

Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Norway) *Linn ARLT*, Trinity Bay State High School – July 2019 to June 2020, Years 11/12.

Hey, my name is Linn and I'm an international student from Norway. I arrived in Australia in the middle of July 2019 and will leave halfway through 2020 in the end of June. Back in Norway I live right outside the capital Oslo. I have always been very adventurous throughout my whole childhood. Therefore, it didn't come as a surprise for my family and friends when I chose to do an exchange year. When the time came to choose where I wanted to do my exchange year my wishes were; something totally different from home, a place where it is hot all year and I also really wanted to be able to either snorkel or dive. With its beautiful location in tropical far north Queensland and its proximity to the world-famous Great Barrier Reef, Cairns therefore became an excellent choice.

Completing my exchange year in Cairns at Trinity Bay State High School has been one of the hardest but also rewarding years of my whole life. I have grown so much and learnt so many new things about myself. Not only have I been so privileged to have friends from Austria, Germany, Norway, France and Australia but I have also experienced so many amazing things here, I'm pretty sure many others could go a whole lifetime without experiencing. During my exchange year so far, I have gotten my diving license, visited Orpheus Island, visited friends in Townsville, Sydney and Brisbane, got a second family and last but not least made friends for life. I will always fondly look back at the memories I have made here and kept these close to my heart.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Norway) *Marthe FLODEN*, Trinity Bay State High School – July 2019 to June 2020, Years 11/12.

I chose to go to Cairns for my study abroad program because I wanted to experience something different, and it is honestly the best decision I ever made. So far, I have done so many memorable things, like for example diving which I see as my favourite. Getting to see the reef like that was just amazing, and it is most likely something I will remember my whole life. I also chose Marine Science at school so that I could learn more about the marine environment in the tropical oceans. I have made plenty of new friends from all over the world. To meet new people, and get new friends is probably the thing I have enjoyed the most about my exchange program here in Cairns. Choosing Cairns for my study abroad is something I'll never regret and so far, it has truly been the best year of my life.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Thailand) Yanisa SOPA, Trinity Bay State High School – 2018, 2019 and 2020, Years 10-12..

I selected Cairns for my Secondary Schooling Program because Cairns has cultural diversity and I wanted to study in the Queensland education system, as well as developing a second language such as English. Cairns' weather is quite similar to Thailand, which is easy for me to adapt to. My most interesting subject is Chinese because I started learning Chinese when I was Year 8 in Thailand. I want to continue learning Chinese, and having a Chinese language course at Trinity Bay State High School, makes me very happy that I can learn my third language here. I love my host family very much. They're very nice and I had the best camping experience in Australia with them. Trinity Bay State High School is the one of the great school in Cairns with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, including cultural diversity that blends seamlessly. I have had many wonderful experiences in this school including the education system, school camps and friends to spend time with and share experiences together. I love everything here.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Norway) Margrethe JOHANSEN, Trinity Bay State High School – July 2019 to June 2020, Years 11/12.

Hi, my name is Margrethe Johansen and I am 17 years old. I am an exchange student from Norway. I am staying in Cairns for one year. I chose to come to Cairns because I wanted to see the Great Barrier Reef, and I wanted to experience a completely different culture and environment than what I can experience in Norway. I found studying in Cairns quite easy compared to Norway. The school system in Australia is completely different from school system in Norway. My most interesting subjects have been Marine Science and Visual Arts in Practise. This is because in Norway we don't have Marine Science in high school, only in university, and we don't have arts in my high school, because my school is an academic school which means that we only do Maths, English, History etc. The experience that I remember the most from my stay is the trip the internationals did to Orpheus Island. It was truly amazing to go snorkelling on the reef. I have learnt a lot from my stay in Cairns and I am really lucky that I still have almost five more months left before I go back to Norway.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Austria) **Paul EBER**, Trinity Bay State High School – January 2020 to April 2020, Year 12.

Hi, I'm Paul. I chose Cairns for studying abroad because I was amazed by the unique region – the Great Barrier Reef, the rainforest, the beaches – Cairns is located in. Coming here was the best decision of my life, as I can improve my English, experience how people live on the other side of the world and see one of the most amazing ecosystems on our planet. Also, I have made so many new friends from all around the world and this makes the whole experience even better and much more fun.

One thing I also really like is that the school not just offers many different subjects that we don't have in Austria, for example Hospitality, Outdoor Recreation or Graphic Design, but that you can also go on a bunch of trips to the Reef, the Rainforest and Orpheus island. There are also many other activities, such as diving or day trips to islands, I can do in my free time – the possibilities are never-ending. Realising that you can't see these things anywhere else in the world, makes every moment so special and memorable.

The time goes by so fast and it will be really hard for me to say goodbye to all my new friends, but I am leaving with thousands of beautiful memories I will keep forever.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Brazil) *Eduarda OLIVEIRA GESTERMEIR*, Trinity Bay State High School – January 2020 to June 2020, Year 12.

My name is Eduarda Oliveira Gestermeier, I'm from Brazil and I always wanted to study abroad. Happily I am finally living my dream, and it has been an amazing experience.

When I decided to come to Australia, I wasn't sure where exactly where I wanted to live, then I heard of Cairns, "the front door" of the Great Barrier Reef, and I knew that was the place I wanted to be. I didn't wanted to be in a big town and Cairns was just the perfect place.

I always liked the ocean and it's fascinating creatures, and what better place to study them than Cairns? That's was the most exciting part for me, being able to learn marine science at school, a subject I would never be able to study in my Brazilian school. After looking at some different schools, I found the one that was perfect for me: Trinity Bay State High School. At first, I was scared, didn't know if people would be nice to me, but all the teachers and students were lovely, they always tried to make me feel more comfortable and always encouraged me to ask whatever I wanted, my school experience wouldn't be the same without their support.

The subject I am most excited about is Marine science, where we learn about the corals, their bleaching, how are they being affected by all the climate changes and much more. Being able to go snorkeling and see all the corals in their primary habitat is amazing, it just makes me feel like I'm really part of something, a feeling that is always with me in my visual arts class as well. I always loved to draw, paint and just let my creativity flow, and that's what happens in that class, the teacher is encouraging and you just feel free to express yourself. It was really hard for me to choose which subjects I was going to study, because there were so many options I would not be able to have in Brazil like: Drama, Music, and many other cool and unique subject.

Since the first time I saw my host mother, her boyfriend and the other exchange student living with them, I knew I was lucky. They took me in and were really lovely at all times. Thanks to them I got to know some really pretty places here in Cairns, they took me to some basketball games, to some pretty falls and my host mom's boyfriend is teaching me how to skate board. I just feel like I'm home, something I wasn't expecting to feel so soon.

So far, I'm having the best experience I could, I made some awesome friends, got to study things I never thought I would and did my Diving Course, which was one of the best days in my life.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Germany) *Raphael FROMME*, Trinity Bay State High School – January 2020 to June 2020, Year 11.

For me Cairns has the perfect environment to travel and explore. In the back it has the rainforest with all the dangerous and interesting animals and in the front the sea with the sensational and unique Great Barrier Reef. Then there is also the very modern and clean City where you can do nearly everything like swimming in the free pool on the Esplanade or eat something on the night markets.

I already came here once two years ago when my family and I travelled along the Australian east coast during the Holidays, after my brother finished his year abroad. Cairns was definitively one of the most beautiful and modern cities where you can do everything you want to do, so I decided to inform myself about the city and schools with the help of an agency that organises international travelling and studying for students.

I think my most interesting and memorable subjects are Photography/Photoshop and Furnishing skills, which are both very new for me and are a lot of fun.

There are lots of interesting subjects at Trinity Bay SHS which I cannot do at home, especially the practical subjects like Outdoor Recreation where we went swimming, canoeing or climbing. Some other subjects I would love to have in my school in Germany are Furnishing skills, where you learn how to build shelves, boxes or chairs and Hospitality where you learn about cooking and using different kitchen devices.

I really enjoyed my homestay because the family where I stayed was very active, had a lot of pets and were connected to nature so there was always something to do or somewhere to go. Another thing I enjoyed was when my host-mother taught me how to cook or how to do something else.

One of the best experiences during my time in Cairns was Green Island when we went snorkelling and saw sharks, rays and beautiful coloured fish. The other unforgettable moments where the many times I went into the middle of the Rainforest with my host-family and we went to huge waterfalls and creeks where you could swim and have a picnic in the purest nature.

I think there wasn't even that one best experience during school time, because the whole school day has always been interesting, positive and informative. Because of the subjects that I cannot do at home, there has always been something new to learn or to try like building rafts or canoeing.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Japan) *MAYU INOUE*, Trinity Bay State High School – 2020, Year 11.

As I reached halfway through my study abroad experience in Cairns, I've already fallen love with this place and experienced a lot of things that I had never done in Japan. The first and most prominent thing is that I met an amazing family who makes me feel safe and valued and not an outsider. This is the photo of me and my host family when we went to Chillagoe for camping. I really appreciate that every holiday and long weekend, they always take me to places which I enjoy. They have literally made my life in Cairns special. In general, my experience in Cairns is fantastic that I think it was one of the best decisions I've ever made, and I am really looking forward to the next four months.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Japan) *Sakura SUD*, Trinity Bay State High School – 2020, Year 10.

I applied to The Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education for an overseas exchange program. We could select a place from either Australia/New Zealand or the US/Canada. I choose Australia/New Zealand and then ended up in Cairns. I am very grateful to be part of this program.

I really like the subject Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies because I want to learn about Indigenous people's history and culture. In Japan we do not have subjects like this, so this subject is very special and interesting to me.

I enjoy all my subjects. In Japan I learn Japanese and English as a normal subject, but here I learn Japanese as a foreign language, so it is very different and fun for me.

I really enjoy living with my host family. They are so kind, funny and such an amazing family. They treat me as a family member and I am so happy with that. I also really love the people whom my host family socializes with. I am so lucky and happy to meet such a nice family.

Whilst I have been in Cairns I really enjoyed our trip to Green Island. This was my first trip in Cairns and it was the first time I have seen the Great Barrier Reef. This is such a beautiful place. In the past I did not like the beach or swimming, but this has now changed and I hope to spend more time at the beach.

I have really enjoyed making new friends in Cairns. I think they have changed me a lot and I have grown. I have learnt so many new things from them. For example, English words or grammar, being kind and accepting people as they are. I really love my friends and I want to say thank you so many times.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Papua New Guinea) Petrus SIWI, Trinity Bay State High School – 2020, Year 9.

Trinity Bay State High School is one of the best schools in Cairns. I've been here since Year 7 and my experience has been phenomenal thanks to the students and staffs in Trinity Bay. Trinity Bay has so many fun things, and one thing that I like about this school is that it's multi-cultural. Most of the students in this school are from different states around Australia some students are from other countries, this makes it easier for the students that are new to this school or Cairns to fit in and get use to the place.

Trinity Bay is one of the best schools that I've been to because of subjects that they provide here. I've always enjoyed HPE (Health and Physical Education) and it's also my favourite subjects among a dozen. The opportunities here at Trinity Bay State High School are endless.



Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Papua New Guinea) Peter KAUPA, Trinity Bay State High School – 2020, Year 9.

I selected Cairns for my study abroad program because it was close to home and it provided a better learning opportunity for me. I found out about studying in Cairns through my uncle who was already staying here. The most interesting subject for me is Talented Athletic Academy (TAC) because the periods are flexible, such as having TAC on a Tuesday morning before school starts. I find TAC so interesting because it is not offered at my old school back in PNG, it was a new concept for me. One of the experiences that I enjoyed in Cairns would be going to the esplanade and playing volleyball with friends on the weekends. One of the positive experiences of my high school study in Cairns is studying Japanese, it enabled me to learn about a different language and culture.

