National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA)

Australia's centre of excellence for professional training in contemporary circus arts.

Bachelor of Circus Arts (B.Circ. A), incorporating the Advanced Diploma of Circus Arts

VIDEO AUDITION GUIDE ONLY

This is the audition guide for applicants wishing to audition via DVD/Video only. DVD/Video audition is recommended for International applicants and Australians who cannot attend local auditions. It is preferable that the audition team see all applicants in person. Please pay close attention to the skills to be demonstrated and perform them **exactly as stipulated** and **in the set order. Should you require any further clarification of a skill please do not hesitate to contact NICA. Performing skills differently to stipulated may be a disadvantage.**

Applicants who apply via video may be contacted to conduct a short interview over the phone.

Course overview

NICA's core program is a three-year vocational degree, the Bachelor of Circus Arts. Students enrol in the Diploma of Circus Arts in first year, then the Advanced Diploma of Circus Arts for second year and then the Bachelor of Circus Arts for third year. Students may exit the program after any year with a qualification if they successfully passed all the required elements. The program provides students with a comprehensive grounding in specialist skills in contemporary circus arts.

Student contact time is approximately 35 hours per week for 40 weeks per year.

The course equips students with the skills to be creative and innovative performing artists and the know-how to manage their careers. NICA strives to produce highly employable, skilled and creative artists who will be respected nationally and internationally in the global circus and physical theatre industry.

Who Should Apply?

NICA encourages applications from talented young people with backgrounds in areas such as circus, sports acrobatics, trampolining, diving, performing arts, dance, gymnastics, extreme sport, street theatre or physical theatre.

Indigenous students are encouraged to apply and may contact the Indigenous Support Officer at Swinburne, Miranda Madgwick 03 9726 7174 for specific advice.

Recognition of Prior learning

Students with previous industry experience, relevant academic qualifications from overseas institutions, and/or relevant circus training may gain entry into the program with advanced standing. Each application for advanced standing will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Fees for 2010 entry

Australian Government-Subsidised Students: AUD$5,600 per year plus a University Amenities Fee.
Australian Full Fee Paying Students: AUD$15,000 per year plus a University Amenities Fee.
The course is Abstudy, Austudy, and Youth Allowance approved.
International Students: AUD$16,500.

Application Procedure

Download an application form at www.nica.com.au or contact NICA to request forms sent in hard copy.
Telephone: +61 3 9214 6975 Email: info@nica.com.au

Send your completed application form, associated documents and video/DVD/mini DV to:
National Institute of Circus Arts
144 High Street
Prahran, Victoria, 3181
Australia.

International Students
International Students must send the following for each application:

1. A local audition application form
2. An International student application form
3. A video of skills as listed on this form clearly labelled with your name and date of taping. (Video, DVD & Mini DV acceptable.)
4. Complete a Performance Pro Forma

Audition Requirements
Physical Skills and Assessment Criteria

As a guide, applicants should demonstrate a general level of competency in three of the following areas, and a high level of competency in at least one area. Each application will be assessed on individual merit.

Try to attempt as many of the individual skills as you can, but **always consider safety first**.

DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY SKILLS WITH WHICH YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR.

We are looking for people with the **potential** to be able to achieve the following:

Basic Skill	Individual Skill	Requirements
FLEXIBILITY	Splits, right leg forward, keep hips square	Side-on to camera, hold for 10 seconds
	Splits, left leg forward, keep hips square	Side-on to camera, hold for 10 second.
	Centre splits (in straddle)	Facing camera, hold for 10 seconds.
	Forward Folding Pike stretch	Stand side-on to camera on a raised block (i.e. telephone book), fold forward, extending hands beyond toes.
	Shoulder Extension	Lie on stomach, keeping your hips, legs and face on the floor, and arms by your ears. Lift your arms and shoulders as high as possible, keeping face down.
	Hip Extension	Lie on stomach, head on the floor, raise one leg as high as possible, keeping BOTH your hips on the floor. Hold for 5 seconds. Repeat with the other leg. DO NOT LIFT HIP OFF THE FLOOR.
	Back Bending	Go into back arch from standing. Alternatively, lie on your back and push up into back arch. Keeping heels on the floor, walk feet as close as possible to hands. Hold for 10 seconds.

HANDSTANDS	Free Handstand	Hold for up to 30 seconds.
	Straddle Jump up	Hold for 10 seconds.
	Straddle Press up	Hold for 10 seconds.

TUMBLING	Handstand Roll	If possible x 3 - from tuck, straddle and pike.
	Dive Roll	
	Cartwheels x 3 continuously	

	Head Spring	Can start from forward roll if preferred.
	Hand Spring	Landing on 2 feet.
	Standing Flip	
	Standing Sault	
	Round Off Flip	
	Round Off Sault	
	Round Off Flip Sault	

STRENGTH	Rope Climb	Normal / Standard or French climb to 5 metres, up and down as quickly as possible. NOT Russian climb. Alternatively, just use your arms, no legs.
	Pull Ups (Chin-Ups)	Show full body shot. Hands in overhand grip (palms facing away), not reverse or underhand grip. Do as many pull-ups as you can, but not for speed. Take your time, chin above the bar, and come down to fully straight arms.
	V -Snaps	Lie on your back, arms by your ears. Lift up torso and legs into V shape, fingers touching toes. Snap back to dish shape and repeat as many times as you can in 10 seconds. KEEP CONTROL OF TORSO AND LEGS.
	Push Ups	As many FULL push ups as you can in 10 seconds. KEEP ELBOWS IN AND KNEES OFF FLOOR.

***THIS SECTION IS ONLY TO BE COMPLETED BY THOSE APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO SPECIALISE IN MANIPULATION:**

MANIPULATION	Balls	Progressively demonstrate 3, 4, 5 and above.
	Rings	Progressively demonstrate 3, 4, 5 and above.
	Clubs	Progressively demonstrate 3, 4, 5 and above.
Demonstrate skills in any of these areas:	Hula hoops, Poi twirling, Diablo, Bike Unicycle, Roller Skating, Stilts, Staff, Contact Juggling	

POSTURE	Stand facing towards camera. All posture requirements must be done in bare feet, shorts and training tops for females and shorts only for males.	Raise both arms to front as high as possible, raise both arms to side as high as possible, squat down on both legs to ground keeping back straight, squat down on left leg to ground holding right leg straight out in front, squat down on right leg to ground holding left leg straight out in front.

	Stand right side on to camera	Repeat as above.
	Stand left side on to camera	Repeat as above.
	Stand back to camera	Repeat as above.

PERFORMANCE	Create/devise on your own, a short performance piece (of no longer than 3-4 minutes) that utilises any circus or physical skills that you have. If you possess other skills, for example in dance, drama or martial arts, you may centre your piece on those and it may include things like existing text (Comic or Dramatic) or singing and music. If you can play a portable musical instrument, please mention this or include it in your presentation. Use these short presentations as an opportunity to demonstrate to us your performing potential by incorporating as many different skills as possible. Applicants are encouraged to devise new material for presentation at audition rather than a previously devised gym routine.
DANCE AND MOVEMENT	Demonstrate any skills you have in Dance and/or Movement through presenting an improvisation to music (of no longer than 3-4 minutes). You can draw on any dance training you have had or you can just creatively explore various ways of moving through space using changes of rhythm, speed, direction and height. Show how you can transfer weight through jumping, turning and changing body shape. We will be particularly interested in how you respond to, and "feel", the music.
HIDDEN TALENTS	Feel free to demonstrate any additional skills you would like us to see – for example, musical or vocal skills. This routine or demonstration should not exceed 5 minutes.

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS	Whilst facing the camera, applicants must answer the following questions: 1. You would be aware that the program is for three years full-time. How do you feel you will be able to manage a full-time load for the next three years? 2. What financial support do you have in order to move to Melbourne? 3. How will you support yourself living in Melbourne? Part-time job, allowance, family assistance? Do you have a reserve of funds to support yourself while you set-up in Melbourne to cover housing, transport, food etc? 4. Have you rented a house before or lived out of home? 5. Do you have family or friends in Melbourne who are around to support you while you make the transition to study at NICA? 6. Do you have any plans if you are not accepted into NICA? What are they? Will you consider other courses? 7. Do you have any injuries that may affect your ability to train and maintain fitness? 8. What two skills are you interested in studying as specialization skills? Why?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CLOTHING	Applicants must wear close fitting training clothes. (No baggy clothing eg. loose t-shirts, streetwear or jeans) For girls we recommend tight fitting leggings/bike shorts and a crop top, singlet top or leotard.

	For boys we recommend tight fitting leggings/shorts and a singlet top.
MEDICAL INFORMATION	All applications must include Section J of the local application form. **Failure to fully disclose medical information may result in the withdrawal of a place at NICA.**