

“A Taste of Circus” Short Term Program at NICA

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National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA)

The National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) is Australia’s only centre of excellence for professional training in contemporary circus arts and physical theatre.

Quick facts about NICA:

- It is 1 of only 4 internationally-recognised circus arts training programs in the world (the others being schools in Montreal, London and Paris)
- One of 7 elite arts schools in the country funded by the Australian Government
- Courses are delivered by world-class training staff from a diverse range of nationalities, backgrounds and circus genres
- The official training partner of Cirque du Soleil in South-East Asia, with many of its students joining the company upon graduation



NICA is also heavily involved in community work through its Indigenous and youth outreach programs, using circus as a tool for social change and for connecting with Indigenous communities, at-risk youths, as well as other marginalised groups in Australia and other parts of the world.

New Training Facilities

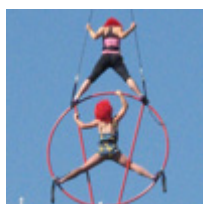


Since 2001, NICA students have been training at the Sidney Myer Circus Studio at Swinburne’s Prahran campus. From April 2007, students will train at the new National Circus Centre, a state-of-the-art, purpose-built training and

performance venue for NICA students and the wider circus community. It is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Communications, Information Technology & the Arts (DCITA), and is just a cartwheel away from the café, design & fashion precinct of Chapel Street.

“A Taste of Circus” NEW Short term program at NICA

“A Taste of Circus” is a 4-week circus program, designed for students with an interest in contemporary circus arts. This course will allow students to develop their physical skills through experiential learning, while also undertaking performance, dance and cultural studies.



Students will have the opportunity to:

- Explore contemporary circus and physical theatre, and its relationship within the Australian cultural environment
- Harness existing physical and performance skills in a circus environment
- Build awareness of circus as a growing art form and a tool for engagement with young people
- Experience a uniquely Australian style of contemporary circus, drawing from Russian, Chinese and European styles
- Experience the artistic and cultural landscape of the city of Melbourne.

Program Details

“A Taste of Circus” runs for 20 hours per week, and is broken down as such:

Course component	Duration per week
Circus training	10 hours
Performance arts	3 hours
Dance	3 hours
Cultural studies	4 hours

Students will develop the physical skills required in circus performance, such as flexibility, handstands, tumbling and partner work. They will also practise ground, ground-to-air and aerial acrobatics, as well as dance and performance skills.

The dance and performance components focus on areas like choreography, contemporary dance, playing, Complicite and improvisation. The cultural studies component consists of classroom-based tutorials, off-site excursions and key industry lectures.

Students will also get to immerse themselves in the artistic life of Melbourne through visits to cultural institutions, which may include: Circus Oz, Melbourne Theatre Company, the Victorian Arts Centre, the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Museum, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

Course	Course Fee	Campus	Dates
A Taste of Circus	A\$1,750	Prahran (NICA)	June 18 – July 18 2007

Course fee includes lectures, presentations and workshops. Allow up to A\$250 for course-related excursions. Accommodation, local transport and international airfares are an additional cost – please contact us for details.

How Do I Apply?

Please contact Swinburne’s Study Abroad Team for an application form: studyabroad@swin.edu.au