



## 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

##### 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, Adam Frogley 03 9214 7208 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 2008 entry

Australian Students: AUD\$4,000 per year plus a University Amenities Fee.  
The course is Abstudy, Austudy, and Youth Allowance approved.  
International Students: AUD\$14,000 per year plus a University Amenities Fee.

Local students in third year are eligible for the Federal Government FEE HELP scheme.

##### Application Procedure

Download an application form at [www.nica.com.au](http://www.nica.com.au) or contact NICA to request forms sent in hard copy.  
Telephone: +61 3 9214 6975 Email: [info@nica.com.au](mailto: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  
Pahran, Victoria, 3181  
Australia.

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

##### 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 an act proforma

**Audition Requirements**  
**Physical Skills and Assessment Criteria**

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

**DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY SKILLS THAT YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH.**

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

Skill	Component	Duration
Flexibility	Splits, right leg forward	Hold for 10 seconds
	Splits, left leg forward	Hold for 10 seconds
	Centre splits (in straddle)	Hold for 10 seconds
	Forward folding pike stretch	Stand in profile to camera on a raised block (ie. Telephone book), fold forward, extending hands beyond toes.
	Shoulder extension	Lie on stomach, keeping your hips and legs on the ground, lift upper body, raising arms and shoulders as high as possible.
	Hip extension	Lie on stomach, head on the floor, raise one leg as high as possible, keeping your hips on the floor. Hold for 5 seconds. Repeat with the other leg.
	Back Bending	Push up from bridge and hold for 10 seconds.
Handstand	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	
	Dive roll	
	Cartwheel	
	Head spring	
	Hand spring	
	Standing flip	
	Standing sault	
	Round off flip	
	Round off sault	
Strength	Round off flip sault	
	Rope climb	To 5 meters, up and down as quickly as possible.
	Chin Up	As many as you can
	V snaps	Lie on your back, lift up into V shape and repeat as many as you can in 10 seconds
	Push ups	As many as you can in 10 seconds
Manipulation	Balls	Up to 6
	Rings	Up to 6
	Clubs	Up to 6
	Stick balance – use a broom stick of at least 1.5 meters in length	Foot, shoulder, head or hand. Try to balance a stick in each of these positions for 10 seconds.
Demonstrate skills in any of these areas:	<i>Hula hoops, Poi twirling, Diablo, Bike and unicycle, Skating, Stilts</i>	
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, squat down on left leg to ground, squat down on right leg to ground.
	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
Hidden Talent	Feel free to demonstrate any additional skills you would like us to see.	This routine or demonstration should not exceed 5 minutes.

<b>Performance</b>	<p>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 or 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.</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>
<b>Dance and Movement</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Individual Interviews</b>	<p>Whilst facing the camera, applicants must answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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?</li> <li>2. What financial support do you have in order to move to Melbourne?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>4. Have you rented a house before or lived out of home?</li> <li>5. Do you have family or friends in Melbourne who are around to support you while you make the transition to study at NICA?</li> <li>6. Do you have any plans if you are not accepted into NICA? What are they? Will you consider other courses?</li> <li>7. Do you have any injuries that may affect your ability to train and maintain fitness?</li> <li>8. What 2 skills are you interested in studying as specialisation skills? If Know, explain why?</li> </ol>
<b>Clothing</b>	<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. For boys we recommend tight fitting leggings/shorts and a singlet top.</p>
<b>Medical Information</b>	<p>All applications must include section J of the local application form. <b>Failure to fully disclose medical information may result in the withdrawal of a place at NICA.</b></p>