

School of Psychology
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration)
Course Information Handbook
2022

Course Code: PY094

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Welcome to The Cairnmillar Institute

Congratulations on your success in obtaining a place in the Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) degree. This course information handbook addresses many aspects and requirements of the course. It should be read in conjunction with the following:

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

These resources provide all the information you need to successfully navigate your way through the different components of the course. If you find anything missing from these handbooks, please let us know.

The Cairnmillar Institute and staff wish you an enjoyable and rewarding professional experience.



Professor Louise Roufeil
Head of School

The Cairnmillar Institute

The vision of the Cairnmillar Institute is to be globally recognised as a centre for psychological treatment, higher education, community education and research in the fields of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy. The Institute is an Australian Health Promotion Charity and non-profit body.

Our aim is to offer relevant programs and services tailored to our professional and client community needs. The service growth and regional reach of Cairnmillar is underpinned by our values of respect, integrity and professionalism and a focus on quality and standards. Connection with business partners and community, and a focus on quality is critical to our business development and will directly enhance our client and student experience. We also aim to strengthen our contribution to the body of research that informs community in practice, and education.

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)

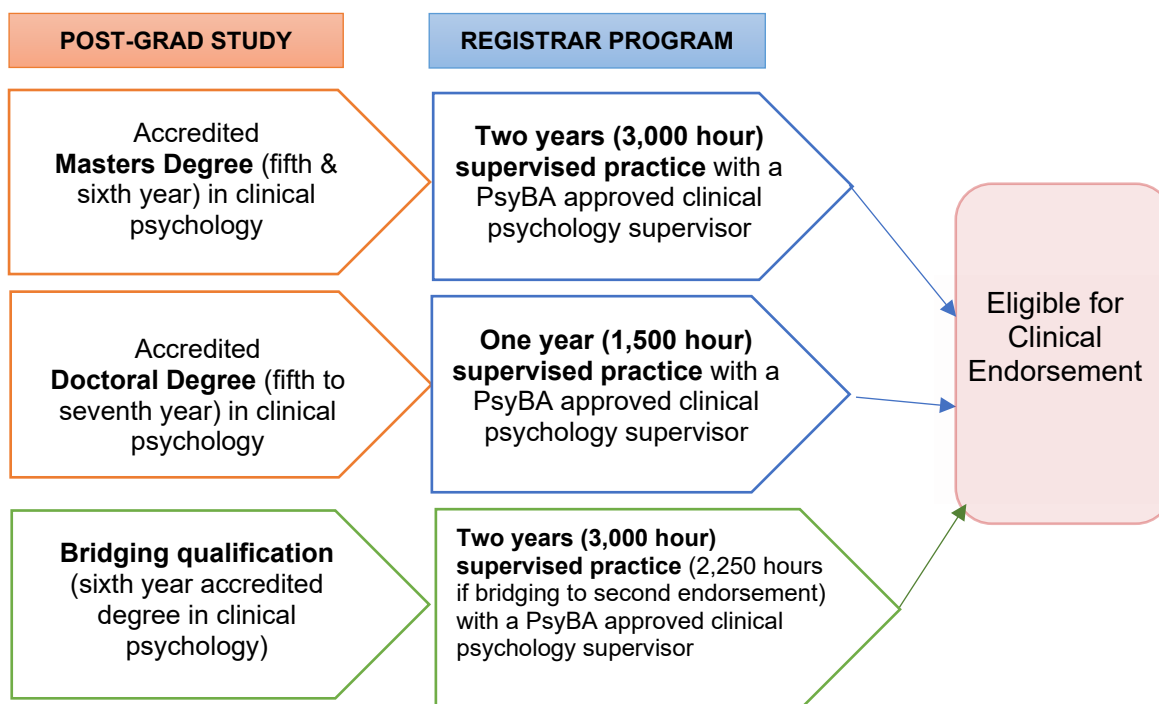
The course is conditionally accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) as a standalone AQF level 9 program leading to professional competencies in clinical psychology as a specialised area of practice.

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 (3,000 hours) of supervised practice for the purpose of gaining registration with endorsement in the area of clinical psychology. For psychologists who already hold an area of practice endorsement, the registrar program is 2,250 hours.

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 an area of practice endorsement (AoPE) in clinical psychology

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.

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

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 and 2 placements.

Learning Outcomes

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 Opportunities

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.

More information about [career pathways](#) can be found on myCMI.

Professional Recognition

Graduates will be eligible to apply for registration with the Psychology Board of Australia as a Clinical Psychology Registrar. On completion of two years (3,000 hours) of supervised experience (or 2,250 if bridging to a second endorsement) 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.

More information about professional registration can be found on my.CMI: [Professional Registration FAQs](#) on myCMI.

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. The course can be completed full-time over 12 months but this option is not available in 2022.

COURSE STRUCTURE: PART-TIME ENROLMENT		
Year 1	Semester 1	Credit points
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
CLP603	Psychopathology and Intervention for Children and Youth	12.5
Year 2	Semester 1	
CLP664/674	Supervised Clinical Placement and Evidence Based Project A	25
Year 2	Semester 2	
CLP665/675	Supervised Clinical Placement B	25

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 CLP664/674 and CLP665/675. CLP603 should be completed prior to, or concurrent with a child-related placement.

Coursework Units

Each of the units of study are detailed below. Please note students must pass all units before being eligible to graduate.

• 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 aim of these intensive sessions is 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).

Students should also refer to the relevant **Unit Outlines** located on [Canvas](#).

Placements

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

Students will undertake at least two external field placements (CLP664/674 & CLP665/675). These must take place in a variety of settings with a variety of supervisors to maximise students' exposure to a range of clients, levels of severity, and supervision experiences. Students will be expected to engage in direct clinical psychological work with clients across the lifespan, in both acute and community settings. Students must therefore undertake a child/adolescent placement and an adult placement. Students must also ensure at least one placement includes clients with high acuity. Students will either be self-sourcing placements and supervisors throughout the course, or elect for Cairnmillar to source their placements.

For students who self-source their placements, these will need to be assessed as suitable clinical psychology placements by the Placement Coordinator and may include assessment by the Course Coordinator.

- **CLP664/674 Supervised Clinical Placement and Evidence-Based Project A)**

This is the first of two placement units. It comprises 300 hours of clinical placement 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 initially have frequent supervision (one hour for every 7.5 hours of placement), and students may see fewer clients initially in order to provide space for reflection and planning.

The unit also requires students to complete 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. There will be some online classes to prepare students to complete the case study. Students are encouraged to identify a case study that is highly relevant 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.

CLP665/675 (Supervised Clinical Placement B) Placement Unit B comprises 450 hours and is designed to provide students with further experience in the delivery of clinical psychology services to build upon the introductory experience obtained in Placement A.

As in Placement A, 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.

Enrolment Conditions

See also: [Enrolment Conditions](#) on myCMI 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

Lectures 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 usually 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. If you are absent from a placement, please advise your Placement Coordinator. Planned absences of several weeks should be discussed with your Unit and/or

Placement 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.

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 including the TLP008 Student Social Media policy and FSP002 Discrimination Bullying Harassment Policy. 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](#) and the [Assessment Style Guides and Formatting](#) guide on myCMI 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 myCMI.

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 [myCMI](#) for information on [results publication](#).

Extensions

An extension of up to 10 business days 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 myCMI 48 hours before the assignment due date, and is valid only after it has been approved by the Unit Coordinator.

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

Special Consideration

Special consideration may be granted in situations where an extension of more than 10 business days is required, where an extension is not possible (such as an exam or in-class work that has been missed), or where there are ongoing circumstances that require multiple reasonable adjustments (e.g., all assessments requiring an extension). See [myCMI](#) 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 myCMI.

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, skills or experience.

See [my.CMI](#) for more information on how to apply for RPL or credit transfer. Please note, RPL will not be granted for placements.

Marking Scales & Grade Definitions

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

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 [myCMI](#) 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 myCMI](#) for more details.

Course Progress

Please see '[Academic Integrity and Progress Review Hearings](#)' on myCMI 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](#). Detailed supporting information, guides and forms can be found on the student website, [myCMI](#).

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 myCMI

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 myCMI. See: [Support for Students](#)

Tuition Fees and FEE-HELP

Information regarding the payment of fees can be obtained from myCMI 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 Conditions](#).

See [myCMI](#) 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 of study at least at a PASS level;
- have all placement documentation up to date, signed off, and uploaded to myPlacement;
- submit the relevant intention to graduate form by the due date.

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.

For more information see: [Completion and Conferral on myCMI](#)

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 Library and research skills can be made through the [Library](#).

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

Office 365

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.

Student Email and Canvas Announcements

Students are provided with a Cairnmillar student email and are required to check this account regularly while enrolled. See: [Accessing your Cairnmillar Student Email on myCMI for full details](#).

Students should also regularly check or sign up for email [reminders on Canvas Announcements](#) and review the regular [Student Newsletter](#).

Computer & Printer Access

Each student has their own personal [OneDrive](#) account which can be accessed across any computer.

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

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