

THE PLC SYDNEY ADVANTAGE



PLC
PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES' COLLEGE
SYDNEY
— 1888 —

...PATHWAYS AND AN EXCEPTIONAL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM



AT PLC SYDNEY WE SEEK TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS TO ACHIEVE ACADEMICALLY, TO VALUE, AND EMPATHISE WITH OTHERS, AND TO BECOME EFFECTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENS.

Our international students are such a joy. We learn so much from them: about their homeland, their views of our nation, and about their own personalities. We warmly welcome them into our community.

International students benefit from PLC Sydney's strong academic program. We purposefully place two teachers in classrooms such as Science - one to teach the subject, and one to ensure the students understand any difficult vocabulary or syntax. Over the past five years, two of our students who were named 'Dux of the College' have been international students.

It is not only in scholastic areas that students gain from PLC Sydney. They benefit from the view we take of each person. As a Christian College, we hold each young woman to have an inimitable worth. We respect them and care for them and expect them to look after each other.

We also offer a wide range of co-curricular activities, to enable each girl to find a niche.

As you read through this booklet, I hope you gain a sense of the joy it is to be a PLC Sydney girl.

Dr Paul Burgis
Principal

STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is a leading global education powerhouse with some of the world's best facilities and educators, providing international students with a wide range of study options. With an international and modern outlook, Australian education systems are focused on 21st Century learning, preparing students for the challenges of a globally connected and rapidly changing world.

Australia is the third most popular international student destination in the world and is home to eight of the top 100 universities in the world, consistently ranking in the world's top ten most liveable countries.

To gain the most from studying in Australia, at high school and university level, international students need a strong foundation in English language, both spoken and academic. As important however, they need to become familiar with – and comfortable in – the Australian academic culture, with its philosophical roots in Western critical thinking, personal communication, and intellectual creativity.

We believe this is best achieved by immersing students in intensive English language acquisition and cultural familiarisation in a high school environment. PLC Sydney values the PLC Pathways Program, a 12-month residential English Language Intensive Course of Study (ELICOS) because it provides exceptionally high quality teaching and cultural familiarisation.

The Pathways Program is conducted at PLC Armidale, PLC Sydney's sister school. PLC Armidale is located in the magnificent New England district of New South Wales – a location famed for educational excellence

as well as a pleasant climate, and a safe and welcoming local community. For up to a year, PLC Pathways students live and attend PLC Armidale, doing the groundwork that will ensure their future development, achievement, success and fulfilment in Australian academic study.

PLC Pathways is a unique program that has been carefully crafted to offer the highest quality foundation course for international students, setting them on the road to Australian academic success. Not only does Pathways introduce students to an Australian learning environment, the boarding experience allows the girls to integrate with Australian students, teaching them about an environment where they live with others who are different to them. Many of the students who attend the Pathways Program, go on to attend other Australian schools, with some coming to Sydney to complete their final years at PLC Sydney.



COORDINATOR OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS AT PLC SYDNEY



Hello! I am Mrs Ellen Ehrhardt-Smith, the Coordinator of Overseas Students at PLC Sydney. My role is to care for all students who are on a visa or have come from overseas.

Student wellbeing and health is integral to the learning process of our students. PLC Sydney is a busy school and the new school environment may be overwhelming for new students at first. I help new students to settle in and get to know PLC Sydney well by running a 2-day Orientation Program when they arrive.

Students are introduced to all aspects of the school, including support services available to them and the huge variety of co-curricular activities that we have on offer. From my own experience studying in Australia from Hong Kong, I believe that an education comprises of more than simply academic study and exams, so all overseas students are encouraged to participate in the school's activities in order to make friends, gain new skills and acculturate well.

The PLC Pathways Program has allowed many of our overseas students to successfully integrate into life at PLC Sydney. The girls are well adjusted, polite, friendly, and readily engage with the wider

school community. The smaller class settings at Armidale, with dedicated staff, make the transition much easier for the girls, while many of the cultural activities they engage in whilst in the country e.g. horse riding, trips to other country towns etc, provide a truly 'Australian' experience. When PLC Armidale girls come to Sydney they have already done a lot of their adjusting, so they arrive at PLC Sydney ready to learn and make the most of the opportunities provided here. They are also used to the PLC ethos and value we place on learning, so it's a familiar environment because the ethos is the same.

Many of our international students are boarders at the school, which means that they have the opportunity to form life-long friendships with girls from both Australia and overseas. Activities in the Boarding House include such things as movies, markets, ferry trips, attending dances at other schools, themed dinners, games nights, ice-skating etc. Being located in the vibrant inner west region of Sydney also allows the girls to easily enjoy the many activities and events on offer in Sydney.

Throughout the school year, I am available to the students for a friendly chat or to work through any issues that they may be facing, including friendships, academic study, living in homestay or the boarding house and mental health. My office is open and friendly, and students are encouraged to drop in at any time. My goal is to see these girls flourish at PLC Sydney and develop into well-rounded individuals, taking hold of all opportunities that are given to them and preparing them well for future university study and careers.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS THINK ABOUT PATHWAYS AND THE PLC SYDNEY ADVANTAGE.

LAURA YU

YEAR 12



How long have you been in Australia?

3 years.

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Armidale?

Doing activities at school and in the Boarding House.

In what way did studying at PLC Armidale help you to get used to the Australian lifestyle?

Studying at Armidale helped me with my time management, as did the activities we did in class.

How did studying at PLC Armidale prepare you for living and studying at PLC Sydney?

It was during my time at Armidale that I learned how to effectively arrange my time for study in a day and also how to communicate with teachers.

What do you like about PLC Sydney?

The girls here at PLC Sydney are all very talented and smart, which creates a little pressure for me, but they also help me with my studies at the same time.

What is your favourite subject or co-curricular activity at PLC Sydney and why?

Visual Arts, because I love doing painting and crafts. Arts gives me the opportunity to express my feelings through my creation and inspiration.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five years time?

I want to get into my dream university and keep studying the subjects I love.

ALICE ZHAO

YEAR 10



How long have you been in Australia?

One and a half years.

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Armidale?

I've tried many things that I have never did before, but I think my most favourite, was Year Camp.

In what way did studying at PLC Armidale help you to get used to the Australian lifestyle?

It introduced me to other Australian students, so you could talk and find out things about Australia.

How did studying at PLC Armidale prepare you for living and studying at PLC Sydney?

Studying at PLC Armidale helped me understand Australian culture.

What do you like about PLC Sydney?

The study environment, and the teachers are all pretty friendly.

What is your favourite subject or co-curricular activity at PLC Sydney and why?

Physical Science is my favourite subject, and I also really enjoy the time playing Badminton as well.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five years time?

I would like to have done well in my HSC, having achieved a good ATAR score in Physical Science and other subject areas.

CHRISTINE LIU

YEAR 11



How long have you been in Australia?

About a year and a term.

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Armidale?

The period of time that I studied in Pathways was an unforgettable period of time for me. It not only helped me get used to the life in Australia, but also helped me integrate into the mainstream well. I did stumble a few times when I studied at Armidale, but all these things, including the struggle, are now part of my precious memories.

In what way did studying at PLC Armidale help you to get used to the Australian lifestyle?

In Pathways, the teachers not only taught us academic knowledge, but also cultural stuff. After school, we would participate in different activities, like we do at PLC Sydney. I found that the activities helped me a lot.

How did studying at PLC Armidale prepare you for living and studying at PLC Sydney?

In the Pathways Program, we not only learnt English but also other skills that we might need in the following years. For example, how to think through and analyse things. Sometimes I can skillfully figure out what techniques something uses and analyse it using the knowledge that teachers taught us in Armidale.

What do you like about PLC Sydney?

Studying in Sydney is certainly more stressful than studying in Armidale. But it also has two sides. When all the people around you are concentrating on studying, it also motivates you to study harder as well.

What is your favourite subject or co-curricular activity at PLC Sydney and why?

I really enjoyed the Fuel Camp, where we not only studied the Bible but also built relationships with others in different year groups. You could actually feel that you belonged to this group of people - the Christian community.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five years time?

I hope that by studying the subjects I have chosen, I can build a positive world view. I'd like to be able to look at problems from a different angle and higher level, and be of help.

GRACE MIAO

YEAR 10



How long have you been in Australia?

About a year.

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Armidale?

A trip that all the international students went on to Coffs Harbour.

In what way did studying at PLC Armidale help you to get used to the Australian lifestyle?

At PLC Armidale, I just learnt English and Maths, so I could really focus on improving my English. Also, the teacher's office was right next to the classroom, so if I had any question, I could ask them directly - that was a big help.

How did studying at PLC Armidale prepare you for living and studying at PLC Sydney?

The timetable between PLC Armidale and PLC Sydney is very similar. In the PLC Armidale Pathways Program, I did not just learn English, we also learnt about cultural differences and how to make friends etc, therefore, when I came to PLC Sydney, I knew how to get along with others.

What do you like about PLC Sydney?

I like the students and teachers at PLC Sydney because they are all very friendly.

What is your favourite subject or co-curricular activity at PLC Sydney and why?

My favorite subject is History because it's fun. I like playing sport as well, particularly Badminton.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five years time?

I'm not sure where I will be in 5 years time, but I'd like to continue doing lots of different activities.

CINDY WANG

YEAR 12



How long have you been in Australia?

Two years.

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Armidale?

I loved the range of activities I could choose to participate in. Life in Pathways was wonderful because of the wonderful teachers and friends I met. I met my first best Australian friend and a fantastic guitar teacher.

In what way did studying at PLC Armidale help you to get used to the Australian lifestyle?

The Australian girls at PLC Armidale are always happy to talk with us and we'd share our different experiences.

How did studying at PLC Armidale prepare you for living and studying at PLC Sydney?

My English improved and I got used to the way that Australian teachers teach.

What do you like about PLC Sydney?

Everyone is very ambitious and loves studying. Everyone has a very positive attitude to studying.

What is your favourite subject or co-curricular activity at PLC Sydney and why?

Speech Lesson. Although I haven't had a lot of lessons yet, I know that the lessons will definitely help me in the future. Speech lessons will make me more and more confident to speak publicly with more fluent English.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five years time?

I want to study Law at Sydney University, so I know I have to work really hard this year to get in.

KATE YIN

YEAR 12



How long have you been in Australia?

One and a half years.

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Armidale?

I really enjoyed the lovely natural environment and slow paced lifestyle that Armidale provided. Being a member of the school choir really helped me to improve my confidence in singing and also know a little more about Christianity, because we used to sing hymns. I loved the 'Park run' we did on Saturdays, which was a challenge for me but also a good way to maintain friendships while enjoying the beautiful landscape, which is different than in cities like Sydney.

In what way did studying at PLC Armidale help you to get used to the Australian lifestyle?

The Australian girls at PLC Armidale are

always happy to talk with us and we'd share our different experiences. Life in the Boarding House, eating Australian food, talking with Australian teachers and schoolmates, going to town at weekends, all these things helped me to get used to the Australian way of life. Sometimes the school would organize activities, like the park run, holiday trips etc

How did studying at PLC Armidale prepare you for living and studying at PLC Sydney?

Studying at PLC Armidale allowed me to get used to Australian life and how its schools operate.

What do you like about PLC Sydney?

Everyone is very ambitious and loves studying. Everyone has a very positive attitude to studying.

What is your favourite subject or co-curricular activity at PLC Sydney and why?

My favorite subject is Maths and Chinese, because the teachers are good. My favorite co-curricular activity is Swimming, because there is a swimming pool at school, so it's very convenient for me to go there, and doing exercise helps me to release stress and stay healthy.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five years time?

Living in Australia

IRINA YU

YEAR 12



How long have you been in Australia?

Two and a half years.

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Armidale?

Christmas Dinner was my favourite.

In what way did studying at PLC Armidale help you to get used to the Australian lifestyle?

Living in the countryside.

How did studying at PLC Armidale prepare you for living and studying at PLC Sydney?

For me, the creative writing knowledge was really helpful.

What do you like about PLC Sydney?

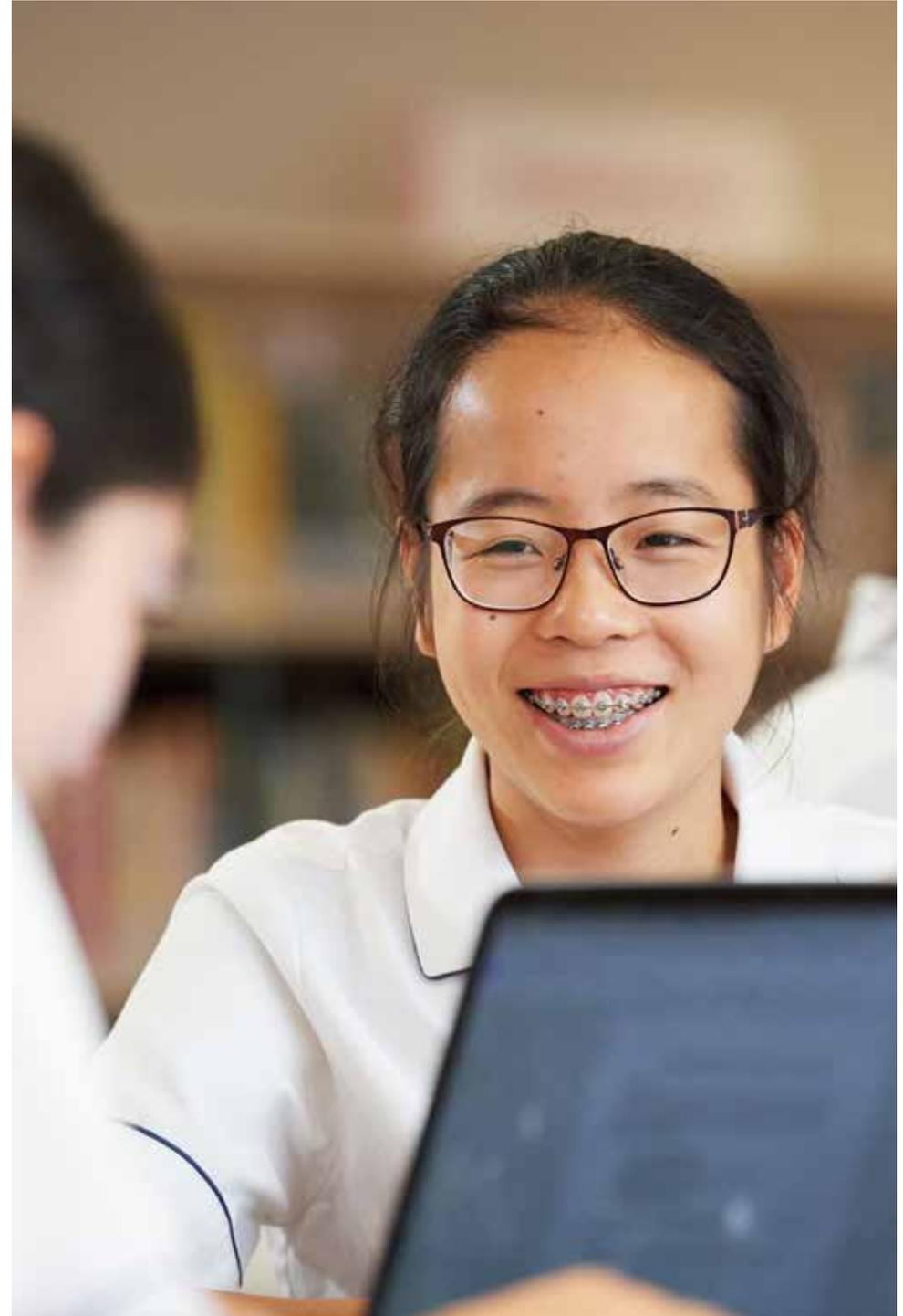
The spirit of the school.

What is your favourite subject or co-curricular activity at PLC Sydney and why?

Chinese Debating. This enables me to practise my Chinese and learn debating and public speaking skills.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five years time?

I hope to finish my bachelor and master degree in Business and Language in Australia and the UK. I'd ultimately like to do a PHD in Japan and live there, working in an international business related area.





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