
What kind of courses do you offer?

We offer a part time Masters in Therapeutic Arts Practice which runs over a three-year period. Experiential learning is central to how we work at MIECAT. It utilises an approach to arts-based inquiry that is based on the values of being relational, experiential, multimodal and emergent.

We also offer a part time Professional Doctorate in Therapeutic Arts Practice which runs over a five year period.

In addition, we have a suite of public programs which includes workshop-style professional development opportunities, studio-based and online art-making sessions, and networking events.

What is experiential learning?

"Tell me, and I will forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand."

– Confucius around 450 BC

Of course all learning involves experiencing. One experiences sitting in a lecture theatre

trying to listen to an 'expert' expound their views on a particular topic, and also by actively engaging one's mind/body in exploring images, thoughts and physical gestures that hold emotional patterns and meanings. It is the latter kind of learning that is the most often utilised at MIECAT.

By engaging all our available modes of being and knowing we create the grounds for rich and complex learning. To give form to our experiencing, we express multimodally — that is using all the art forms, music making, voice, dance and movement, visual image making (both two and three dimensional).

The other important emphasis in the MIECAT approach to learning is that we need others to make sense of the world and our place in it. Much of the coursework experience involves pair work, small group interactions and larger group discussions. Students and staff routinely give responses to each other about the work being done; sometimes these responses are verbal, other times may take the form of an image, a dance, or a musical response.

What is the MIECAT selection criteria?

Selection for admission into the Masters program is based on two sets of criteria:

1. Academic Criteria:

An undergraduate degree plus a minimum of one year of work experience in a relevant field (for example, as an allied health worker, educator, counsellor, artist, community arts practitioner, arts-based researcher)

OR

A Diploma or an Advanced Diploma in a related field of study plus a minimum of five year's work experience in a related field and demonstrated capacity to write academically.

2. Other Criteria:

- Work and other life experience that is relevant to the Masters course (CV and information from referees)
- Capacity to be descriptive rather than interpretive (in the arts-based selection workshop)
- Capacity to be aware of one's own experience and to be present to, attentive to, and non-judgemental of others (in the arts-based selection workshop and reflection)
- Capacity to express ideas fluently in written form (application form and reflection)



What can I call myself after I have successfully completed the MIECAT Masters?

You will be a qualified Therapeutic Arts Practitioner upon being awarded the MIECAT Masters degree. Industry associations such as ANZACATA (the peak professional association for Creative Arts Therapies in Australia, New Zealand and Asia) recognise this qualification. Students who graduate with a Master's degree are eligible to apply for ANZACATA Professional membership.

Not everyone completing a MIECAT Masters aspires to become a therapist. They may have their own career paths where they intend to apply the values of arts-based inquiry. Some examples of these pathways might be in community or organisational development, in arts-based research, where scholarship may lead into Professional Doctoral study, in schools with pupils or staff, in various forms of group work, in nursing, administration or other health contexts, in multicultural centres, or in developing one's own studio practice.

In deciding whether the MIECAT Masters is right for you, it may be helpful to consider the following:

- i. It is essentially a training and educational course in a particular approach to arts based inquiry that aims to assist people to make sense of their lives.
- ii. It can be an opportunity for intensive personal/professional development.
- iii. It offers a form of inquiry into human meaning, based on values of being experiential, relational, multimodal and emergent. This approach to inquiry can be adapted by those already in employment who wish to bring aspects of this method into their work with others, in any therapeutic, community, educational or research setting.
- iv. It can be an entry point for those wanting to start a career as a Creative Arts Therapist, or to expand their therapeutic career, utilising the experiential arts procedures of inquiry.
- v. It can be an entry point for arts-based research and scholarship to work on projects or engage in further study.



What are my career opportunities?

Our graduates enter fields such as:

- Community development
- Community arts projects
- Private Counselling and Creative Arts Therapy practices
- Research Projects and further scholarship opportunities
- Community Health, Drug and Alcohol, and Hospital settings
- Education and Student Welfare

What are the MIECAT fees for 2026?

MIECAT tuition fees are reviewed annually. Fees are published between September and early October for the following year. The 2026 Fee Schedule will be published on our website when finalised. Our current fee schedule is published on our website.

Students who are not on FEE-HELP are invoiced a day after the census date of each subject. It is expected that fees will be paid within thirty days of the subjects census date. Students unable to pay fees by this date may propose a repayment schedule. Please contact Student Services at admin@miecat.edu.au for more information.

There are no additional fees or levies.

Is FEE-HELP an option?

MIECAT is a FEE-HELP approved provider. Students who wish to apply for a FEE-HELP Loan can do so at the time of enrolment. FEE-HELP relevant information will be sent to successful applicants.

For more information regarding FEE-HELP please visit <http://studyassist.gov.au>

Students who are not eligible for FEE-HELP are invoiced each semester and it is expected that fees will be paid by the semester census date.

Austudy eligibility

As the MIECAT Masters is a part time course students are not eligible for an Austudy payment through Centrelink. However students enrolled in the Mid-Year cohort, are eligible for Units 1–4 only, as this equates to a fulltime load.

Is RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) offered?

It is most unlikely that students coming to MIECAT will be given exemptions from subjects as this course is unique in its content and approach. The units in the course are offered experientially as part of a coherent sequence. Generally, students are at a disadvantage if given exemptions from subjects as it compromises the progression of understanding and skill development. Notwithstanding, a request may be made at the time of application and it will be referred to the Education Committee for consideration.



Can I work while studying at MIECAT?

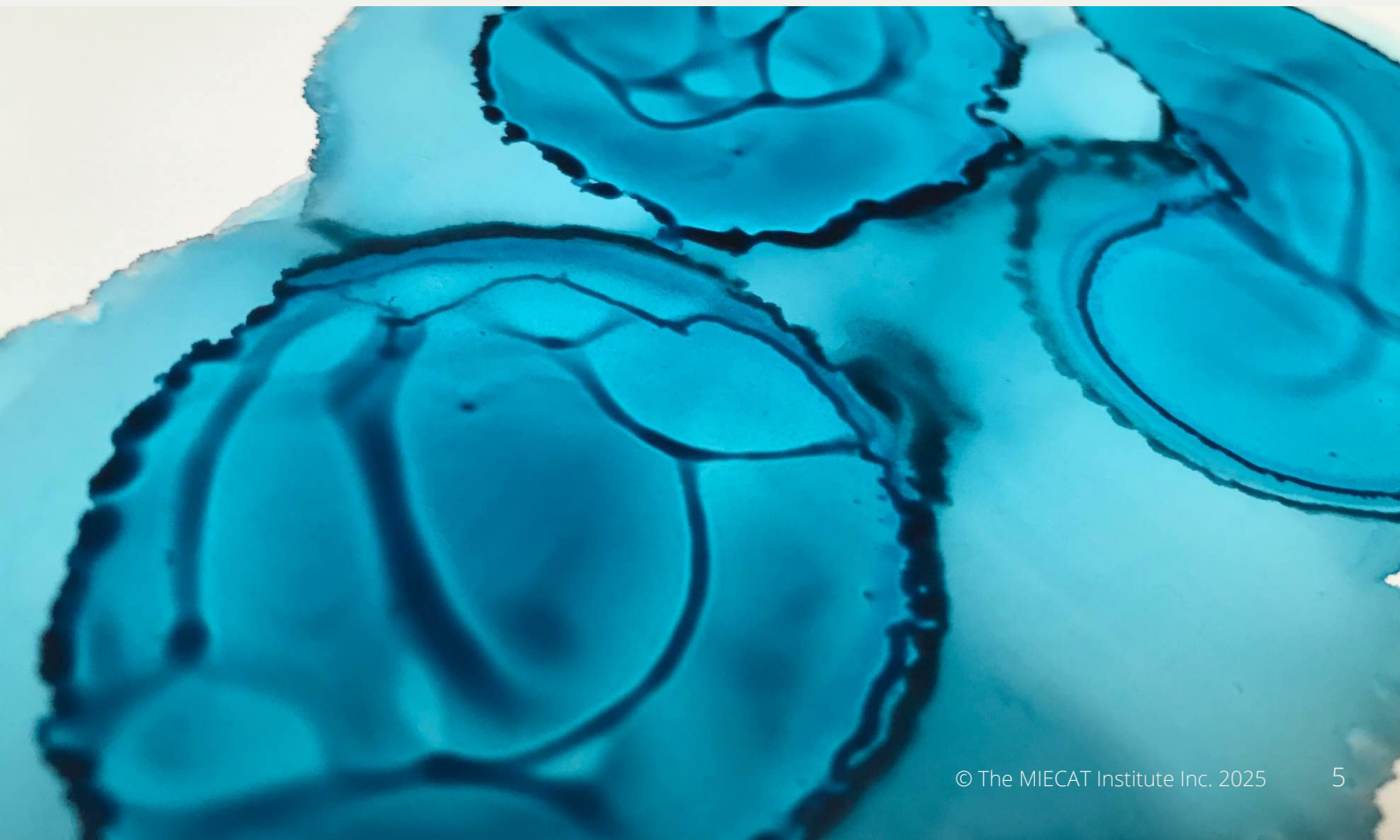
Most students enrolled at MIECAT are in some form of employment. We ask that you consider your capacity to fit class attendance and study requirements in with your work commitments. Masters students may be able to claim week-day classes as professional development from their employer.

What is the study load in MIECAT Masters?

The study load in the Masters is equivalent to an average of 2.5 days a week. This is inclusive of allocated class hours and self directed study (attending to research and assessment activities).

In the first two years there are 2 subjects per semester. These subjects consist of 6 full days of class time within a 3 week period. In order to participate in this, students who work full time can anticipate needing to take time off while attending these subjects.

The third year consists of 1 subject per semester which is equivalent of 2.5 days per week. Students should anticipate 1.5 days a week on placement in a workplace setting, with the remainder dedicated to attending small groups and workshops as required.



Subject/class groups

We endeavour to keep class sizes as small as possible to support experiential learning. However, students will encounter a variety of group sizes and experiences across the length of the course.

As you progress through the course, class cohorts will change, providing you with the opportunity to study and practice with different peers and teachers.

What are the class delivery/attendance options?

Delivery options vary as the course progresses, depending on the subject. The 2026 timetable consists of a Weekday Series or Weekend+ Series. For either series there will be options to choose your mode of delivery: in-person classes in Melbourne or online classes.

As part of your application process, you will be asked about your preferred series and mode of attendance for the first year. If successful in your application, you will be offered a place in one of these series and delivery modes for the year.

Please note that class preferences and allocations are all subject to availability, and dependent on final student numbers. Any student encountering extenuating circumstances throughout the year can apply to change their class allocation, subject to availability. Please do not attend class if you are unwell. Please contact MIECAT if you cannot attend class. Where possible, we will work with you to find alternative arrangements.

Please refer to the 2026 timetable for the specific details.



Preparing for online teaching and learning

For students learning online at MIECAT, you will need:

- To have a reliable internet connection.
- To have access to Microsoft Office, ZOOM and TEAMS on your computer.
- A private place to set up your computer. You may find that using headphones is necessary and/or desirable for creating a private space.

To facilitate your online learning, MIECAT provides dedicated technical support (Microsoft 365) through our Managed Support Provider and digital partner, Infoxchange.

When it is not possible for in-person classes to be held due to COVID-19 restrictions, all class delivery will be online.

Preparing for in-person teaching and learning?

Students who select in-person classes will attend in Naarm, Melbourne. Art materials will be provided.

If you become unwell once class has started, we will try our best to support you to continue with your studies. This may not always be possible and will depend on class sizes and availability.

Who should I contact for more information regarding Placements?

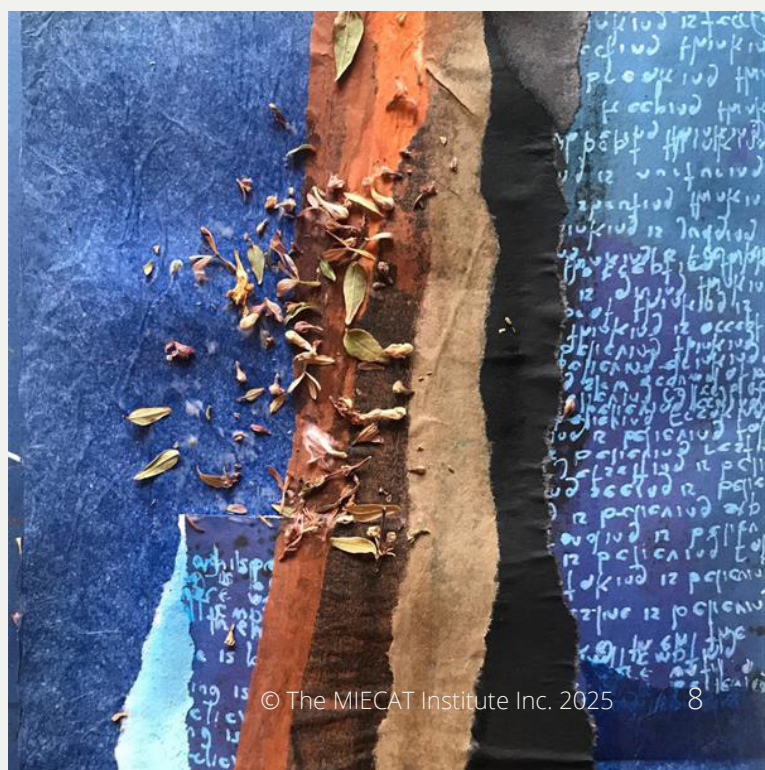
Work placements commence in the third year of the course. Information booklets will be distributed to students in the second year of the course. The Practicum co-ordinator will meet with students as necessary, regarding practicums — times to be arranged.

For all questions regarding placement, contact Practicum coordinator at practicumcoordinator@miecat.edu.au



As a student at MIECAT what will be expected of me?

- To be familiar with and abide by the **MIECAT Ethical Guidelines and Student Conduct Policy** in all interactions at the Institute and when representing the MIECAT Institute (eg. during workplace practicum). The Ethical Guidelines document will be issued to all new students at the commencement of their study.
- To be familiar with all the **MIECAT policies** related to students (see website www.miecat.edu.au).
- To **ensure you are enrolled** and that your fees are paid (MIECAT is a full fee-paying course and FEE-HELP is available to enrolled students who meet the eligibility criteria).
- To notify the office in writing should you wish to **defer or withdraw** from the course (forms are available from admin@miecat.edu.au). Students who defer or withdraw after census date will incur a debt for the subject.
- To regularly attend to your **MIECAT email address** (as supplied prior to Unit One) so that all communications are received.
- To notify the MIECAT admin immediately if any of your contact details change.
- To **take responsibility for your learning** in the context of a collaborative and experiential environment.
- To **notify teaching staff** if you are experiencing significant challenges to your learning.
- To **be on time** for all classes and supervision.
- To attend all classes and supervision. Minimum attendance for most subjects is 80% and for Workplace Practice 1 & 2 it is 100%.
- To notify teachers prior to the beginning of class if you are unable to attend. Students can do this via MS TEAMS or MIECAT email.
- To ensure you remember and use your login for the online reference/readings database — this will be distributed after census date.
- To submit assignments on time and keep a copy of all assignments that are submitted.



What kind of academic support can I get at MIECAT?

If you are struggling with subject material or assignments, speak with your subject teachers. They may refer you on to the subject coordinator for additional support.

Does MIECAT offer Writing Support?

The short answer is no. We endeavour to be as transparent as possible about the capacity required to undertake our Masters Program.

MIECAT can recommend professionals who are fluent in our approach to support you if required.

Does MIECAT have a student library?

Yes, MIECAT has a digital student library that students can access. We also have an onsite library that you can book a time to access.

Do I need to buy text books?

We provide electronic copies of required and recommended readings for every subject. The cost of this is included in your fees.

What support does MIECAT offer to students with disabilities?

MIECAT values diversity in abilities and ways of being in the world. We encourage prospective students to let us know about their accessibility requirements to participate in this course.



Taking care of yourself

The MIECAT approach to learning involves you exploring your personal meaning. However, as a creative arts training course, this process of exploration cannot always be carried through to completion in class. It is the student's responsibility to find appropriate ways of attending to personal material that is difficult, too private or inappropriate for disclosure in the group. This can be done on your own, using the MIECAT procedures, or in collaboration with another companion if required.

At MIECAT, we expect that as a student, you will take responsibility for your own experiences with the material of the course, and the necessary out of class reflection. We also assume you come to this course with a level of resilience that enables you to deal with difficult situations in an assertive, compassionate and non-blaming fashion.

MIECAT does not offer a student counselling service.

Do I need to see a therapist while studying at MIECAT?

We are aware that with experiential learning students may come into contact with personal material which may be best attended to with the support of an external therapist. Although not compulsory to see a therapist during your studies, it is highly recommended.

MIECAT teaching staff are available for debriefing purposes but are not able to provide therapy for students. We do recommend you speak with teaching staff or the subject coordinator should you have challenges in processing material, as well as seeking additional support. The ANZACATA website provides a list of creative arts therapists that you can use to source a therapist if required.



The information contained in this booklet is correct at the time of publishing. However, this information is subject to change as we co-evolve with the field of therapeutic arts practice in this land called Australia.

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