

Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration) Course Information Handbook 2024

PY094-23

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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](#)

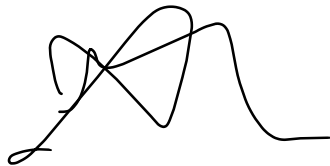
These resources provide all the information you need to successfully navigate your way through the different components of the course. If you find anything missing from these handbooks, please let us know.

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



Professor Linda Byrne

Dean, Faculty of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy



Professor Jonathan Mason

Course Coordinator, Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration)

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 an 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.

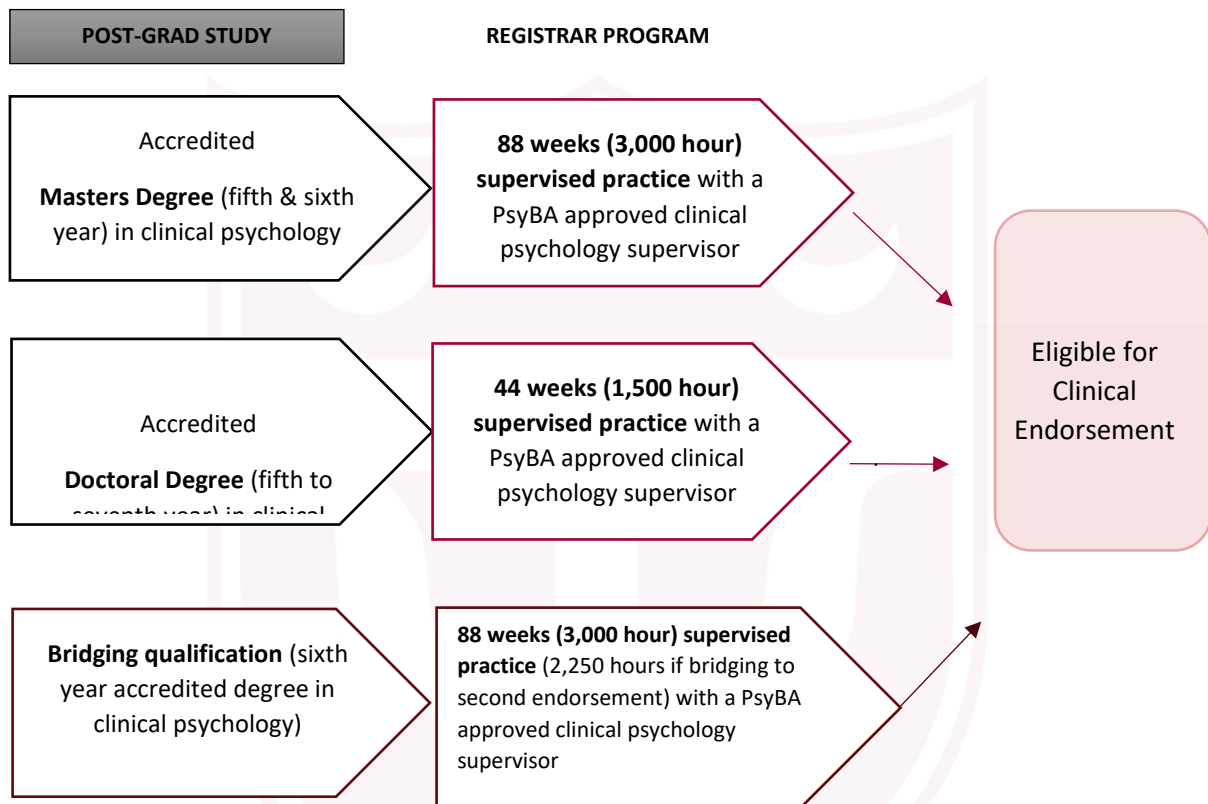
Master of Clinical Psychology (Post Registration)

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 a minimum of 88 weeks (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.

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 OR have completed a Level 3 APAC-accredited Master of Professional Psychology and hold general registration. Students will also be required to undertake a referee check and be able to demonstrate that they have met all APAC level three professional competencies by completing and passing the Cairnmillar Psychology

Competency Exam. Students who have not completed a Level 3 qualification previously will also be required to undertake a short research course prior to enrolment.

An order-of-merit for entry will be prepared taking into account (a) academic record, (b) responses to application questions, (c) academic and professional referees' reports, and (d) psychology competency exam score.

Psychologist Registration and Insurance

All students are required to maintain general registration as a psychologist with AHPRA for the duration of the course. They are also required to have the appropriate child protection and police checks, depending on which state they are practising in. These must also 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, and must maintain their own appropriate level of insurance (if required) for all work outside of placement.

Duration of the Course

This course is designed to be completed 24 months part-time. It consists of 4 units of traditional coursework, 2 research units and 2 placements.

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 centers, 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 a minimum of 88 weeks (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.

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. Full membership of other professional organisations (e.g. Australian Clinical Psychology Association) will also become available.

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

Course Structure & Credit Points

This course has been designed to be completed on a part-time basis over 24 months.

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	Supervised Clinical Placement A	18.75
CLP651	Evidence Based Project A	6.25
Year 2	Semester 2	
CLP665	Supervised Clinical Placement B	18.75
CLP652	Evidence Based Project B	6.25

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 and CLP665.

Prerequisite Unit: CLP651 (Research Project A) must be completed before CLP652 (Research Project B)

Prerequisite Unit: CLP664 (Placement A) must be completed before CLP665 (Placement B)

Corequisite Unit: CLP651 (Research Project A) must be completed concurrently with CLP664 (Placement A)

Corequisite Unit: CLP652 (Research Project B) must be completed concurrently with CLP665 (Placement B)

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 discussion of other treatment modalities, including e-health approaches.

CLP651 (Evidence Based Project A)

The unit requires students to begin an integrative evidence-based case study in the area of clinical psychology. A research proposal will precede a 3000 word literature review relevant to the clinical case study undertaken in CLP 652 (evidence based project B). 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 literature review. 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.

CLP652 (Evidence Based Project B)

The unit requires students to complete the integrative evidence-based case study in the area of clinical psychology. A 3,000-word case study report will be completed that is complemented by the literature review undertaken in CLP651 (Evidence based project A). 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. At the conclusion of the unit, students will submit a corrected version of their literature review, a summary of the changes they made in response to marker feedback, and their clinical case study.

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 two external field placements (CLP664 & CLP665). These should take place in a variety of settings to maximise students' exposure to a range of clients, levels of severity, and experiences. Students will be expected to engage in direct clinical psychological work with clients across the lifespan, and in varied settings (please refer to the placement information handbook for more detail). In most circumstances, students identify their own placement opportunities (The Cairnmillar Institute occasionally has a small number of placements that students can elect to apply for on an EOI basis). All prospective placements need to be assessed as suitable clinical psychology placements by the Placement Coordinator and may include assessment by the Course Coordinator. All supervision (a mixture of individual and group formats) is provided by CMI-appointed supervisors and will be organised by the Placement Coordinators.

CLP664 (Supervised Clinical Placement A)

This is the first of two placement units. It comprises 375 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). The first 200 hours of placement will have more 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. Following this, the remainder of the placement will be supervised at 1 hour for every 15 hours of clinical practice.

CLP665 (Supervised Clinical Placement B)

Placement Unit B comprises 375 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 provided for every two days (15 hours) 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

It is an expectation that students will attend all classes*. If you anticipate being absent, please advise your Unit Coordinator via email. Planned absences of several weeks should also be discussed with your Unit Coordinator. Students who miss more than three classes, should make an appointment to discuss their attendance with the Unit Coordinator.

Note: We consider classes* to include to include synchronous online activities such as tutorials and lectures held in online platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

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 can be found [here](#).

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 APA7 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 may be granted for assignments where there is evidence of unexpected disruptions in the student's available work time. Extensions must be applied for and approved in accordance with the Assessment Policy and Procedures and any other published procedures found on the school website. Applications must be made via the appropriate [form](#) before the due date and submitted to the [Unit Coordinator](#). An extension 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 is not possible, such as an exam or in-class work that has been missed. You should first discuss your situation with your [Course Coordinator](#) before applying. Please see the Assessment Policy and Procedures found on the school website for more information. Please see [myCMI](#) for 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 granted special consideration. 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 [myCMI](#) for more information on how to apply for RPL or credit transfer.

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 myCMI

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 myCMI 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 myCMI.

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 myCMI for more information.