

# 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. Please talk to the 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 and desire to play competitively with the City of Ipswich Pipe Band we have the development pathways in place to guide your progression.

## Cost

Below we have attached comprehensive information about potential costs involved in learning with the Greater Ipswich College of Piping and Drumming to help you make truly informed decisions about a commitment to lessons.

<b>TUITION</b>	Individual Lessons – where available (30 min)	\$35 x 40 weeks = \$1,400 per year
	Group Lessons (45 min)	\$20 x 40 weeks = \$800 per year
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	Practice Chanter – <i>Pipers</i>	\$100
	Sticks and Pad – <i>Snare</i>	\$60
	Sticks – <i>Tenor</i>	\$85
	Bagpipe Hire Fee – <i>Pipers</i>	\$25/term
	Bagpipe Hire Bond – <i>Pipers</i>	\$250 (refundable)
	Bagpipes (purchase after 12-18 months of lessons) – <i>Pipers</i>	~\$1,000 - \$3,000
	Drums – Snare and Tenor	<b>FREE</b>
	Drum Harness – <i>Tenor</i>	\$110
	Drum Harness – <i>Snare (optional)</i>	\$660
	Drum – <i>Snare (optional)</i>	\$1,700

## Lessons

### Structure

We offer both individual (30 min – where available) and group (45 min) lessons, from our highly experienced tutors. To enable a suitable learning environment group lessons can only be offered when there are multiple students at a similar stage of



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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 circumstances 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



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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.

## 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 18 months. This is pending equipment availability. After this maximum 18 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 City of Ipswich Pipe 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

Once the tutor deems that a student reaches consistent grade 4A competition standard, the pipe major and drum sergeant will organise for the allocation of a full



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traditional (kilt) uniform from the Band Quartermaster. This uniform will be provided on loan and predominantly for free.

### 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.