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## A view of our Professional Doctorate in Therapeutic Arts Practice

This document provides a textual view of our Doctoral course. It tracks who this course will suit, includes our research style, some practicalities of committing to a five-year part-time doctorate, and a brief description of the content.

We have designed this document around the 'frequently asked questions' we receive. Our accompanying selections and admissions documents include more detailed information about the course subjects.

The work of our graduate Dr Emma van Daal inspired the layout of this upcoming information. Like the chart on the following page, where points link to ideas, Emma embraced non-linear concepts in her research – 'Making voice immanent. Mapping and sensing the between spaces of becoming using cartographic art-making-as-inquiry'.

To view our doctoral research or to receive more information about the doctorate, visit: [www.miecat.edu.au](http://www.miecat.edu.au)

We value:  
Experiencing;  
Multimodality;  
Relationality;  
and Emergence.

Applicants might have a sense of a 'topic of inquiry' it is also okay not to know, instead bringing a willingness to inquire.

Our way of researching is grounded in MIECAT's approach to a therapeutic arts inquiry.

Our research can be qualitative and post-qualitative.

A potential student will require completion of our current or historical Masters courses, or an Honours or Masters degree from another Higher Education provider in a relevant area (with grades considered reasonable).

A new student to MIECAT will learn about our approach in an introductory workshop (which we will incorporate into their doctoral course). Depending on past experiences, we will guide the beginning teaching of arts-based/artistic research and how to bring arts-making or an arts practice into inquiry work.

A relevant area of study is: the creative arts therapies; the arts; therapy; psychology; the humanities; community well-being; education; and research. We are open to discussing an area we might have overlooked where an applicant believes their area would also apply.

We require applicants to have had professional experience in at least one area of relevance.

Our style of researching is arts-based, which can also incorporate artistic research.

The (annual) study fees are published on our website.

FEE-HELP is available.

We do not offer scholarships. However, we are open to exploring the suitability of external funding opportunities proposed by a student/candidate.

### Our Doctorate is 5-years of part-time study

A Professional Doctorate in Therapeutic Arts Practice.

Part-time means devoting an average of 26 hours of study a week, across 40 weeks.

Integration of research into a practice.

'A practice' (paid or unpaid) might shift or become more defined during study years.

Outside of coursework hours of study will include individual researching and peer support.

(Year one)

An afternoon a fortnight will include online coursework.

For year one in 2025 this day is timetabled as Thursdays.

Although we will facilitate our course online, student/candidates need to be able to come to Melbourne, Australia (onsite) once a year if required. The request for this would come from a supervisor or the Professional Doctorate Co-ordinator, with plenty of notice given.

Year one coursework includes the subjects Research Supervision 1 and Seminar Series 1.

In our experience, years 1-2 require one day a week, during the semester, dedicated to study (with pockets of evening or weekend work). Years 3-5 require more focused time, such as 2 dedicated days a week (plus smaller pockets). There are periods of intensity and quieter times. We acknowledge that people have different styles of study and formation of knowings.

The Seminar Series is a chaired Professional Doctorate community event, including presentations by students/candidates, MIECAT staff, alums, and guests.

It is intended that a primary supervisor will travel the five years with the student/candidate. Students/candidates will always have at least two supervisor/mentors in a year. MIECAT co-ordinates these supervisory relationships.

Research Supervision 1 incorporates (supervised) small group learning with one-on-one engagement with a primary supervisor (later in the year).

This research degree no longer automatically qualifies for a professional practice membership (such as ANZACATA). However, depending on a researcher's focus and practice area, ANZACATA might be open to considering a pathway, as they have done in the past. We are available to support you in these discussions with professional bodies.