



CRICOS Provider Number: 00944G
ABN: 26 834 791 402

International Student Handbook

IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE

OUR HISTORY - FOUNDING OF IONA

The College is named after the Scottish Isle of Iona, on which the Irish Saint Columba (or Columcille) founded a community in 563AD. Iona became a centre of learning from which Saint Columba and his monks set forth to spread the Gospel into Scotland and the north of England.

The Presentation Sisters who came to Mosman Park had originally come from Kildare in Ireland to Hay in New South Wales. In 1900, five Sisters volunteered to answer a call to come to Western Australia. They arrived in Southern Cross in 1900, Collie in 1902, Cottesloe in 1902 and Mosman Park in 1907.

The Mosman Park site was situated on a rise, with the Swan River on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other. Bishop Gibney, who was the first Bishop of Perth, remarked that the site reminded him of the Isle of Iona off Scotland. He said he hoped that this too would become a centre of learning and a centre from which the Gospel would be spread.

Furthermore, one of the four founding sisters was Sister Columba, whose namesake had founded a community on the Isle of Iona. It was decided that an appropriate name for the College would be 'Iona.' It was founded on 11 September, 1907.

OUR MISSION

In accordance with the teaching of Jesus Christ, through the tradition of the Catholic Church and inspired by the compassion of the founder, Nano Nagle, Iona Presentation College strives to achieve the best spiritual, intellectual, physical and cultural outcome for every student.

OUR AIMS

The aims of the College are to provide a Christian environment where the faith-life of each student can be developed and strengthened and lead to growth that will continue throughout life. In harmony with this is the aim to help each student realise her own dignity and worth; and to strengthen and develop the character of each student by encouragement, firm but just discipline, and concern and love for the individual student.

This Christian environment gives each girl an opportunity to develop as a whole person through an education that is in keeping with the needs of the age and will challenge the intelligence and potential of each student. This will prepare her to take her place responsibly in society and be a Christian witness in that society.

OUR COLLEGE CREST

The Crest is in the form of a shield and depicts the Southern Cross and gum leaf. The shield portrays faith and courage. The Southern Cross portrays Australia, land of the Holy Spirit. The gum leaf, the Australian equivalent of the oak leaf, is a symbol of the Presentation Sisters.



Living in Perth

Perth, the capital city of Western Australia, is a multicultural hub and home to people of all nationalities from diverse backgrounds. It is renowned for its laid back lifestyle and famous for its long days of sunshine, spotless blue skies, brilliant beaches and diverse natural attractions found nowhere else in the world. The weather ranges from mild winters between the months of June and August to Mediterranean style summers from December to April. Located alongside the peaceful waters of the Swan River, twenty kilometers inland of the Indian Ocean, lifestyle activities in Perth can include trips to the beach, picnics at Kings Park, outdoor barbeques, movies, shopping and much more. Perth also has a thriving arts scene as well as an array of international dining choices.

The Perth City Centre is a popular tourist attraction which bustles with activity and offers a range of choices for shopping. The Port city of Fremantle lies just south of Perth on the coast of Western Australia. Considered the cultural centre of Perth, Fremantle is a popular spot, particularly at weekends when you will find markets, entertainment and plenty of alfresco style cafes and eateries.

College Campus

The College is situated on two and a half hectares of land in the suburb of Mosman Park, nestled between the Perth CBD and the City of Fremantle on the coast. The campus offers views across the Swan River on one side and the beaches of Leighton and Cottesloe on the other, and is surrounded by the natural beauty of the Swan River with picturesque gardens and parklands close by. The Boarding Community is located within the College grounds. The College is centrally located with Perth City approximately fourteen kilometers away and the heart of Fremantle less than six kilometers away, with extensive and easy to use public transport available



A view of Iona Presentation College (foreground),
looking east over the Swan River towards the Perth CBD (background)

For more information, we suggest the following websites to assist you to find out more about Perth and Western Australia:

Perth Education City (supported the State Government of WA)
Council for International Students of WA

pertheducationcity.com.au
www.ciswa.com

General Conditions of Enrolment - International Students

Application and Enrolment Conditions

1. Contact the College to obtain an Application for Admission form.
2. Lodging an Application for Admission along with the application fee and required documentation places each student on the waiting list. It does not guarantee entry to Iona Presentation College. Places are limited.
3. Iona Presentation College accepts International Student applications for Years 7 to 12. It is Iona Presentation College Policy that international students enrol as boarding students and reside in the Boarding Community at Iona Presentation College for the duration of their studies.
4. Fulfill the application pre-conditions:
 - 4.1. Be sympathetic to the Catholic ethos of the College. Preference is given to Catholic applicants. People of other religious traditions are welcome to apply.
 - 4.2. Proficiency in the English language – see section below.
 - 4.3. Fulfill the requirements of the Australian Government visa regulations.
5. Nominate an appropriate guardian (see below).
6. In order to enrol, an application form must be completed and submitted to the Registrar with the AUD\$120 non-refundable Application Fee. An interview with the Principal or delegate will be made at a time suitable to both parties.
7. After Acceptance of offer is made by completing the Written Agreement and payment of the non-refundable AUD \$750 Registration Fee. Payment of one semester's Tuition Fees and Boarding Fees (as per the International Student Fees and Admission brochure) is payable in advance, following which the College will generate an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCOE) and CAAW (Confirmation of Appropriate Welfare Arrangements). This information is used by the relevant visa post as the basis for the granting of the student visa. A paper copy will be forwarded to parents as evidence the eCOE has been generated. Without a Confirmation of Enrolment form, a student visa cannot be issued.
8. Commence application for a student visa. You will be required to present the paper copy of the eCOE and complete the relevant application forms. Further information can be obtained from the nearest Australian Embassy or High Commission or on the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au/study.
9. Arrange appropriate Overseas Health Cover (see International Student Handbook). Further information on the ESOS Framework can be obtained from www.aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/QuickInfo/ESOS_Framework.pdf. All International students studying on Student Visas must have Overseas Health Cover (OSHC). Students must obtain OSHC for the proposed duration of their Student Visa. OSHC is an insurance that provides cover for the costs of medical and hospital care which international students may need while in Australia. The Health Fund is Medibank Private, which is the Australian Government's Health Insurance Fund.

English Proficiency and Admission

10. The College had determined that girls who come into the College in Year 10, particularly after undergoing some months of intensive English courses, do meet with greater success. Consequently the College has implemented an admission policy accepting international student into the College only in Years 8, 9 or 10.
11. Arrange to have your daughter tested by Australian Education Assessment Services. Detailed information about the test, practice tests and testing centers available in Australia and in other

countries can be obtained by visiting the web-site at www.aseas.com.au. Subject to acceptable test results and reports and if a vacancy exists in the boarding community an offer of place may be received

12. Iona Presentation College suggests the following English Language Colleges in Perth have a sound record of developing English skills in international students:

St Mark's International College 375 Stirling Street PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6000 Telephone: +61 8 9227 9888 Facsimile: +61 8 9227 9880	Phoenix English Language Academy 223-225 Vincent Street NORTH PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6006 Telephone: +61 8 9227 5538 Facsimile: +61 8 9227 5540
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13. The College's experience with international students from non-English speaking backgrounds is that they struggle considerably in their first year of study in Australia. Given this hardship, we have found that girls entering in Year 11 (or later) have little success in the Tertiary Entrance Examinations, which they wish to undertake to be considered for entrance into an Australian University.
14. The final two years of schooling in Western Australia (Years 11 and 12) are necessary to satisfactorily meet the requirements for Secondary Graduation at the end of Year 12. Secondary Graduation is also a pre-requisite for entrance to any Western Australian university, and, we believe, highly desirable to enter any Australian university.
15. The official comment from the Curriculum Council on this is as follows:

Equivalent Studies – Interstate or Overseas

If you have completed the equivalent of Year 11 or Year 12 within the last six years in an interstate or overseas school, then you may apply for credit points towards Secondary Graduation. The Curriculum Council can assess and provide an equivalence statement of secondary school level qualifications. The statement relates an overseas certificate/academic year to a year level in the Western Australian school system: it does not give a grade-for-grade comparison.

Arrange to have your daughter tested by Australian Education Assessment Services. Detailed information about the test, practice tests and testing centers available in Australia and in other countries can be obtained by visiting the web-site at www.aseas.com.au. Subject to acceptable test results and reports and if a vacancy exists in the boarding community an offer of place may be received.

Fees, Charges and Business Arrangements

Refer International Student Fee and Admission - Appendix C

16. All fees must be paid in Australian Dollars.
17. The Application Fee and Registration Fee are non-transferable and non-refundable.
18. The Registration Fee is payable on acceptance of a student place and completion of the Written Agreement.
19. Course monies include the Registration Fee, Tuition and Boarding fees.
20. Tuition and Boarding Fees are due and payable in advance in two equal installments on or before the first day of each semester.

21. Continuance of enrolment cannot be guaranteed unless all fees are paid in accordance with the International Student Fees and Admission brochure or an arrangement has been made with the Principal. (Refer International Student Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy)
22. Any expenses, costs or disbursements incurred by the College in recovering any outstanding monies, including debt collection agency fees and solicitors costs shall be charged to the account.

Notice of Withdrawal

Refer to International Student Refund Policy

23. Notice of withdrawal must be provided in writing to the Principal.
24. Withdrawal from the Boarding Community requires one full Semesters notice in writing in advance to the Principal.
25. Refunds will be paid in accordance with the International Student Refund Policy.

Student Absences

Refer to International Student Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy and International Student Course Progress and Attendance Policy

26. In the event of a student being absent without prior notice, for illness or any other reason, the College should be advised by telephone or email immediately, addressed to the Principal.
27. Parents/Guardians are expected to ensure attendance of students throughout the school year.
28. Deferment or suspension of studies will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and on written application to the Principal.

Student Suspension or Expulsion

29. If the Principal suspends or cancels a student's enrolment due to a serious breach of the College's rules, the student will be reported to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). Deferment, withdrawal or cancellation of a student's enrolment may affect her student visa.

Insurance

30. It is strongly recommended that parents check their health and general insurance policies to ensure adequate medical, personal property and liability insurance cover. Students at the College are covered by the Catholic Church Insurance Students Accident Insurance Policy. This policy provides a limited cover only (excluding all Medicare services including the Medicare Gap). For further information call the School Care Accident Helpline on 1300 138 498 and quote policy number 06PAE111668.

30.1. Overseas Health Cover

- 30.1.1. All international students studying on Student Visas must have Overseas Health Cover (OSHC). OSHC is an insurance that provides cover for the costs of medical and hospital care, which international students may need while in Australia. Students must obtain OSHC for the proposed duration of their Student Visa. For example the current fee for Medibank Private insurance for a study course of 5 years duration is \$1872.36. Medibank Private fees are subject to change annually.

30.2. Illness or Injury

- 30.2.1. In an emergency, your child will be taken to a Public Hospital. Coverage details are contained in the Medibank Private Membership Guide. You are advised to have private health insurance cover for ancillary services.

International Travel

31. Parents are expected to note the commencement and final dates of each term and make travel arrangements to adhere to these dates. Please note the College will not fund the cost of travel for students.

College Involvement

32. International Students are required to comply with requirements of the College in respect of dress code, behaviour and participation in the College's co-curricular program.
33. The parent will be responsible for breakages and damage to school property caused by the student, which will be added to the fees account.
34. Where more than one person has applied for enrolment of a student the liability of each here-under shall be joint.
35. Privacy - Information is collected in order to meet our obligations under the ESOS Act and the National Code 2007, and to ensure student compliance with the conditions of their visas and obligations under Australian immigration laws generally.

Support in the College for Students

The College Pastoral Care program is delivered to local and overseas students across all year groups and covers issues that relate to students' developmental phases as young women. The program teaches students resiliency and time management skills, stress management, decision making strategies, techniques for successful relationships and leadership training. Most importantly, the Pastoral Care program ensures a comfortable transition from one Learning Community to the next.

Within each year group, students are assigned to one of four Houses. These House groups allow the girls to develop positive relationships with their peers and staff. All students are encouraged to take an active role in their house by participating in spiritual, sporting, cultural and community service activities.

36. *Head of Boarding*

The Head of Boarding, has overall responsibility for the total care and wellbeing of all boarding students local, regional and overseas. This person is the first point of contact for parents with daughters residing in boarding and will assist with transport arrangements, monitoring of academic progress in conjunction with the school, the provision of pastoral care and all other facets of boarding life.

37. *Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care)*

The Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care) takes particular responsibility for year matters pertaining to student health and well being. She is responsible for overall behaviour and the efficient running of the College within a pastoral care context, recognising and appreciating the differing needs of individual staff members and students.

38. *Housemothers*

The Boarding Houses contains approximately one hundred students, who are supervised by three Housemothers per House, working on a rotational roster. Being the significant person responsible for the 'home care' of boarding students, the Housemothers form close relationships with the students. Housemothers may be contacted by parents should there be any concerns.

39. *Head of Year*

Each Head of Year is responsible for the academic and pastoral care needs of the students within his/her Year. The Head of Year works directly with the students in their year, in close consultation with the Homeroom teachers, as well as other appropriate pastoral care personnel. The Head of Year works in close liaison with the

Deputies and is a member of the Pastoral Care Council.

40. *Homeroom Teacher*

The Homeroom Teacher is the special focus person who is responsible for the pastoral care of a specific group of students throughout their secondary schooling. This person is the significant adult to whom the members of the group relate, fostering a sense of care and belonging within the group. The Homeroom teacher is also responsible for reporting on the general progress of students to parents.

41. *College Psychologist*

The College Psychologist's role in pastoral care involves psychological counselling and the facilitation of problem-solving – at the individual, classroom and whole College level.

42. *Health Centre*

The College Nurses are responsible for the medical care of students.

General

43. Term dates are published in advance. It is expected that only in the most exceptional circumstances would a student be absent from school at times other than in official vacations. Wherever possible, the College seeks to assist in any way, however, prior discussions are essential before decisions on absence other than that caused by illness, are made. Except with the expressed permission in writing from the Principal, students are not permitted to leave the College at the end of a term until the recognised closing date.
44. When a student is absent on account of illness, immediate notice by telephone must be given to the College and the reason for absence confirmed in writing by the parent or guardian upon the student's return to the College.
45. Once a student has arrived on campus at the commencement of a school day she may not leave without the permission of the Principal or until the conclusion of all commitments on that day.
46. These conditions are subject to alteration from time to time by the Principal.

Important Sources of Information for International Students

Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS)	www.aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/ESOS/EasyGuide
Department of Education and Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)	www.deewr.gov.au
Australia Education Assessment Services (AEAS)	www.aeas.com.au
Australian Education International (AEI)	www.aei.dest.gov.au
Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)	www.diac.gov.au
Iona Presentation College	www.iona.wa.edu.au
Medibank Private Overseas Health Cover	www.medibankprivate.com.au

College Information

Further information on enrolment at Iona Presentation College can be obtained by contacting:

The Registrar
Iona Presentation College

Address: 33 Palmerston Street, Mosman Park, WA 6012
Telephone: +61 8 9384 0066
Facsimile: +61 8 9384 5191
Email: dpeacock@iona.wa.edu.au
Website: www.iona.wa.edu.au