



### Application Process

- Students can complete an application form through [www.nica.com.au](http://www.nica.com.au) and applications are open throughout the year. **Applications close on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of August.**
- In addition to the academic entry requirements, entry into NICA's accredited courses is by audition, interview and medical assessment.
- Prospective students must apply to audition and can read more about the course of their choosing at: <https://www.nica.com.au/courses-pm-3.html>
- Further information is available through Swinburne search database:
- <http://search.swinburne.edu.au/s/search.html>
- View a short video about NICA that explains the audition process:  
<https://youtu.be/6NaC842qclw>

### Pre-Audition Workshop

- The Pre-Audition Workshop is a one-day intensive workshop designed to assist applicants to prepare for the NICA auditions.
- The program includes performance and dance classes, circus training (including handstands, flexibility, tumbling, strength, manipulation and basic partner work) and information about auditions, facilities, and student life at NICA.
- NICA's highly experienced international trainers reflect the world's major traditional and contemporary circus styles. They will provide feedback on your skills and advice on how to prepare further for the audition.
- For further information see <http://www.nica.com.au/preaudition-intensive-circus-workshop-pm-41.html>

### Audition Dates

- Auditions for entry into NICA's accredited courses will be held in late September - Early October annually.
- It is recommended that you attend an audition in person.
- Audition via online video footage is accepted for international and geographically remote applicants (please see the NICA Video Audition Guide for International Applicants, which is available on the NICA website).

## Skills demonstrated during Audition:

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| <p><b>Flexibility</b></p>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three-way splits (left, right, centre)</li> <li>• Forward folding sit and reach (fold forward, extending hands beyond flexed toes) Aim to hold each position for 10 seconds.</li> <li>• Back bend – from standing or from lying (aiming for hands and heels to be as close as possible) Aim to hold position for 10 seconds</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Handstand<br/>balancing</b></p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free handstand<br/><i>Aim to hold the position for a minimum of 30 seconds</i></li> <li>• Tuck jump to handstand</li> <li>• Straddle jump to handstand</li> <li>• Straddle press up to handstand</li> <li>• L-hold between two benches/chairs (arms straight, legs straight, heels above hips) <i>Aim to hold the position for 30 seconds</i></li> <li>• Handstand (stomach against the wall)<br/><i>Aim to hold the position for 60 seconds.</i></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Tumbling</b></p>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handstand forward roll<br/><i>If possible x3 – from tuck, straddle and pike</i></li> <li>• Continuous cartwheels<br/><i>If possible x3</i></li> <li>• Handspring<br/><i>Running handspring, landing on both feet</i></li> <li>• Standing back flip (back handspring)</li> <li>• Standing back-sault</li> </ul> <p>Other skills you may wish to demonstrate could include:<br/>Backwards roll to handstand, standing dive roll, running dive roll, headspring, round-off flip, round-off sault, round-off flip sault, walkover, aerial cartwheel, side sault, full twist, cartwheel front sault.</p> |
| <p><b>Body<br/>Strength and<br/>Conditioning</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rope climb (Starting from a seated position on the floor, aiming to just use arms to climb, legs in straddle position up and down)<br/><i>x 6 metres</i></li> <li>• Wall Bar Leg Lift (From hanging position, lift straight legs as high as possible – aiming for toes to bar)<br/><i>x 10 repetitions</i></li> </ul>   |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single leg pistol squats (one leg squat from standing, other leg held out straight)<br/><i>x 5 repetitions</i></li> <li>• Pull-ups (Chin-ups)<br/><i>x 10 repetitions</i></li> <li>• Push-ups<br/><i>x 20 repetitions</i></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Co-ordination</b></p>                | <p><b>Juggling</b><br/>Demonstrate juggling of 3 or more balls or clubs with a minimum of 15 catches. Incorporate a variety of patterns and tricks, if able (e.g. reverse cascade, flourishes, back crosses).</p> <p><b>Stick Balance</b><br/>Demonstrate balancing of a stick on an open palm, perpendicular to the palm, for a minimum of 10 seconds. The stick should be a maximum of 50cm in length.</p> <p><b>Fit Ball Balance</b><br/>Demonstrate ability to balance on a fit ball for up to 30 seconds. Aim to be standing up straight. Alternatives include kneeling or sitting.<br/>Aim to hold for 30 seconds</p> <p><b>Hula hoop</b><br/>Sustained around stomach. Where possible move up body to hand<br/>Aim to continue for 30 seconds.</p>  |
| <p><b>Performance &amp; Circus Act</b></p> | <p>The performance component of the audition will take the form of a workshop. Use this as an opportunity to show us some of your personality, imagination and performing potential.</p> <p>In addition to the performance workshop, Bachelor of Circus Arts and Certificate IV in Circus Arts applicants will also be required to present a prepared performance piece. Certificate III in Circus Arts applicants will not be required 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 spoken word through</p> |



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|                               | <p>script (comic or dramatic), singing and music. If you can play a portable musical instrument, you may choose to utilise that skill as well during your audition piece.</p> <p>Use these short presentations as an opportunity to demonstrate your performance potential. Applicants are encouraged to devise new material for presentation at audition rather than, for example, a previously devised gym routine. You will also be required to provide a written description of your act before the performance, which will be assessed. Applicants must complete a <b>Performance Outline</b> and submit before the audition.</p> |
| <b>Movement Improvisation</b> | <p>During this part of the assessment, you will be asked to creatively explore various ways of moving through space using changes in rhythm, speed, direction and levels. Show how you can transfer weight through jumping, turning and changing body shape. We will be particularly interested in how you respond to the music (3-4 minutes duration). You may draw on any dance training you have had or you can improvise.</p>  |
| <b>Posture Requirements</b>   | <p>As part of the audition, applicants will be required to undergo a physical assessment by the NICA physio team. Spine, shoulder, hip and limb alignment will be looked at as part of this assessment.</p>  |
| <b>Individual Interviews</b>  | <p>Interviews will determine aptitude for the academic program. It will also offer an opportunity for applicants to communicate their career goals.</p>  |