

Vancouver to Sydney

Finding a Home Away From Home at Dunmore Lang College



For exchange student Nicola Sidhu, coming to Australia was the chance to experience something completely different.

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Nicola studies History and Anthropology at the University of British Columbia and hopes to pursue a career in the museum industry. While Australia had long been a dream destination, it was the opportunity to swap Canada's cold climate for Australia's warmer weather that first inspired her to apply for exchange.

"I've lived in a cold climate my whole life, so I wanted to experience the warm weather Australia is famous for," she said. "Australia has always been a dream destination of mine, and going on exchange was the best way to experience it."

When researching accommodation options, Dunmore Lang College immediately stood out.

"I chose DLC because it seemed like such a supportive place just from looking at the website. My expectations were exceeded — I love it here!"

Throughout her time at College, the strong sense of community has been a highlight. Among her favourite memories are the annual *Hottest 100* celebrations counting down the top music icons as voted by the residents and the regular TV nights in the floor lounge bingeing the latest drama series.

While adapting to Australian life was relatively easy, one aspect of local culture took some getting used to.

"What surprised me most was how much Australians shorten words," she laughed. "Dino', 'Maccas' and 'arvo' are just a few examples. At first I had to ask what they meant, but now I'm guilty of using them too."

Reflecting on her exchange experience, she says the College has been at the centre of it all.

"DLC has become the heart of my exchange experience. I've done so much here because I'm happy to participate in anything. I've felt so supported by my friends, Resident Advisers and staff when it comes to homesickness."

For students considering studying abroad, she believes the College's community makes all the difference.

"DLC is an amazing place to socialise and make friends, which really helps combat the loneliness that can come with moving to a new country. There are so many other exchange students going through the same experience and willing to support one another."

Her advice is simple: "Definitely come here, you'll love it."