

# Miranda enjoying study pathway in the USA

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*Following her HSC, Miranda Xu (Class of 2024) moved to the USA to study Psychology and pursue her tennis career. She recently wrote to share her experiences with the Meriden community.*

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I graduated with the Class of 2024, and I am now at the University of Southern Mississippi (Southern Miss.) in Hattiesburg, USA. I am in my first semester studying for a Bachelor of Psychology while also competing in collegiate tennis.

I love it here at Southern Miss. Although this is my first time being away from home, alone, for such a long period of time, it has helped me to become more independent. I have learned to take care of myself, without my parents' support. That means organising my own time, doing my own laundry and making sure I show up to class and training on time.

Having grown up in a traditional Asian household, I was not used to eating American food at first, including the food served in our college's cafeteria and at restaurants all around the city. The culture is quite different to Sydney's culture but everyone is extremely kind, and the vibe is chill in and around the campus, which has made me feel comfortable and helped me adapt to this new place faster than I expected.

It has taken me time to get used to some of the words they use here, such as "y'all" and "cafeteria" and measurements such as pounds instead of kilograms and Fahrenheit instead of Celsius. Everyone is into college sports. Every week, people from both inside and outside the college attend sports matches, such as basketball and baseball, to support college teams, and we also get a lot of people watching our home tennis games.

Studying in the USA has been different to anything I have experienced before, but it is a fun and encouraging experience that I am loving. I am enjoying learning about the USA first-hand. I look forward to sharing with you my future experiences as I continue this amazing and once-in-a-lifetime journey!



Miranda in action for Southern Miss.