



Cairnmillar
INSTITUTE

School of Psychology
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration)

Course Information Handbook

2021

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The Program

Welcome and congratulations on your success in obtaining a place in The Cairnmillar Institute Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) degree, a specialised course for generalist registered psychologists with no conditions on their registration who have been practicing for at least 12 months full time or equivalent. This course handbook addresses many aspects and requirements of the course. It should be read in conjunction with these other handbooks and manuals:

- [Placement Information Handbook](#)
- [Research Information Handbook](#)
- [Unit Outlines](#)
- [Student Policies](#)

These resources provide all the information you need to successfully navigate your way through the different components of the course.

The Cairnmillar Institute and staff wish to assure you of an enjoyable and rewarding professional journey.



Professor Tess Knight
Head of School



Dr Christine Loft
Course Coordinator, Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration)

The Cairnmillar Institute

The Institute was first based in South Yarra, then in Collins Street, and from 1982 its home was 993 Burke Road, Camberwell. To accommodate its subsequent expansion, it has been in Hawthorn East since 2017. The Institute is an Australian Health Promotion Charity and non-profit body. It developed the first suburban family counselling and education centres in Melbourne at Blackburn, Syndal, Beaumaris and Doveton, pastoral care training programs and training programs of the first Citizens Advice Bureau in Melbourne.

The Institute was an early pioneer in training people in counselling and in psychotherapy. It broke through the strong walls of opposition to bring all the helping professions into specialised training in psychotherapy. It has conducted prevention programs in community organisations and for countless schools and churches across the nation and was the site for the development of Contextual Modular Therapy and analysis; an integrated form of brief and cost-effective psychotherapy.

The Institute's higher education programs are based on its critical and clinical experience and its constant interaction with clinical and research centres around the world. The courses are delivered by experienced practitioners and the Institute's approach to teaching is based firmly on practice with an emphasis on skills development.

What Is Clinical Psychology?

Clinical psychology is a specialised area of psychological practice that incorporates science, theory, and clinical practice through diagnosis, prevention and treatment of psychological problems and mental illness. Clinical psychologists are located in private practice, hospitals, universities, general medical practices, community health centres and mental health services. They work with infants, children, adolescents, and adults of all ages. They are also involved in designing, implementing and evaluating a wide range of prevention and mental health promotion programs.

Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration)

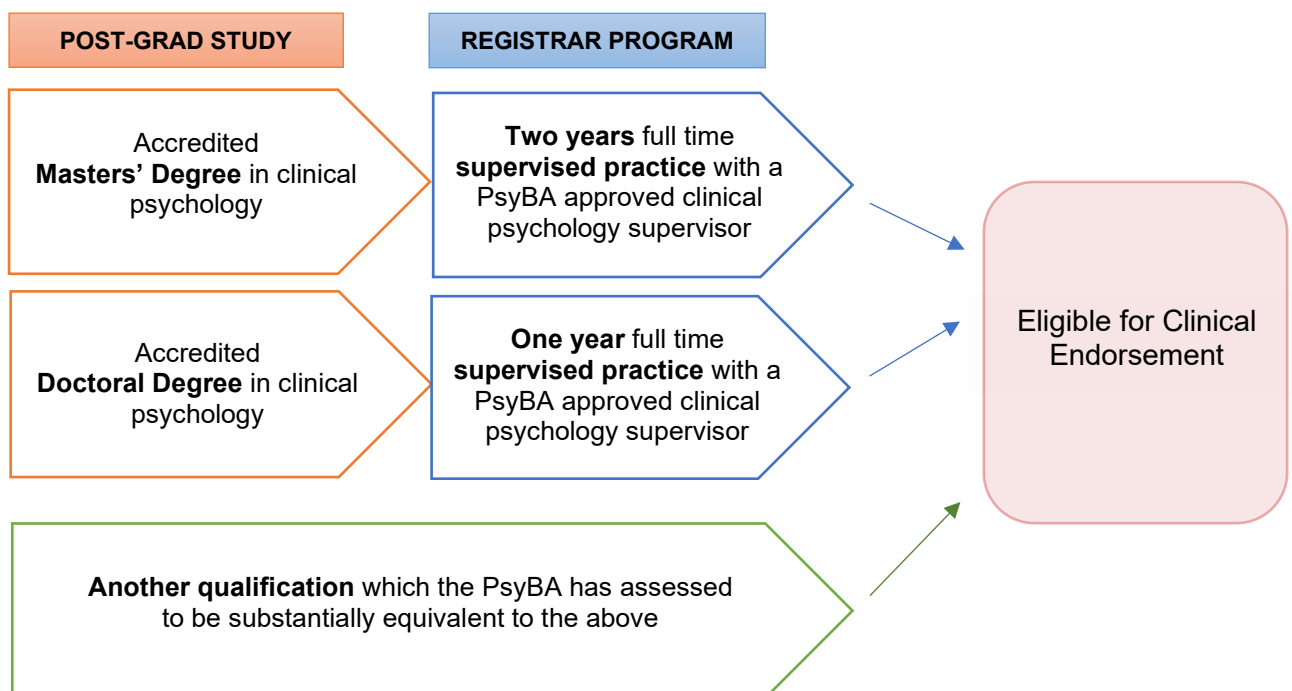
The course is conditionally accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) as a standalone AQF level 9 one-year program leading to professional competencies in clinical psychology as a specialised area of practice.

On successful completion of this course, graduates will be eligible for the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) Registrar Program in clinical psychology. Graduates will be required to complete a supervision plan approved by the PsyBA in order to be accepted as registrars, followed by two years of supervised practice for the purpose of gaining registration with endorsement in the area of clinical psychology.

Graduates of this course will also be eligible to become Associate Members of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) College of Clinical Psychologists, and on completion of a PsyBA approved registrar program, to be a Fellow of the College.

Pathways for eligibility for the APS College of Clinical Psychologists:

There are three pathways: Masters' Degree plus two years Registrar Program, Doctoral Degree plus one year Registrar Program, or PsyBA approved alternative qualifications:



Entry Requirements

Students accepted into the course must have successfully completed a four-year, or three-year plus a fourth year, APAC-accredited sequence in psychology. Students must hold general registration as a psychologist with the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency (AHPRA), with no conditions on their registration, and have practiced for at least 12 months full time or equivalent. Students will also be required to successfully pass an interview process and referee check in order to demonstrate APAC level three professional competencies.

An order-of-merit for entry will be prepared taking into account (a) academic record, (b) previous work experience and training, (c) academic and professional referees' reports, and (d) interview.

Duration of the Course

This course is designed to be completed in 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time. It consists of 4 units of coursework, 3 placements, and the completion of a research project.

Psychologist Registration and Insurance

All students are required to maintain general registration as a psychologist with AHPRA, with no conditions on their registration, for the duration of the course. They are also required to have a current Working with Children Check and Police Check. These must be maintained throughout the course.

You will only be covered by the Cairnmillar Institute's Professional Indemnity Insurance for approved educational activity (e.g. placements) and only if you are an enrolled student. Students must not let their enrolment lapse while on placement.

Graduate Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Cairnmillar Institute's courses in clinical psychology are highly sought after for their academic acumen and professional suitability. They have an appreciation of the breadth and depth of psychological practice and are creative and flexible in their thinking. Graduates are committed to working within the scientist-practitioner model and to using interventions and assessments that have been empirically validated. They are familiar with working with a range of clients and severity of client presentations. Their practice is ethical and culturally sensitive. Graduates of the Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) have developed skills in each of the areas listed below, preparing them to commence the PsyBA Registrar Program.

Students who satisfactorily complete the Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) will have achieved advanced knowledge and skills in the following areas of study:

Knowledge of the Discipline

- Implement core clinical psychology principles across a range of settings.
- Assess and diagnose a variety of clinical presentations with reference to the DSM V.
- Interpret current research on psychopathology and apply this to formulate appropriate intervention and assessment protocols.

Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the Australian Psychological Society's Code of Ethics as well as relevant legislation that informs current professional practice.
- Apply ethical principles to professional practice.

Psychological Assessment and Measurement

- Develop knowledge of a broad range of assessment measures and understand the theoretical frameworks and psychometric properties that support their empirical validation.
- Demonstrate an ability to administer, score, interpret and write up specific assessment batteries.

Intervention Strategies

- Demonstrate an understanding of a select range of empirically validated interventions suitable for use with adults, older adults, adolescents and children.
- Perform interventions in an effective and ethical manner and to be able to evaluate therapeutic outcomes.
- Demonstrate an understanding of interventions used with clients who have complex presentations.

Research and Evaluation

- Demonstrate an expert understanding of a topic relevant to clinical psychology. This understanding is exhibited by the ability to: interpret previous findings and developments relevant to their research in clinical psychology, and devise an original research project that is based on sound and current research methods.
- Conduct a high quality research project independently and ethically, and be able to disseminate findings to both specialist and non-specialist groups.
- Produce a cohesive research output relevant to Clinical Psychology.

Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

- Demonstrate effective and efficient written and oral communication skills.
- Relate appropriately to a range of clients and professionals across academic and clinical settings.

Working within a Cross Cultural Context

- Develop competence in working in a culturally sensitive and responsive manner with clients from diverse backgrounds, especially with clients of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

Practice across the Lifespan

- Deliver a range of psychological services appropriate to adults, children, adolescents and older adults.

Supervision and Reflective Self-Practice

- Demonstrate an appreciation of the importance of reflective self-practice and the ability to implement constructive feedback in order to improve clinical practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Apply the Australian Psychological Society's (APS) Code of Ethics as well as relevant legislation that informs current professional practice.
- Develop knowledge of a broad range of assessment measures and demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical frameworks and psychometric properties that support their empirical validation
- Demonstrate an understanding of a select range of empirically validated interventions suitable for use with adults and children.
- Demonstrate an understanding of interventions used for work with clients who have complex presentations.
- Demonstrate an expert understanding of a topic relevant to Clinical Psychology. This understanding is exhibited by the ability to: interpret previous findings and developments relevant to their research in Clinical Psychology and devise an original research project that is based on sound and current research methods

Career Options

Graduates may gain employment in community mental health centres, psychiatric hospital settings, specialist services for particular clinical groups, schools, tertiary education, clinical rehabilitation services and private practice.

Professional Recognition

Graduates will be eligible to apply for registration by the Psychology Board of Australia as a Clinical Psychology Registrar. On completion of two years of supervised experience subsequent to graduation from the program, graduates will be eligible to apply for endorsement in clinical psychology, and to be clinical psychology practitioners with Medicare Australia.

On completion of this course graduates will be eligible for Associate Membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists. On completion of the registrar program, graduates are eligible to apply for full membership (Fellow) of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists.

2021 Course Structure & Credit points

The Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) course has been designed to be completed on a part-time basis over 24 months but there is the option of enrolling full-time for a 12-month course duration.

COURSE STRUCTURE: PART-TIME ENROLMENT (Available from February 2021)		
Year 1	Semester 1	
CLP601	Clinical Psychology: Theory and Practice (Ethical, Professional, Assessment & Intervention Competencies)	12.5
CLP604	Psychopathology and Intervention for Adults	12.5
Year 1	Semester 2	
CLP602	Advanced Assessment for Clinical Psychologists	12.5
CLP661/671	Supervised Clinical Placement I	12.5
Year 2	Semester 1	
CLP603	Psychopathology and Intervention for Children and Youth	12.5
CLP662/672	Supervised Clinical Placement II	12.5
Year 2	Semester 2	
CLP663/673	Supervised Clinical Placement III	12.5
CLP650	Clinical Research Project	12.5

COURSE STRUCTURE: FULL-TIME ENROLMENT (Available from 2021)		
Year 1	Semester 1	
CLP601	Clinical Psychology: Theory and Practice	12.5
CLP604	Psychopathology and Intervention for Adults	12.5
CLP661/671	Supervised Clinical Placement I	12.5
Year 1	Semester 2	
CLP603	Psychopathology and Intervention for Children and Youth	12.5
CLP602	Advanced Assessment for Clinical Psychologists	12.5
CLP662/672	Supervised Clinical Placement II	12.5
Year 1	Summer School	

CLP650	Clinical Research Project	12.5
CLP663/673	Supervised Clinical Placement III	12.5

Course Details: 100 total credit points

Coursework: 50 credit points or 50% of the course

Research: 12.5 credit points or 12.5% of the course

Practical Placement: 37.5 credit points or 37.5% of the course

Prerequisite Unit: Assessment one for CLP601 (Clinical Psychology: Theory and Practice) must be successfully completed before undertaking Placement Units CLP661/671, CLP662/672, CLP663/673. CLP603 should be completed prior to, or concurrent with a Child-related placement.

Coursework Units

CLP601 Clinical Psychology: Theory and Practice

This unit focuses on developing advanced knowledge and skills required for the ethical practice of clinical psychology. Topics include ethical, legal and professional considerations, an introduction to diagnostic taxonomies, cultural considerations in clinical assessment and treatment, theoretical models of conceptualisation and treatment from various paradigms, psychopharmacology, communication to different audiences including using social media, developments in interprofessional learning and the use of technology in clinical practice, and issues relating to fitness-for-practice including the role of supervision, self-care, reflective practice, management and leadership.

CLP602 Advanced Assessment for Clinical Psychologists

The aim of this unit is to develop competence in culturally responsive assessment in clinical psychology. It focuses on advanced knowledge and skills in clinical psychology evaluation using diagnostic taxonomies, selection and administration of assessment tools and psychometric tests, assessing risk to self and other, the limitations of currently available instruments with culturally diverse groups, interpretation and communication of clinical psychology assessment data, use of diagnostic assessment data and case formulation to inform intervention, and understanding specific ethical and professional issues related to clinical psychology assessment.

CLP604 Psychopathology and Intervention for Adults

This unit aims to develop students' competence in culturally responsive conceptualisation, diagnosis and intervention in adult psychopathology. Students will acquire the clinical knowledge and skills necessary to assess, diagnose and treat mental disorders in adults, including severe manifestations. Each week diagnosis and treatment intervention for a different mental disorder, or group of disorders, will be addressed, including: psychotic, affective, anxiety, eating, substance, dissociative and somatic disorders, and mental health issues in older adults.

CLP603 Psychopathology and Intervention for Children and Youth

The aim of this unit is to develop competence in culturally responsive conceptualisation, diagnosis and intervention in child and adolescent psychopathology. Students will acquire the clinical knowledge and skills necessary to assess, diagnose and treat childhood and youth mental disorders. A range of child and youth mental disorders will be addressed, including Attachment Disorder, Internalising and Externalising Disorders, Neurodevelopmental disorders (Autism Spectrum Disorder), and Early Psychosis. There will also be a series of lectures on working systemically (family therapy series) with children and families within this unit and discussion of other treatment modalities, including e-health approaches.

Intensives

For each of the taught units there will be 1.5 days of intensive teaching, which will happen at the end of the taught unit (dates to be confirmed). These will aim to be delivered face to face and may be able to be delivered in several states (subject to enrolment numbers). Attendance at the intensives is compulsory.

The aims of these intensive sessions are to draw together the content from the material within the taught units via workshops, discussions, skills practice and reflection. These intensives will combine a series of delivery methods including small group discussions, panel-style discussions, skills practice opportunities and may include elements of essential assessment (e.g. oral presentation, assessment skills).

Placements

Please read this section in conjunction with the [Placement Information Handbook](#)

Students will undertake at least three external field placements (CLP661/671, CLP662/672 & CLP663/673). These are offered in a variety of settings and are allocated to maximise students' exposure to a range of clients, and levels of severity. Students will be expected to engage in direct clinical psychological work with clients across the lifespan, in both acute and community settings. Students are encouraged to identify potential placement opportunities and supervisors. All placements will need to be assessed as suitable as clinical psychology placements by the Placement Co-ordinator and, may include assessment by the Course Co-ordinator.

CLP661/671 Supervised Placement 1

This is the first of three of placement units, comprising 200 hours, which is designed to provide students with experience in the delivery of clinical psychology services. Students will be under the direct supervision of a clinical psychologist who has current area of practice endorsement and recognition as a higher degree supervisor by the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA). Though students are registered psychologists, this first placement will have frequent supervision (one hour for every day), and students may see fewer clients initially in order to provide space for reflection and planning.

CLP662/672 Supervised Placement II & CLP663/673 Supervised Placement III

Placement Units II and III, each comprising 275 hours, are designed to provide students with further experience in the delivery of clinical psychology services, to build upon the introductory experience obtained in Placement I. It is strongly recommended that at least

one of the three placements be in an acute setting (e.g. inpatient, or tertiary outpatient clinical setting such as a hospital or area mental health service team). This will allow exposure and experience with acute, high risk, and complex clinical presentations.

As in Placement I, students will be under the direct supervision of a clinical psychologist who has current area of practice endorsement and recognition as a higher degree supervisor by the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA). One hour of supervision will be required for every two days at placement in Placement II and Placement III.

Research

Please read this section in conjunction with the [Research Handbook](#)

Students must complete an integrative case study.

CLP650 Clinical Research Project

As part of the Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) degree students are required to undertake an integrative evidence-based case study in the area of clinical psychology. A research proposal will precede a literature review relevant to the client diagnosis in addition to a 4,000-word case study report. Students will be expected to demonstrate application of knowledge and skills gained through the course. Students are encouraged to identify a case study that is of high relevance to the clinical setting(s) where they will be working and to complete a project that will provide them with evidence-based guidance for their work.

Enrolment Conditions

See also: [Enrolment Conditions](#) on my.CMI for a copy of the current enrolment conditions. You must agree to the conditions of enrolment every time you enrol in a unit of study.

Attendance

Lecture and additional learning materials will be available online for students to work through asynchronously. There will be synchronous tutorials of two hours in duration each fortnight for each of the taught units. We highly encourage you to attend these as they are aimed at consolidating the asynchronous material provided, and best prepare you for the assessment tasks.

Additionally, there will be 1.5 days of intensive teaching per unit, which will occur at the end of the taught units *. Attendance at the intensives is compulsory.

We recognise that juggling work and study can be challenging and encourage you to treat your study with a similar commitment as your paid work. Students may apply to have a leave of absence for medical conditions, which will require a sick leave certificate from a GP or specialist. Other non-medical circumstances must be approved by the Course Coordinator.

If you anticipate being absent from tutorials or intensives, please advise your Unit Coordinator via email. Planned absences of several weeks should also be discussed with your Unit Coordinator. It is important that you raise any concerns about meeting study commitments with the [Course Coordinator](#).

Note: *In accordance with national and state recommendations for social distancing and travel restrictions due to COVID-19, we will review the timing and locations of the intensives as required.

my.CMI (Student Website)

[my.CMI](#) is the student Website. This is where students will find all resources and forms related to their course, placements and general enrolment queries. The [Knowledgebase](#) provides a wealth of information and covers the answers to most general questions related to the course.

Canvas

[Canvas](#) is the student learning portal where students will find their coursework, unit outlines and where to submit assessments (i.e. Turnitin).

Online Etiquette

Students are expected to comply with the Cairnmillar Institute's policies and regulations concerning etiquette during online classes, webinars, and in their electronic communications. All Policies and Procedures are published on the [Cairnmillar website](#).

Submission of Written Work

All written assessment tasks must be prepared in [Microsoft Word](#) and submitted via [Canvas](#). Please refer to the Unit Outlines on [Canvas](#) for more information on written assignment requirements.

Referencing & Style Guidelines

The referencing and format for all assignments must be in APA 7 style. Please see [APA Style Referencing](#). Case reports/studies require client anonymity and confidentiality.

See also [Assessment Style Guides and Formatting](#) on my.CMI.

Assessment Grades & Records

Final results for each unit will be calculated, then published on the [Paradigm Enrolment Portal](#) by the relevant results [publication date](#). See [my.CMI](#) for information on [results publication](#).

Extensions

An extension may be granted for assignments where there is evidence of unexpected disruptions in the student's available work time. Applications must be made via the [Assignment Extension Form](#) on my.CMI before the assignment due date, and is valid only after it has been approved by the Unit Coordinator.

See [my.CMI](#) for more information on how to apply for an [assignment extension](#).

Special Consideration

Special consideration may be granted in situations where an extension is not possible, such as an exam or in-class work that has been missed. See [my.CMI](#) for more information on how to apply for [special consideration](#).

Word Limit

Students must adhere to the word limits provided in Unit Outlines and Assessment Guides. Please refer to your Unit Outlines on [Canvas](#) for information regarding word limits for each assessment task.

Late Submissions

The penalty for late submissions is 5% per day (including weekends and non-business days), for a maximum of seven (7) days (i.e., maximum late penalty deduction possible is 35%). Work handed in more than one week late will not normally be marked and a fail result will be recorded. No assignment will be accepted once the results for that assignment have been published.

Tasks that are required to be completed and/or submitted in-class, such as class presentations must be submitted on the date of the class presentation unless a student has been awarded an extension. The penalty for late submission or non-submission of in-class tasks is usually 100% of the mark.

See also: [Late Assessment Submissions](#) on my.CMI.

Samples of Work

Samples of student work may be taken for purposes of course accreditation. In all cases anonymity will be preserved. If you object to your work being copied for this purpose you must advise the Unit Coordinator when submitting assignments.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process where a student may be granted credit or partial credit towards a qualification in recognition of previous study experience. Credit or partial credit towards a qualification cannot be granted in recognition of skills and knowledge gained through work experience unless students can demonstrate that they have been assessed on the competencies, and RPL cannot be granted towards Placement units. See [my.CMI](#) for more information on how to apply for [RPL](#).

Marking Scales & Grade Definitions

You can view Cairnmillar's [grade-mark schema](#) on my.CMI.

Academic Integrity

Breaches of academic integrity are serious academic offences. It is the responsibility of all students to access, read, and familiarise themselves with the Institute's [Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Policy and Procedures](#). See [my.CMI](#) for more information about [Academic Integrity](#) at Cairnmillar.

All students must complete an Academic Integrity Module and Quiz on Canvas prior to beginning classes at Cairnmillar. Please see [here on my.CMI](#) for more details.

Course Progress

Please see '[Academic Integrity and Progress Review Hearings](#)' on my.CMI for detailed information on Cairnmillar's academic integrity and progress procedure.

Policies & Procedures

It is the responsibility of all students to access, read, and familiarise themselves with the Institute's Policies and Procedures. These are published on our [school website](#).

Copyright

There are copyright laws that we need to be aware of and adhere to. Please see the [Australian Copyright Council's](#) website for full information on this topic.

Professional Standards

You must have a thorough knowledge of the Australian Psychological Society's Code of Ethics document. It is reviewed and updated regularly, and it is essential to remain abreast of any changes that are recommended.

A full copy of the current edition of the [Code of Ethics](#) can be obtained on the [APS website](#).

Student Support, Counselling, & Wellbeing

Counselling & Support for Students

Please see '[Counselling for Students](#)' on my.CMI

Academic & Writing Support for Students

Please see '[English and Academic Writing Support](#)' and '[APA Support and Study Skills](#)' on my.CMI

Other Support Services

A searchable list of other support services can be found on my.CMI. See: [Support for Students](#)

Tuition Fees and FEE-HELP

Information regarding the payment of fees can be obtained from my.CMI and our public website. Tuition fees and conditions are published on our website, see [Tuition Fees](#). Please see [Fees and FEE-HELP FAQs](#) on my.CMI for more information.

Termination of Enrolment

Cairnmillar reserves the right to terminate a person's enrolment in a course if the student:

- fails to meet the complete assessment task requirements or breaches the Institute's privacy and ethical conditions
- exceeds the maximum or negotiated time for completion of the course, or
- other conditions as specified in the enrolment application.

See [my.CMI](#) for details on Cairnmillar's [Academic Progress](#) procedure.

Graduation

To be eligible to have the relevant qualification awarded, a student must:

- comply with all the Institute Policies and Procedures;
- pay all relevant fees and charges;
- complete all requirements prescribed for the course at least at a PASS level;
- have all placement documentation up to date, signed off and uploaded to my.Placement.

The appropriate awards are given on satisfactory completion of the course. These are presented at a special annual ceremony or given (posted) directly to students for a fee.

Library Services

The Library at the Cairnmillar Institute is a specialist library resource, aimed at supporting the work of the Institute, focusing on the curriculum, teaching, research, and clinical requirements of the students, academic staff, clinical staff, and researchers.

Appointments about APA referencing, study planning and Library and research skills can be made through the [Library](#).

Please visit the [Library](#) page on my.CMI for more information.

Office 365 & OneDrive

All students have access to [Office 365](#) while studying at Cairnmillar. Your Office365 account includes free access to Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook (student email), and much more.

Students also have access to 1TB of OneDrive storage. Find more information on [Office 365](#) on my.CMI.

Computer & Printer Access

Computer and printer access is available on the Hawthorn campus during business hours. Each student has their own personal [OneDrive](#) account which can be accessed across any computer.

Please see '[Computer Access @ Cairnmillar](#)' for more information.

Please see '[Printing/Copying @ Cairnmillar](#)' on my.CMI for more information.