

# Westminster International Students Program



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Westminster School welcomes international students who wish to experience the excellent standards of education, high-level integrated technology and the opportunity to study alongside Australian students in friendly, safe, multicultural communities. We offer a wide range of subjects, sports, outdoor education, creative arts, music, leadership and exchange programs around the world. We ensure not only the academic progress also physical safety and emotional wellbeing of every student.

Westminster School is a Early Learning Centre to Year 12, coeducational, day and boarding school. The school has approximately 1,250 students in total, and each year Westminster School has approximately 40 international students enrolled from many different countries.

Westminster school has strong communication links with the parents of international students. The Principal, Mr Bousfield regularly travels to many Asian and European countries to meet current international students and their families. As a part of the International Students Program, the International Student Coordinator (Mrs Sun Kim) holds the Overseas Parents Meeting every year in major cities in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. This is the great opportunity for the parents to know how their children develop the learning skills and to interact in the classroom.

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICES / COORDINATOR

The International Student Coordinator, Mrs Sun Kim oversees the international students program and supports all international students at school. Mrs Kim understands the concern of parents and the special needs of international students living away from home in a different cultural setting. She provides various events to encourage international students to achieve their full potential in all areas of their lives. Her language ability - fluent in Japanese and Korean and familiar with Chinese - help parents, students, staff communicate without the language barrier.

## Key Points of the International Students Program

- **Orientation Program:** New students have five days of the orientation program prior to their commencing dates. The program is designed to help new international students settle quickly into the school and make the most of many opportunities that exist at school. At the conclusion of the Orientation Program, students will know their subjects and teachers, facilities and classrooms, where they can get help when they are not sure about anything at school.
- **Overseas Parents Meeting:** The International Student Coordinator holds the Overseas Parent Meeting every year in major cities in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. This is the great opportunity for the parents to know how their children develop the learning skills and to interact in the classroom.
- **English as a Second Language Support Program:** ESL teachers understand that international students put enormous effort into developing their communication skills in English. We offer ESL classes as a part of our normal curriculum and international students receive individual academic support from the ESL teacher across the curriculum.
- **Outstanding Pastoral Care by House System:** Students are assigned to a House, and are matched with a Tutor. The teacher in charge of a House knows about many aspects of every student in their House. Students and a Head of House will have regular meetings to discuss school life, educational goals, happiness, and other more routine and social issues.
- **Leadership Program:** Students are encouraged to develop leadership qualities in all areas of their life. We encourage independence in preparation for their schooling and their future. There are many opportunities for leadership: Sport, Performing Arts, International experiences, Tours, Community Services, School Leadership positions in all year levels, House System, and the Captain of International Students.
- **Career Counselling:** Westminster School provides career education, work experiences, advice on subject selection and university entrance.
- **Other services:** Reception on arrival in Adelaide, Medical insurance, Visa advice and so on.



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## ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Westminster is a great School for international students. Listed below are the steps required to enrol.

### Enrolment steps

1. Read the website in detail. View all the International sections as well as Secondary School, Features, Our Facilities.
2. Email any questions you have to [dbetro@westminster.sa.edu.au](mailto:dbetro@westminster.sa.edu.au)
3. Send a completed application form, an AEAS report and a copy of the last 2 school reports/transcripts to [dbetro@westminster.sa.edu.au](mailto:dbetro@westminster.sa.edu.au). OR contact one of our agents if there is one in your country/region and have them send the application to us.
4. Westminster School will then assess your application and if we accept Westminster School sends you an offer/invoice letter.
5. You then deposit the invoice amount into our account.
6. We then issue a Certificate of Enrolment (CoE) and Welfare Letter (CAAW).
7. You then use the CoE and CAAW to get your student visa.

Following this will be a series of steps to complete. Sun Kim, our International Student Coordinator, will guide you through this post-enrolment process to ensure a smooth transition into Westminster School.

## INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE

Students will be required to enrol in 20 to 30 weeks of the Intensive English Course prior to scheduled commencement of their principal course. This does not apply if the students have:

- been instructed in English as their first language;
- been instructed in English in an international school for at least the past two years;
- achieved an IELTS test score of 5.5 (or an equivalent score in an approved English language test).

Westminster School works closely with the English Language School of Australia (ELSA) where students attend until they reach an appropriate level of English so they can join mainstream classes.

### SACE Certificate

Students entering Year 12 will be undertaking studies for Stage 2 of the South Australian Certificate of Education.

(SACE) The SACE curriculum has been designed to advance particular educational ends. Its main aim is to provide access to, and participation in, an appropriate range of studies for all students to prepare them for University entrance in Australia or internationally.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Homestay Information

International students perform better in school when they live in a supportive family environment. Westminster carefully selects Australian host family which provides a safe and secure environment for students living away from their own homes. The family associated lifestyle helps students to adjust to Australian culture, assists with language and supports their learning program. The Homestay Co-ordinator provides special assistance with Homestay accommodation and arrangements.

### Boarding House Information

Westminster School Boarding welcomes students from Years 7 to 12 from a diverse range of backgrounds and a large population of Australian country students. Boarding provides modern facilities and a welcoming 'family' atmosphere with a dedicated team of experienced, professional and supportive staff. There are 55 boys in the Boys' Boarding and 55 girls in the Girls' Boarding. The boarding experience gives international students the chance to build life-long friendships with fellow students from very diverse backgrounds, both in regional and rural Australia and other countries. This mixing of cultures and life experiences provides all with opportunities for meaningful interactions.



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## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

International students who have graduated from Westminster School have flourished in their chosen fields: often in Law, Medicine, Engineering, Commerce, Computing and the Creative Arts. As a School we enjoy hearing news of current students and Old Scholars who are making a positive contribution at Westminster and universities.

"Hi everyone. My name is Wenfei Yan (Poiy). I am from China and I started at Westminster in 2007. I received the highest TER, 98.60, in 2009. Here is some advice I have for you to help you achieve your best whilst being an International student at Westminster.

Firstly, set goals. Everyone has different goals and will end up taking a different path in life. Therefore this goal should be something you can and want to achieve. Setting a goal that is too easy to achieve is meaningless. I like to see my goal as an apple on the tree, if I don't jump, I will never get it. I can't achieve my goal with my feet on the ground.

Secondly, ask for help. As an International student, I have experienced a lot that Australian students couldn't understand. I felt alone and didn't know who I should go to for help. I couldn't handle my stress. However, when I started to talk to someone I felt much better and my problems were solved. So, if you have any problems talk to Ms Kim. She is the coordinator of International students. She will be able to give you advice on what to do about your problems or who else might be able to help you. If you feel not happy or not comfortable at any time, make an appointment to see Ms. Howland, career and school life counselor. These people really want to help you and will if you ask.

Thirdly, make friends. I made a few friends at school, most of whom are Chinese. However I highly recommend that International students make friends with both Australian and other International students. This will not only help to improve your English, but it will also help you become more involved in the School community. You can learn more from your friends and will make you feel less isolated.

I want to encourage the International students, especially the Chinese students at Westminster to have faith in themselves. For Year 12s, it is hard but you will achieve your goals if you put the effort in."

The APEX Australia Teenagers Fashion Competition is a brilliant opportunity for students to show exceptional fashion ability in both designing and creating world class fashion garments in our four categories.

In 2009, Hounjeong LIM ('09) (Korea, RMIT Fashion Design) won second in South Australia. Following on from this, in 2010, Ji Hyea HAN ('10) (Korea) won first in South Australia. Here are stories from these two students:

"The first impression I got from Westminster school was amazing. I have never seen a school provide such a varied choice of subjects to students. When I came to Westminster, I could finally enjoy learning in school because I chose every fun subject I could, such as art and design.

Studying what I like was not the only thing I liked during my time at Westminster. In fact, I really liked all my teachers. They were all happy to give such good support and encourage me if I was struggling in a subject. If I had any problems, they always gave up their time to help me find a solution. The two most unforgettable moments I had at Westminster were when my art teacher, Mr Bax, was sitting with me for more than 2 hours, helping me finish my final essay on the day it was due. The other memorable moment was when my fashion design teacher, Ms Depold, was willing to come to school on a Sunday morning to let me finish my design portfolio. Without their passion and encouragement, we would not have been able to enhance our knowledge and skills in Art & Design, as well as gain great experiences and results by competing in the APEX Australia Teenagers Fashion Competition.

We would like to thank Mr. Bax, Ms Depold and Ms Kim for taking care of us and helping to graduate successfully from Westminster."

