Lin Jiang completed her Higher School Certificate (HSC) at Gymea Technology High School. Lin commenced her tertiary education in Chemical Engineering at the University of New South Wales after achieving a Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) score of 99.5 and was the winner of the 2013 DEC International Academic Achievement Award.

As a school leader, she was well regarded and received academic excellence awards in all her subjects at Gymea High.

“It was a very pleasurable experience and something I would never forget. Due to the relatively small group of international students attending the school, I became very close with the other Australian students and teachers. I found that the teachers and my fellow schoolmates were all very approachable and helped me to develop my communication skills and studies. The teachers were supportive of us international students, especially my Year 12 Student Advisor who was like my mother at school.

My school was a technologically advanced school and I have found that all the classrooms were of high standards, the facilities were modern and of good quality, especially the newly renovated labs.

My homestay family provided a very comfortable environment and they always tried to make me a part of the family. They were a very open-minded family and had a multicultural background, which led me to try a variety of new foods. They also implemented guidelines such as ‘we should minimise the amount of times we speak in another language’ to encourage us to improve our communication skills. Even though I have graduated from high school and moved out of their home I still keep in contact with my homestay family as we have developed a close and personal bond, so yes, I would definitely recommend homestay to prospective international students.”

Lin’s advice to prospective international students is to be as outgoing as possible and to enjoy the experience. “You would meet some of the most amazing people who would open your eyes to new cultures and experiences.”

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