

## Frequently Asked Questions

- VCASS is an entry via audition process only.  
Applications to apply for an audition are submitted through our website:  
[How to apply to VCASS](#)
- If you require specific assistance with your application, please email [auditions@vcass.vic.edu.au](mailto:auditions@vcass.vic.edu.au) to discuss the support you may need for your submission.
- VCASS is unzoned, so applicants can apply regardless of where they live.
- As a proud government school, we have a unique approach and a shared purpose in nurturing excellence in students from Years 7-12.
- Visual Arts and Theatre Arts are two year extension programs that take place in Years 11 & 12 only. You need to apply in Year 10 for these programs. The extension programs provide education above the standard school curriculum. This attracts a fee of approximately \$815 per term plus essential education fees of approximately \$700 per year.
- School tour information is available on our website. You can book through Trybooking to secure a visit. The link can be found on our website under the calendar tab. Guided tours of the school are a great way to familiarise yourself with the school's facilities, environment and culture. Tours are also an opportunity for parents and students to ask questions. Here is a link to a VR Tour of the school: [VCASS VR School Tour](#)
- You will find information and requirements for all auditions on our website. We recommend you read these documents thoroughly before submitting your application online as it will enhance your knowledge of the audition processes and you will feel more prepared:  
[VCASS Audition Information & Handbooks](#)
- **Please use an email in the application that you check regularly** so you can receive correspondence from us in a timely manner. We suggest that you periodically check your Junk Email/Spam folder in case any messages are incorrectly marked as spam.
- Hotmail email addresses are often problematic in applications as they do not support large attachments and often direct emails into the spam folder. We recommend using a different email for the application to avoid disappointment.

- We do not offer homestay through the school.
- There is a non-refundable Processing Fee of \$100 which applies for all applications. This must be paid to process your application.
- The outcome of the audition is final and not subject to appeal.
- Should the applicant happen to undergo a family disruption, illness or injury that would prevent them from undertaking the audition, please contact VCASS before the commencement of the audition to discuss your situation and arrange an alternative.
- It is school policy that we do not offer any individual feedback to applicants regarding their audition.
- VCASS cannot take mid-year entries into the school and we do not accept deferment of a place offered. The applicant would have to re-audition the following year.
- Documents requested in the application must be uploaded and included in your application for it to be considered.
- You can submit an application for more than one program if you wish e.g.: You want to apply for Dance and Music. They will need to be two separate applications made through the website and will be two separate auditions that you will need to submit.
- All applicants need to submit a recorded audition as per the audition information guidelines document: [VCASS Audition Information](#)
- After your video audition submission and the closing date of applications, we organise a panel of specialists to review your videos. This can take a few weeks to schedule so your patience is appreciated.
- You will receive an email to the email address you provided on your application form advising the outcome. This may be an unsuccessful notification or it may be that you are required to come on site at VCASS for a further audition / interview.
- If unsuccessful, you are most welcome to audition again in the following year if you are in the Dance or Music program. Visual Arts and Theatre Arts are a two year program so you can not apply to audition again.

## Question and Answers

### Music Auditions:

- **What is the music test?**

Please be aware that the musicianship and sight-reading component are elements of the audition and do not determine the outcome. The level of theory, aural and sight-reading is often determined by what we hear in the audition and the approximate grade level of the repertoire and performance presented.

Where possible we try to focus on what an applicant can do, as opposed to what they cannot. At the same time we endeavour to stretch the applicants to their potential to allow them the opportunity to show what they are capable of.

An outline of the test can be found in this link: [Musicianship Test Criteria](#)

- **Can I use a Metronome to keep time?**

We would like to hear the applicant demonstrate their ability to maintain a steady pulse without the aid of a metronome.

- **Can I perform my own songs?**

It is our experience that presenting an original composition does not always showcase the application in the best light. We would advise against presenting an original in the audition.

- **If I am living interstate or internationally, can I schedule my call back audition online?**

Yes, during COVID we became quite proficient in auditioning applicants online. An online face to face audition does not lessen the chances of your entry to VCASS. Many people gain entry this way.

- **Can I audition with two instruments?**

There is room in the application to nominate a second instrument but this is not compulsory and it doesn't give applicants an advantage of any kind. If you nominated a second instrument, you need to consider how it adds to your audition. Your musical piece for the second instrument can be of your own repertoire but it will need to showcase your musicality and technical control. You don't need a separate video for this instrument - It can be played in the video audition you submit.

- **What are the AMEB requirements?**

There is no minimum AMEB grade level required to audition. They are not mandatory and should be taken as a guide only. We request in the audition that the song must be from the AMEB book as the panel needs to hear a standardised repertoire for comparison.

Passing an AMEB theory exam merely informs the outcome it does not guarantee, nor does it preclude an offer.

- **Can you recommend a school or teacher that could prepare us for our audition?**

As a school that auditions to gain entry, we can not recommend schools or teachers to the general public. However, we recommend you show the audition requirements to your current teachers and they should be able to assist you in the selections of the criteria that will highlight your strengths and identify the areas you may need to improve.

- **What are the normal hours for a music student?**

The regular school timetable is structured around a two part day. One half specialisation and one half academic study with additional specialist time from 4.00pm - 5.30pm daily. Students are required to attend and/or perform a variety of after hours performances per year. These are published as part of our event calendar.

## **Dance Auditions:**

- **Call Back Auditions on site**

Applicants applying for entry are auditioned in a classical ballet class. This may be followed by other dance activities. You will also have an opportunity to have a brief interview with a panel.

- All applicants are required to have some knowledge of classical ballet, however, applicants considering entry into years 7 and 8 with limited classical ballet skills are still encouraged to audition. The audition is structured to accommodate differing levels of training.

- **What are the panel looking for in the audition?**

Our panel assesses each applicant on their potential to train at our school. This includes skill level in classical ballet as well as physical attributes in flexibility, coordination, control, musicality, ability to comprehend and remember dance movements, also overall physical suitability for a comprehensive high level training program.

We also look at maturity, openness, and experience, and where best to place the applicant within our school.

- **What to expect on audition day?**

All auditionees are welcomed at the main reception at their allotted time 30 minutes prior to audition. They are then directed to a warm up room.

After they have warmed up, they are then taken to the audition studio to commence a 'basic' ballet class in front of the panel.

Following ballet class auditionees will be asked to participate in a short contemporary dance sequence and sometimes short sequences of other movement styles.

No set work is required. In total the audition should be completed in under 1.5 hours though it can take longer when there are very large numbers, therefore many groups, or pauses for other groups. Auditionees will normally have two current students demonstrating at the front of the class. This helps them to feel relaxed and more confident throughout the audition process.

- **What Dance or Syllabus exam standard do I have to be?**

Classical ballet training, whether it has been studied and learned through syllabuses such as RAD, Cecchetti, ATOD, BBO or any other syllabus is appropriate as they are all based on the same balletic terminology and physiology. Ballet is used as the training method at VCASS as it enhances the students overall physicality and benefits all the other dance forms.

As a guide for auditionees a good criteria would be a minimum of one year's ballet training before applying to audition at VCASS.

- **At what age can I apply to audition for a place?**

Students in Years 6 to 11 are welcome to audition for entry into Years 7 to 12.

Students entering Year 7 should turn 12 years of age by April 30th.

- **What are the normal hours for a dance student?**

The regular school timetable is structured around a two part day. One half specialisation and one half academic study with additional specialist time from 4.00pm - 5.30pm daily. Extra Curricular Elective programs run after normal school hours and on Saturdays; some of our students participate in these programs.

Students are required to attend and/or perform at approximately 10 evening dance performances per year. We may require students to attend 2-3 Saturdays in Term 3 for rehearsals or performances.

- **Can I still attend and train at my old dance school?**

No.

The simple reason, VCASS dance training is very intense and specifically structured to train for a pathway in dance. The VCASS day is very long and physically taxing for young dancers, along with coping with the pressures of a full academic curriculum. Through past experience it has been proven to be too difficult a prospect for a young dancer and it creates unnecessary conflict and exhaustion with the real risk of injury for the student in such a high expectation program.

### **Visual Arts Auditions:**

- **What to expect on audition day?**

Applicants must arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled interview time.

Applicants will discuss their work with a panel comprising of VCASS specialist teaching staff and a representative of the Leadership staff.

- **What are the panel looking for in the audition?**

Applicants are required to demonstrate their interest and commitment to learning about art with a specific focus on contemporary art ideas and practices. Students should also be willing to discuss exhibitions they have attended in the past twelve months as well as artists that inspire and motivate them to make art.

Applicants will be required to present a folio of their work that comprises the use of a range of media and techniques. The folio should contain finished artworks as well as a

range of drawing studies, trials and experiments.

Applicants should also include their visual diaries they have compiled.

You can photograph large artworks instead of transporting them to the audition.

They can be shown on a device like an ipad or laptop. Multimedia works can also be shown in this format.

### **Theatre Arts Auditions:**

- **What to expect on audition day?**

Applicants must arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled interview time.

The applicant will be invited to introduce themselves and asked to perform the work they prepared for the video.

The applicant will be asked to answer some Theatre Arts questions relating to their video submission. During the audition, panelists will introduce themselves and ask the applicant some questions about their Theatre Arts experience, academic and personal interests.

- You may also be asked to complete a written task. Information about this will be provided in the email sent to you regarding your audition call back.