Vincent Wei Tu came from Shanghai when he was 15 to study at Georges River College (GRC) in Sydney’s south. He completed Year 10 at GRC Hurstville Boys Campus – a junior high school. Vincent then continued at the co-educational GRC Oatley Senior Campus for Years 11 and 12. Vincent completed his Higher School Certificate (HSC) in 2007 and achieved a University Admissions Index (UAI) score of 99.35. He was named dux of his school and is now studying a Bachelor of Commerce and Science at the University of New South Wales.

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.

“My parents made the big decision to send me to a NSW government school because they believed it was a fairer education system compared to in China. NSW government schools provide an equal environment for everyone because the final marks are based 50% on assessments and 50% on the final exam. This means that someone who gets nervous in exams will not be disadvantaged.

Australian high schools are very flexible so you can choose your own subjects depending on your interests. GRC Oatley Senior Campus is a big school because students come from three different junior schools, so you have even more subjects to choose from and greater flexibility in your study timetable.

I studied at GRC because it was close to where I was living. I loved studying there and personally think it’s one of the best schools. The campus used to be a university campus and it has exceptional facilities such as smart boards and lecture rooms and air conditioning in the classrooms.

Teachers were always very helpful and very patient with me and other international students when we had questions. There was also a writing club during lunch time to assist with essay writing. It made assessments and exams much easier. Studying in English was definitely the biggest challenge when I came to Australia.

What I loved most about GRC was that it was not a stressful environment. You were encouraged to do well and the best you could, but it was all very relaxed and laid-back. That motivated me to try harder and made learning more enjoyable. I worked very hard for my HSC and I did very well.

Studying in Australia also helped me learn about different cultures. Getting used to a multicultural society where each individual’s way of life is influenced by their culture background was difficult. But I made school friends from different background and this helped me to learn about different cultures and the Australian way of life.

Attending a NSW government school provided me with a great pathway to study the course I wanted to study at a great, internationally acclaimed Australian university. I would recommend other students to come to a NSW government school. Be confident and ready for a fun challenge.”

*Anholt City Brand Index (2007-2008) and Conde Nast Traveler 2007

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