hansol has the option to study subjects that he’s interested in including Music because “I’m interested in musical instruments and the history of music,” and Mathematics because “I like to calculate.” In his spare time he is also able to undertake hobbies and visit Australia saying, “I learn guitar and Japanese on Saturday and tennis on Thursday, I have also been to the Blue Mountains.”

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.

“I would recommend students studying abroad to come to Marsden High School and IEC. It has good facilities and the best teachers as well as excellent students!”