



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## GRADUATE PROFILE



**MAO OZAWA, JAPAN**  
Graduate Student

Mao comes to us from Saitama, Japan. She first visited the Gold Coast on a study tour when she was in primary school. She later returned to the Gold Coast to join Miami State High School's graduate program in Grade 10 in 2023. Since then, Mao has excelled academically and demonstrated remarkable personal growth.

In 2025, Mao was appointed as one of our Cultural Ambassador International Student Leaders. In this role, she has actively supported and advocated for other international students, becoming a strong and compassionate voice within our community. She has also played a key role in supporting our Japanese Study Tours, serving as a school tour guide and spokesperson.

Mao's dedication to her educational journey in Australia is truly admirable. We are incredibly proud to have such a committed and outstanding student in our program.

Miami State High School is honoured to have supported Mao in her academic success and personal development, and we look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future.

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Straight A's in Year 12 Report Card; Academic, Effort and Behaviour
- Year 11 Aerospace Subject Award
- Year 11 Japanese Subject Award
- Year 11 General Maths Subject Award
- Year 10 Diligence Award
- Plays the French Horn in the school's Stella Maris Band and trumpet in the Sound Machine Jazz Orchestra

### LIFE AT MIAMI S.H.S

"Even though all classes are difficult and sometimes it's hard to keeping up with my classmates, I try to catch up by studying at home and I'm sure my grades and awards are a result of my studying efforts".

"My English became so much better since moving here. When I first arrived, I didn't understand anything, and I could not talk to my friends. But now I have more local friends and do not have much difficulties caused by language barriers compared to when I was in year 10". – Mao Ozawa

### FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

"After I graduate from Miami S.H.S at the end of this year I am planning to go to university in Tokyo to study International Relations. I am also planning to learn a third language. My career aspiration is to be a Diplomat and work in the International Relations field". – Mao Ozawa



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## MAO'S TESTIMONIAL



*When I was appointed the Cultural Ambassador International Student Leader*

### **What made you decide on Queensland as a study destination?**

I have been to Gold Coast when I was in Year 3 as a part of study tour program and I liked it, so I decided to come back. Also, I thought the unique nature and environment and multicultural city in Gold Coast is perfect for me to achieve my goals for study abroad.

### **How has your international coordinator supported you?**

Throughout these two years, they helped me a lot, especially about my homestay and academic. I ended up changing my host family twice, just because I wanted an environment where I can focus on my study since my priority is keeping my grade in the best condition and preparing to apply universities in Japan. The international team provided me and other graduate students tutoring session afterschool on Mondays, which helped me a lot when I need support for assessments. They are also very supportive for my Japanese university applications, which is very helpful for me to prepare for after graduation.

### **What did you enjoy most about your homestay?**

I spent my time in three homestay families, and each family has very different lifestyle. I enjoyed being a part of family, like going to watch the AFL game, watching the musical, celebrating birthday, or even just chatting with family members.

### **What do you enjoy the most about your high school? Why would you recommend it?**

I enjoy spending time with my local friends. There are a lot of chances to be friends with local students. Most people in here are nice including both students and teachers and they are very supportive. In great location near the beach, Miami SHS provides various unique subjects, and I'm sure all international students would love it.

### **Do you think you have changed at all from the experiences you have had so far?**

I think I changed a lot since I came here. Not only my English skills, but also my personality. I became more confident about everything, because people in here have very different personality, identity or mindset to Japan, which allowed me to learn the way of thinking in broader way.



*A helicopter experience as part of the Aerospace class, having two helicopters visit and land on the school's oval*