

Welcome Pack



Everything you need to know for your journey!

Welcome to GICOPAD! We hope you thoroughly enjoy the experience of learning pipes and drums with us. Please read through the following information carefully, as it tells you everything you need to know for the journey. There are forms attached at the end that must be filled in and returned as soon as possible. Please talk to College admin if you have any questions or concerns.

About GICOPAD

We aim to provide a comprehensive musical education for all ages, with a particular focus on Scottish pipe band music. We share our core values with the senior pipe band, being **Teamwork, Professionalism, Development, Family and Enjoyment**. These values guide our innovative approach to teaching bagpipes and drums and drive our vision of building a successful organisation.

Your journey will be decided by where you want to take this unique experience. Whether you want to learn to play for the community or have the drive to become a World Champion, we have the **development pathways** in place to guide your progression. Please take some time to look over our development pathways guide below and discuss this with your tutor at an appropriate time.

Development Pathways			
Levels	Who?	Success Measures / Competencies	Certification Requirements
GICOPAD Program 1	All new students	<p><i>Welcoming formal structured tuition program for Bagpipes and Drums that transitions students to playing full instruments (fast-tracked)</i> <i>Introduction to Scottish traditional music and instruments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to music rudiments and establishing the fundamentals on practice pads (leading to snare, tenor and bass drumming) • Bagpipe Maintenance & Tuning • Introduction to Piobaireachd basics • Introduction to Solo Playing 	Preliminary
Entertainment / Social Solo D	All players	<p>GICOPAD Specialised Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet previous level requirements • Formal Coaching / Tuition offered • Playing on instruments • Introducing more opportunities to perform • All core tunes • Understand playing to the beat • Bagpipe and Drum Maintenance • Ability to tune instrument to a very good level 	Preliminary
Grade 4a & 4b Solo D	Pathway Program Graded players	<p>GICOPAD Extension Program 2 <i>A more challenging environment designed to continue developing individuals, introducing a more complex repertoire and offering band members more opportunity to perform and compete.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet previous level requirements • Formal Tuition Pathway Program Participants • Coaching / Tuition • All Core Tunes • Designated Entertainment Pieces • Grade 4a or 4b Set Competition Tunes 	Preliminary Elementary
Grade 3 Solo C	Pathway Program Graded players	<p>GICOPAD Extension Program 3 <i>A more challenging environment that encourages individuals to excel at their instrument with an expectation of players to commit to performing at a competitive level.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet previous level requirements • Formal Tuition Pathway Program Participants • Coaching / Tuition • Designated Entertainment Pieces • Ability to write music to the expected level required • Ability to tune instruments to the expected level required 	Preliminary Elementary
Grade 2 Solo B	Pathway Program Graded players	<p>GICOPAD Extension Program 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet previous level requirements • Formal Tuition Pathway Program Participants • Coaching / Tuition • All / Designated Entertainment Pieces • Ability to teach GICOPAD Program and deliver tutoring for workshops 	Preliminary Elementary Intermediate
Grade 1 Solo A	Pathway Program Graded players	<p>GICOPAD Extension Program 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet previous level requirements • Formal Tuition Pathway Program Participants • Coaching / Tuition • All Entertainment Pieces • Ability to teach GICOPAD Program and deliver tutoring for workshops 	Preliminary Elementary Intermediate Advanced Teaching Diploma

Cost

The world of piping and drumming is quite frankly, not a cheap hobby. We feel it would be a disservice to all our potential students to be anything less than up front about that reality. Having said that, our experience is that piping and drumming can be a very exciting and rewarding activity to pursue, with significant educational, physical and social benefits!

In this Welcome Pack, you will find comprehensive information about what the next few years of learning may look like depending on the development pathways you choose to take, to help you make truly informed decisions about a commitment to lessons.

		GICOPAD Prog. 1 <i>0-12 months</i>	Entertainment/Social <i>1 – 2 years</i>	Grade 4 onwards <i>2+ years</i>
EDUCATION	Individual Lessons (30 min) OR Group Lessons (45 min)	\$30 x 40 weeks = \$1,200 per year \$20 x 40 weeks = \$800 per year	\$30 x 40 weeks = \$1,200 per year \$20 x 40 weeks = \$800 per year	\$30 x 40 weeks = \$1,200 per year \$20 x 40 weeks = \$800 per year
	College Band Rehearsals		FREE	FREE
	Half Yearly Workshops		FREE	FREE
EQUIPMENT	Practice Chanter – <i>Pipers</i>	\$100		
	Sticks and Pad – <i>Snare</i>	\$60		
	Sticks – <i>Tenor</i>	\$85		
	Learning materials	\$20		
	Bagpipe Hire Fee – <i>Pipers</i>	\$25/term		
	Bagpipe Hire Bond – <i>Pipers</i>	\$250 (refundable)		
	Uniform		~\$50	FREE
	Bagpipes – <i>Pipers</i>		~\$1,000 - \$3,000	
	Drums – Snare and Tenor		FREE	FREE
	Drum Harness – <i>Tenor</i>		\$110	
	Drum Harness – <i>Snare (optional)</i>			\$660
	Drum – <i>Snare (optional)</i>			\$1,700
BAND	Annual Band Membership			\$70 per year
	Band Practice			FREE
	Travel Expenses			TBA

Note: \$5 from every lesson is reinvested back into the college for workshops and equipment, while \$5 covers the hall operating expenses for that period. The remainder is provided to the tutor.



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Lessons

Structure

We offer both individual (30 min) and group (45 min) lessons, from our highly experienced and professional tutors. To enable a suitable learning environment group lessons can only be offered when there are multiple students at a similar stage of learning. If you would like longer or multiple lessons, or in some cases to transition to fortnightly practices, please discuss this with your tutor.

We run our college in 10 week terms, in accordance with the Queensland state school terms. Lessons and band practices will still occur on public holidays or pupil free days unless otherwise notified.

For students under the age of 16, a parent or guardian must stay at the band hall for the duration of the lesson or any other event that the student is participating in. Please discuss with college admin if you need to make alternative arrangements.

Payment

An invoice will be issued at the start of each term via email. This invoice can be paid as a lump sum up front, or in instalments as agreed with the college in advance. Lump sum payments must be paid by the end of **week 4**, while you must notify admin by **week 2** if you intend to pay in instalments. If you encounter issues with payment or financial difficulty please speak to your tutor or college admin as soon as possible.

Missed Lessons

We understand that people get sick, and life is busy; sometimes missing a lesson just can't be helped. If you are unable to attend a lesson, 8 hours notice must be given in order to be eligible for a catch up lesson. A maximum of 1 catch up lesson may be accrued during a term. If notice is not given or more than 1 lesson is missed during a term the lesson fee is forfeited. A catch-up date will be set by the tutor near the end of the term, which may be run in a group or workshop format. If you have significant circumstance such as long term medical issues, please contact your tutor or college admin to make arrangements to suspend lessons.

Trial Period

Sometimes you don't quite know which instrument will be right for you. This makes committing to a big investment a big decision. To assist in this decision, if after the first 2 weeks of lessons you decide not to continue, simply pay for those 2 lessons and if required have the remaining term refunded. We can also offer a loan practice chanter or drum pad and sticks for your first term for \$25.



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Instruments and Uniform

Bagpipes

Within the first 6 months you will begin to apply skills learnt to the bagpipes. The College has a number of bagpipes for loan and can be rented for up to 12 months. This is pending equipment availability. After this 12 month loan period it is expected that you have made arrangements to purchase your own set of pipes. We recommend you speak to our tutors prior to purchasing any set as there are poor quality sets on the market that are not suitable for your successful development. The price of bagpipes vary significantly depending on brand, aesthetics and inclusions.

A bond is collected for the loan period. The bond will be returned in full when pipes are returned to the College in the same condition they were lent (excluding usual maintenance). The rental cost contributes to the cost of setting up the pipes, including bags, reeds and hemp, and ongoing maintenance. It does not cover damage caused by careless handling of the instrument.

Drums

Through the senior band, the college has access to a selection of drums. These are used by students from initial learning right through to public performances and competition. While tenor drummers are required to purchase their own harness, drummers will always have access to drums and snare harnesses at no cost. However, this equipment does not go home with the students. If you desire once you are established our tutors can assist you with purchasing a harness and drum so that you can practice at home, have your own for solos, etc.

Uniform

In order to minimise the cost of outfitting the college members, we have adopted a non-traditional but simple uniform of plain long sleeve white shirt, black trousers, black belt, black shoes and black socks. While you may have all of this in your cupboard already, these items can be purchased for low cost – any brand is fine. Uniform will not be required until your first public performance. Once that a student reaches consistent grade 4 competition, the pipe major and drum sergeant will organise for the allocation of a full traditional (kilt) uniform. This uniform will be provided on loan and predominantly for free.



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Opportunities

Your new Pipe Band

After approximately 12-24 months you will be ready to attend band practice which is effectively a group lesson provided free of charge. These band practices will develop new skills key to your musical development. These practices are run once a fortnight on a Wednesday evening from 7pm to 8pm, beginning week 1 of every term.

Once you are attending regular rehearsals you will need to sign up for band membership (\$50 for adults, \$25 for kids) due each July. For students joining partway through the year, this fee will be applied pro rata. This fee only partly covers band membership costs, including registration with Pipe Bands Australia and insurance. The whole family is welcome to join our band family by signing up as social members for only \$5.

Public Performances

The band perform at a number of events each year, including ANZAC Day, community engagements, our annual Burns Supper and local pipe band competitions. Information about each of these events will be sent out in the lead up to each event - please always get in touch with College admin if you have any questions about upcoming events or think you may have missed important information.

While we take a proactive approach to child safety, for students under the age of 16 a parent or guardian must stay within reasonable proximity of the band during public performances in order to ensure the constant safety of the child. Where travel or workshops permit for children to be unattended you will be notified of the specific policy and procedure in accordance with our Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy.

Team App

The college and band jointly use a popular free smartphone app called Team App as our primary method of general communication – supplemented by email communication for critical information. Be sure to ask your tutor or college admin for details on how to get access.