Yumi Kim
Country: Korea
School: Marsden High School

Yumi Kim, a Year 12 student currently studying at Marsden High School came to Australia through an international student agency that “suggested NSW government schools due to their good education environment.” She chose to study at Marsden High School because, “it’s near my homestay and I heard there were many programs that can support international students.”

Marsden High School provides education to students in Years 7-12 and offers access to a broad range of subjects, additional learning programs and sporting and cultural activities that are enhanced in a coeducational setting.

When asked about her school and its facilities Yumi responded, “the school facilities are way better than I had in Korea. My high school in Korea had grass only in the middle of the school ground, Marsden High School has a huge ground which is covered with grass and students can play all over. All the school buildings are near each other so I can easily move around or find a class and the library is nice as well. There is also an elevator in several places so students who have a disability can use it. I like school facilities that help to enjoy life with friends.”

After completing Intensive English, Yumi still has access to English language assistance through English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers who, “help me write essays and do assessments, even if they’re not an ESL assessment. When I was in Year 10 I couldn’t understand a lot of the lesson but a support teacher joined the class and helped me to catch up so I could study without losing interest. Teachers have helped me not only academically but emotionally also, I had problems with my host family and the international student coordinator helped me to move host family.”

Sydney is a very multicultural area and exposes students to not only the Australian culture, but many others as well. “I have made friends from various countries such as Japan, China, Italy and Afghanistan and so on. Having those friends are motivation to learn other languages and to understand various cultures. Now I can speak Japanese, Korean and English and I am planning to learn French in university. Also, the relationships have taught us how to respect each other.”

There are also many opportunities to grow and expand on your interests both in and outside of school through study and extracurricular activities as Yumi has learned, “I like the flexibility of education in NSW, all of my subjects are what I like so I am really enjoying my studies, I can also spend my time wisely as I have flexible class times. Outside of school I have taught Korean to Australian and second generation Korean immigrants which is great because it helps me to stay close to my own identity and I can help people at the same time.”

“I will recommend studying at a NSW government school and I have had a great time at Marsden High School. I hope other students can experience Australian school life and learn from the different culture.”

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