



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**

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 and the Advanced Diploma of Circus Arts for second year and are enrolled in the Bachelor of Circus Arts for third year. Students may exit the program after any year of the program with a qualification. 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.

Successful completion of an appropriate Victorian Year 12 qualification or its equivalent, such as an interstate or international Year 12 qualification is an entry pre requisite.

Applicants who do not have a Year 12 qualification or who have a non-competitive Year 12 score and no other tertiary study, and are over the age of 23, may be considered for admission if they can demonstrate motivation and ability to succeed.

International and DVD/Video applicants should obtain a video audition information sheet directly from NICA. All skills demonstrated must be in the order specified on the requirement sheet. **DO NOT DEMONSTRATE SKILLS OUT OF SEQUENCE.** Pay particular attention to how we require each skill to be demonstrated. 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 and additional required documentation to:
National Institute of Circus Arts
144 High Street
Prahran, Victoria, 3181
Australia

Applicants will be contacted by mail to advise of their audition and interview date and time. NICA auditions will be held during September and October.

International students and those in geographically isolated areas should apply by DVD/Video. Visit the NICA website or contact NICA to obtain a video skills demonstration list to prepare your application.

Audition Requirements

Physical Skills and Assessment Criteria

Each audition will commence with a general assessment of physical skills. Applicants may then be called back on the same day for a more detailed assessment including performance, dance and movement and physiotherapy screening. Each application will be assessed on individual merit. **DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY SKILLS THAT YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH.**

The audition process will encompass:

Flexibility	Aiming at achieving three-way splits
Handstand balancing	Aiming at achieving a free handstand (min 20 sec), press up
Tumbling	Aiming at achieving round-off flip, round off flip/backflip sault
Manipulation	Aiming at achieving juggling of 4 or more clubs or balls and additional manipulation apparatus or skill. Eg. Unicycle, stilts, hula hoops
Body strength	Rope climb, chin ups, push ups, abdominal strength, leg strength
Posture requirements	Spinal, shoulder, hip and limb alignment
Performance	<p>On the day of the audition you <i>will be asked</i> to present a performance piece.</p> <p>Create/devise on your own, a short performance piece (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), singing and music. If you can play a portable musical instrument, please reveal that during your audition.</p> <p>Applicants must complete an act pro-forma which can be downloaded from the website and must be handed to the audition team on the day.</p> <p>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.</p>
Dance and Movement	<p>Demonstrate any skills you have in dance and/or movement through presenting an improvisation to music provided on the day of the audition. 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.</p> <p>Applicants will be required to perform a short ballet and choreographed dance piece demonstrated by the audition team for performance assessment.</p>
Individual Interviews	Interviews will ascertain an individual’s aptitude for the academic program, course requirements and career motivations. Applicants should be aware that selection for the course is dependant on students being able to support each other and cooperate with others during training and when devising performances.
Medical Information	Applicants will be required to undertake a video assessment of their posture at the audition for assessment by the NICA physio team. Applicants must complete section J of the application form. Applicants should bring to each audition any X-Ray, MRI or medical reports undertaken in the last five years. Proof of ambulance subscription and health insurance will be required on acceptance of an offer to study at NICA.
Clothing	<p>Applicants must wear close fitting training clothes. (No baggy clothing eg. loose t-shirts, streetwear or jeans)</p> <p>For girls we recommend tight fitting leggings/bike shorts and a crop top, singlet top or leotard.</p> <p>For boys we recommend tight fitting leggings/shorts and a singlet top.</p> <p>This requirement assists us in making a muscular skeletal assessment.</p> <p>Applicants may bring additional clothing for warming up and cooling down.</p>