Frequently Asked Questions

Why is NICA offering a course for students in Years 11 and 12?

NICA wishes to provide opportunities for talented young circus artists to better realise their potential and begin their training earlier, allowing the development of strong foundation skills. This will allow the development of strong foundation skills which will:

- assist in preparing for audition for the Bachelor of Circus Arts
- provide a foundation level of experience for those hoping to work in recreation and leisure
- be invaluable for progression to later specialisation (aerialist, acrobat, contortionist etc.)

The approach is not unlike the Australian Ballet School or similar schools where skills training runs concurrently with a secondary education. There are several specialist disciplines associated with VCASS.

How do I enrol at the VCA Secondary School?

The VCASS is a selective entry state secondary school. However, once you have been accepted into NICA you will be able to make application to enrol at the VCASS and study alongside other talented young performers.

When will I find out if I've been accepted?

Offers will be made shortly after auditions, at a date to be advised. This will allow sufficient time to arrange enrolment at the VCA Secondary School.

What about residential accommodation?

There is the option of Home Stay for interstate and regional students. More information will be available after acceptance.

What if I arrive in Melbourne and I don't know anyone?

You will find that you will get to know the NICA group very easily. NICA students and staff are friendly and supportive. Many activities involve working with others, in pairs or in groups, so it is easy to get to know people right from the first class.

Where is NICA?

NICA is located on the Prahran campus of Swinburne University of Technology. The NICA facilities are located along Green Street, Prahran between Thomas and Chapel Streets. NICA is 5kms from the CBD and has ready access to trams, trains and buses.

How will I get from the VCASS to NICA each day?

Students attending VCASS will do their secondary studies in block study times and go to NICA for four blocks of time during the week. This will either be first thing in the morning or after lunch. Tram travel between the two sites is very easy.