



# STUDENT HANDBOOK

## 3-6 AMI Diploma

### 2020

#### **MISSION STATEMENT OF SYDNEY MONTESSORI TRAINING CENTRE**

*The mission of the Sydney Montessori Training Centre is to transform lives and society by broadening access to Dr Maria Montessori's proven approach to educating the human being by delivering high quality AMI training and supporting students enrolled on current and future courses to achieve their intended qualification, in accordance with AMI guidelines.*

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## **SYDNEY MONTESSORI TRAINING CENTRE (SMTC)**

### **AMI Montessori Diploma (3-6) Student Handbook**

#### **Contact Information:**

Administration: 44 Smith Street, Balmain NSW 2041  
Phone: (02) 9395 2799  
Email: [admin@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au](mailto:admin@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au)  
Website: [www.montessoritrainingcentre.com.au](http://www.montessoritrainingcentre.com.au)

#### **Training Locations:**

Training Centre Sydney: 756 Darling Street, Rozelle NSW 2039  
Training Centre Melbourne: Kalker Montessori Centre, 1-3 Estelle Street, Bulleen, VIC 3105

#### **Pedagogical Staff 3-6:**

Amy Kirkham Director of 3-6 Training

Details of our pedagogical staff for other courses can be found on our website:  
<https://www.montessoritrainingcentre.com.au/about/our-educators/>

#### **Board of Directors:**

Tara Taylor	Director and Chair
Andrew Duff	Director and Treasurer
Zoe Ezzard	Director and Training Centre Manager
Sally Connellan	Director
Christine Shaw	Company Secretary

#### **Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)**

Founded in 1929 by Dr Maria Montessori (1870 – 1952)

Headquarters:

Koninginneweg 161

1075 CN Amsterdam

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Ph: +31 -20 -679-8932

Email: [info@montessori-ami.org](mailto:info@montessori-ami.org)

Website: [www.montessori-ami.org](http://www.montessori-ami.org)

President: Philip O'Brien  
Executive Director: Lynne Lawrence

***The policies and procedures outlined in this Student Handbook are correct at the date of publication, 20 December 2019, and are applicable for courses commencing in the year 2020. If it becomes necessary to make changes to policies and procedures outlined in this Handbook, students will be notified promptly in person or via email.***

## **WELCOME**

Congratulations on your decision to embark on an AMI Montessori training program and thank you for choosing SMTC as your training institute. AMI Montessori courses are renowned globally for their holistic approach and rigour. Undertaking the course will open many possibilities for you and we look forward to supporting you in your endeavours throughout the course.

## **About SMTC**

SMTC was established in late 2018 as a not-for-profit entity with the sole purpose of making regular high-quality Montessori training available and accessible in Australia.

SMTC is delighted to be authorised to deliver Association Montessori Internationale (**AMI**) Montessori courses. AMI was established by Maria Montessori and has affiliated training centres around the world. AMI courses are recognised internationally for their authenticity and quality.

SMTC offers AMI training courses in the following:

- AMI Montessori Diploma Primary 6 - 12 years
- AMI Montessori Diploma 3 - 6 years
- AMI Montessori Foundation Course
- AMI Montessori Assistants to Infancy Certificate 0 - 3 years
- AMI Montessori Assistants Certificate 3 - 6 years
- AMI Montessori Assistants Certificate Primary 6 - 12 years

The dates for upcoming courses are available on SMTC's website at:

<https://www.montessoritrainingcentre.com.au/study/academic-calendar>

The respective AMI Montessori Diploma training course, along with local teacher accreditation requirements, certifies graduates to become a Montessori Director in either the 3 - 6, 6 - 9 or 9 - 12 years' classroom. The Assistant training courses are short courses for those interested in the Montessori philosophy and/or in becoming a Montessori Assistant.

## **Qualification Authorising Body**

The AMI Diploma and Certificates are awarded by AMI and do not form part of the Australian Qualifications Framework.

The AMI Diploma does not automatically qualify the holder to teach or work in an early childhood setting. The state or country in which the AMI Diploma-holder wishes to work may have other teaching or early childhood requirements that must be fulfilled. For example, in New South Wales teachers must be accredited to teach through the NSW Education Standards Authority and in Victoria, teachers must be accredited to teach through the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

The Certificate does not automatically qualify the holder to work as a teacher's aide or assistant. The state or country in which the AMI Certificate-holder wishes to work may have other assistant requirements that must be fulfilled.

It is the responsibility of students to investigate local jurisdictional requirements that may apply to their situation.

## **Our Staff**

Our administration team can be contacted during business hours from 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday (closed some school holidays). Our trainers can be contacted by phone or email for support and questions throughout the course. Whilst we understand that during the course there may be times at which students may need to contact our trainers outside of regular business hours, we ask that where possible students make every effort to make this contact during weekdays and within regular business hours.

Each AMI course is under the direct supervision of an AMI Trainer, the Director of Training, who delivers the course and is responsible for all pedagogical matters. The Trainers are appointed by AMI to conduct the course. Each Director of Training is a very experienced Montessori practitioner who has also completed the extensive AMI Training of Trainers (**TOT**) programme.

The Trainer is assisted by other academic staff, some of whom may be candidates in the TOT programme. Local and international guest lecturers with a specialist expertise may deliver specified parts of the course content by invitation.

Examinations are presided over by an external international AMI examiner.

## **Locations**

SMTC is training in two locations; one in Sydney, the other in Melbourne.

Please note that these premises are located on school grounds (Melbourne) and in a busy pedestrian area which is shared with an Infant Community program for the 0 to 3 age group (Sydney). Students are required to dress and behave accordingly and movement through the grounds should be quiet and unobtrusive. Smoking and alcohol are not permitted on the premises at any time.

## **Car Parking**

The school car parks at the Melbourne premises are not to be used during school hours. Parking is available at Melbourne, opposite the school behind the tennis club. The parking area is accessible from Furneaux Grove.

The Sydney premises have no on-site parking and street parking is available outside the training centre on the surrounding streets. Please be aware that some of this parking has a two-hour limit, however, there is free all-day parking within walking distance. We suggest students consider the excellent bus links to and from our Sydney campus for transportation.

## APPLICATION AND ENROLMENT

### Application Materials

Candidates will be considered for admission after completion of the application form and on receipt of all supporting documentation including CV (outlining academic and employment history), transcripts of previous tertiary study, certified copies of qualification certificates and three signed letters of recommendation, two professional in nature and one a character reference, together with a short autobiographical essay (details further below). Once all documentation has been received, an interview with the Director of Training, and on occasion with the Training Centre Manager will be scheduled. If the prospective student holds an AMI Diploma at another level, one recommendation must be from the previous Director of Training.

### Essay

The short autobiographical essay outlined above should describe the applicant's past experiences and future direction, particularly relating to working with children. It must be written by the applicant in their own words, be typed and approximately two pages in length. The essay should address the following questions:

- Why do you wish to follow Montessori training?
- How did you learn about the course?

### Application Procedure

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis but students should apply as early as possible to ensure spaces are still available.

Application forms and requirements can be requested by mail, phone or email and can be found at [www.montessoritrainingcentre.com.au/study/how-to-apply](http://www.montessoritrainingcentre.com.au/study/how-to-apply)

Completed applications should be returned with supporting documents to:

Email: [admin@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au](mailto:admin@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au)

Address: 44 Smith Street, Balmain NSW 2041

### Working With Children Check

A Working With Children Check is a requirement for people who work or volunteer in child-related work. It involves a national criminal history check and a review of findings of workplace misconduct.

When undertaking a course in Sydney or undertaking a practical component at a New South Wales school, students must obtain a 'Working With Children Check' from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian prior to commencement of the course:

[www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check)

When undertaking a course in Melbourne or undertaking a practical component at a Victorian school, students must obtain their 'Working With Children Check' or hold current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching prior to commencement of the course:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>

Where courses or teaching practice are conducted in other locations the Working With Children Check, or equivalent in that jurisdiction, must be provided prior to commencement of the course.

Clearances should be forwarded to [corporate@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au](mailto:corporate@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au) prior to course commencement.

As SMTC shares its premises with a school and/or an Infant Community, students will not be permitted to undertake the course or their teaching practice and observations without proof of one of these checks. Further, a student's enrolment in the course may be suspended or result in dismissal if a check above becomes invalid or expires without replacement during the term of the course or practical component.

## Confirmation of Enrolment

All applicants are notified of the outcome of their application by letter. Successful applicants will receive a confirmation of enrolment letter. Please be aware that your place is not confirmed until such time as the applicant makes their first payment towards the course fees in accordance with the fee schedule for the relevant course.

## Enrolment Policy

Students wishing to apply for the course should do so prior to at least one month prior to commencement of the relevant course to ensure placement availability and proper processing of their application. Applications submitted after this date may be accepted based on availability. Late applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Once full enrolment limits for a course have been reached, a waiting list may be established.

## Overseas Students

Overseas students are responsible for ensuring that they have all appropriate governmental permissions prior to arrival at SMTC and are eligible to study in Australia. This includes having a visa which enables the student to study in Australia and complete the entire course. Please be aware that SMTC is currently unable to offer visa sponsorship and it is the student's responsibility to apply for and obtain an appropriate visa. Proof of visa status may be required by SMTC from the student and SMTC may suspend the student's enrolment in the course or immediately dismiss the student from the course where a visa, or proof of visa, is inadequate or not provided.

## Language of the Course

All components of the course will be conducted in English. Applicants whose native language is not English, are required to demonstrate proficiency in English as determined by:

1) [The International English Language Testing Sydney \(IELTS\) \(Academic\)](#).

- A minimum score of 5.5 is needed in reading and writing;
- A minimum score of 5.5 is needed in speaking and listening.

OR

2) [The International Second Language Proficient Rating \(ISLPR\)](#)

- A Level 4 score is needed in **all four-skill areas** of listening, speaking, reading and writing, undertaken at approved testing sites where the assessment is teacher focused.

If either of the IELTS or ISLPR exam are not taken, such as in the case of a candidate living in an English-speaking country for many years, the student will be considered to have English proficiency as a native speaker in terms of albums and exams.

It should be noted that language requirements for registration as a teacher in NSW are governed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (**NESA**) and in Victoria by the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Please refer to the NESA or the Victorian Institute of Teaching websites, as applicable, for further details.

<http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home>

<https://www.vit.vic.edu.au/registering-as-a-teacher>

Other states and territories of Australia and other jurisdictions around the world will have their own language and other requirements which students are responsible for independently researching, if applicable to them.

## **Course Prerequisites**

A tertiary qualification in any field of study is required. However, under special circumstances the Director of Training may make exceptions to this requirement based on other studies, work or life experience. In the case of applicants from non-English-speaking countries, qualifications must be translated into English and certified by an accredited translator.

## **Motivation**

SMTC recognises that intellectual ability alone does not necessarily make a good student. Interest and motivation may often be determining factors of a student's performance. Accordingly, SMTC will review academic records, work history and life experiences. Applicants must demonstrate personal suitability for training, including emotional maturity, integrity of character, intellectual creativity, independence and the aptitude for psychological insight and understanding.

## **Probationary Status**

Students accepted into the course on probation will be notified of this status at the time of acceptance into the course. This status is effective through the first 10 weeks of the 3 - 6 course. If the student is in good standing at the end of the probationary period, the student will be notified in writing that the probationary status has been lifted.

If a probationary student is not in good standing at the end of the 10-week period, the Director of Training will make a final review of the student's participation in the course and a decision will be made regarding the student's continued participation in the course. This decision will be based on an evaluation of work to date, extenuating circumstances, attendance, class participation and the student's commitment to completing the course requirements.

## **Financial Assistance**

For all matters regarding your fees, please contact the Company Secretary, Christine Shaw on:

[corporate@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au](mailto:corporate@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au) or +61 2 9395 2744.

## TRAINING COURSE

### Course Title

The complete title of the course is 'Montessori Diploma Casa Dei Bambini' of the Association Montessori Internationale (children ages 2.5 to 6+ years)'.

### The Diploma of the Association Montessori Internationale:

The AMI Diploma is granted upon satisfactory completion of the course requirements which include:

- Attendance at lectures and demonstrations;
- Observations, including submission of observation notes and accompanying assignments;
- Practice Teaching;
- Supervised practice sessions with materials;
- Submission of teaching manuals (reference albums) containing illustrated notes on the Montessori materials;
- Samples of classroom materials constructed during the course;
- Passing marks on both written and oral final examinations conducted by AMI Examiners;
- Upon recommendation of the pedagogical staff of SMTC.

The AMI Diploma is internationally recognised. All AMI Diplomas state the holder has "*Studied the principles and practice of the Montessori method for children from 2.5 to 6+ years of age*" and has "*passed the written and oral examinations*".

Students should note:

Awarding of this AMI Diploma does not qualify the holder to train other teachers.

### Jurisdictional Requirements to Teach

The AMI Diploma as it stands, does not automatically qualify the holder to teach. The state or country in which the AMI Diploma-holder wishes to work may have other teaching requirements that must be fulfilled. In New South Wales, all teachers must be accredited to teach through the NSW Education Standards Authority ([www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au](http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au)). In Victoria, all teachers must be accredited to teach through the Victorian Institute of Teaching: (<https://www.vit.vic.edu.au/registering-as-a-teacher>).

Other states and territories of Australia and other jurisdictions around the world will have their own registration and other requirements which must be satisfied in order to teach in the jurisdiction. Students are responsible for independently researching such requirements if applicable to them.

## Course Units

The courses units in the AMI Diploma are:

	HOURS
• The Montessori Philosophy, Psychology and Child Development	70
• The Child's Acquisition of Fundamental Learning Skills	70
• The Development and Education of the Senses	70
• Language and Literacy	70
• Mathematics	80
• Montessori Materials and their Role in Assisting Child Development	140
• The Critical Role of Observation	100
• Montessori Professional Experience	120
• Educational Theory and Practice	50
• Administration	40
• Reading and Discussion Sessions	40

The course presents an examination of the development of the child in accordance with Dr Maria Montessori's theories, principles and philosophy. Emphasis is given to children between the ages of 3 - 6 years. The course content includes lectures on:

- Montessori philosophy;
- Psychology (theory and practice);
- Demonstrations;
- Construction of materials;
- Supervised practical sessions with the Montessori apparatus;
- Observation and practice teaching in AMI-approved Montessori classrooms.

## **AMI Requirements for Certification**

The AMI Diploma is awarded upon satisfactory completion of the components of the course requirements and the attendance requirement listed on the AMI Requirements for Certification document (found in Appendix A), that is signed by the Director of Training and the student upon acceptance into the course.

The AMI 3-6 Diploma is granted upon satisfactory completion of the following course requirements:

- A minimum of 90% attendance at lectures and practical sessions with the materials;
- Submission of original reference albums;
- Assigned material-making projects;
- Observation notes and summaries;
- Practice teaching as scheduled;
- Passing grades on both written and oral examinations.

Admission to the training course does not guarantee certification.

The course requirements and guidelines are intended to prepare for the task of guiding children and bringing your course work to a level required for the examination. The course is unique in nature regarding its instruction, intensity and the importance of continuity.

### **Albums**

Each student will complete a personal reference album of their own written and illustrated exercises for each of the curriculum areas covered in the course subjects. These exercises must be written according to the prescribed format. Only materials presented on this course should be included in the album.

Notes and sketches taken during the lectures are the basis from which the student prepares course albums. Taking full, complete notes is required. The process of writing and illustrating albums is an internalisation and restatement of the course content that verifies the student has understood and is able to prepare a coherent record or presentations suitable for children aged 3 to 6.

Albums are evaluated regularly by the training staff and practising Montessori teachers under the guidance of course staff. Written feedback is provided to students as they are evaluated. Based on this evaluation feedback, students should become aware relatively early in the course if they need extra assistance in this area and a plan can be put in place with the trainer for this assistance to be provided promptly by training staff.

The list of presentations and illustrations required and due dates will be provided on an assignment sheet issued during the course by academic staff. Album work will be returned with comments indicating if corrections are to be made. Corrections must be made and are the responsibility of the student.

Binders should be purchased for the cumulative album in each of the following areas:

- Practical Life
- Sensorial
- Language
- Mathematics
- Theory

Album pages must be on good quality A4 paper.

## **Supervised Practice and Independent Practice with Montessori Materials**

Supervised practice offers students the opportunity to solidify understanding and techniques of the didactic apparatus before starting work with children in a classroom. Students must practice a minimum of 140 hours under the supervision of SMTC staff. The purpose of these practice sessions is to provide each student with an opportunity for active manipulation of the materials with the accompanying verbalisation. During the time set aside for supervised practice, students are expected to work with the materials, rather than edit notes or complete illustrations. Only practice with the materials meets the AMI requirements for practical sessions.

The Training Centre is available for independent practice before and after class time, including over the lunch period, during opening hours. Additional hours may be available on a scheduled basis with SMTC staff. Independent practice is the time for each student to become familiar with each exercise before writing that exercise as demonstrated. Unsupervised practice is recommended for at least two hours a week at which times notes may be used.

### **Required Materials and Supplies**

Each student is required to prepare specific materials for classroom use.

SMTC advises that the student budgets approximately \$1,000 for course supplies including notebooks, coloured pencils and associated supplies; folders, binders and dividers.

### **Written Papers**

Theory papers are written by students during the course. Criteria for assessment of written assignments include:

- Accuracy of topics;
- Capacity to carry out independent research;
- Understanding of research topic;
- Depth and relevance of research;
- Logical thought process presented in written form;
- Presentation (spelling, grammar, layout, referencing, etc.);
- Ability to submit work on time (time management skills).

### **Observation**

Observation is an essential skill for guiding a Montessori environment. Observing full-size classes of mixed-aged children in a variety of locations helps to develop this skill. Our emphasis when training for the ability to observe is first to develop the skill of observation, then to use that skill in implementing practices that meet the 3 - 6 child's developmental needs.

Ninety (90) hours of assigned observation will be scheduled by SMTC course staff in the classrooms of AMI 3 - 6 Diploma-holders. The student must arrange to stay full school days at the observation site over the week of each session. Students are generally not permitted to observe at schools where they work or at a school where the student's child may be enrolled. We can offer observation placements in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, other states of Australia, and in some overseas locations.

Students submit reports based on these directed observations. The reports cover details of observed classroom practice and child development. After each scheduled observation there is a group discussion on campus of students' experiences, observations and questions.

Criteria used to assess these reports include:

- Attention to detail;
- Ability to record observed detail in a meaningful and useful way;
- Ability to observe and assess how the details recorded directly relate to child development;

- Ability to draw conclusions from the detail recorded;
- Diligence in the recording of timed observations;
- Understanding of graphed observations.

Observation Reports are read by staff and written feedback is provided.

As students are working and in classroom environments with children, confidentiality is expected.

If students have concerns or questions about anything they observe in a classroom, they are encouraged to raise this directly with the Director of Training in the first instance.

### **Practice Teaching**

Practice teaching offers the student an opportunity to work with children using the Montessori approach and materials. Through this, students can assess first-hand, their ability to work with children of this age group. There will be a supervisory visit from SMTC academic staff during one practice teaching period. If necessary, a second visit will be made during the second practice teaching period.

Students will practice teach in classrooms with AMI Montessori 3 to 6 prepared environments where the Director holds an AMI 3 to 6 Diploma.

After each scheduled practice teaching session, there is a group discussion on campus of students' experiences, observations and questions.

Criteria used for assessment of a student's contribution in the prepared environment include:

- Personal qualities such as, responsibility, a calm demeanour and a positive outlook;
- Human relations such as a respect for and a rapport with children;
- Communication skills such as the ability to model effective oral and written expression;
- Planning abilities such as the planning of effective learning experiences appropriate to the needs and interests of the children;
- Ability to use appropriate strategies and to work with individual children, small groups and larger groups;
- Curriculum competency, knowledge of and ability to integrate the curriculum content areas and competence in the use of specific Montessori early childhood educational materials;
- Professionalism such as self-evaluation and the maintenance of confidentiality;
- Demonstrated ability to keep detailed records on individual children.

Teaching Practice Reports are read by SMTC staff and written feedback is provided.

### **Written Examinations**

The course schedule sets out the dates for written examinations and all students are expected to be available to present the exams on those dates.

There are two written examination papers: Paper A and Paper B.

Paper A contains theory questions on key Montessori concepts such as the Absorbent Mind, Adaptation, the Four Planes of Development, the Human Tendencies, Sensitive Periods, Freedom and Discipline, Independence, Movement, Social Cohesion, the Prepared Environment, Development of the Will, the Montessori Adult, Friendliness with Error. The questions are worded from a different perspective from year to year.

Paper B contains questions which reflect the basic Montessori principles and how these underpin the key materials in each of the curriculum areas. While this paper is more practically oriented than Paper A, questions are worded so that they are different to those asked in the Oral Exam.

In each paper, 4 questions out of a choice of 7 need to be answered. A selection of examination questions is submitted by the academic staff to the Pedagogical Committee of AMI. The official examination questions are chosen by this committee from those submitted. At the discretion of the Director of Training, one question on each paper may be a compulsory question.

### **Oral Examinations**

Each student is required to demonstrate his or her knowledge during an oral examination before an examining committee selected by AMI and the Director of Training. Any student sitting for the examination is required to be available during the entire examination period.

At this examination students are required to present Montessori educational materials in all four areas of the Montessori prepared environment and are evaluated on the basis of demonstrated competence with the materials and on their ability to articulate knowledge of the relationships between the materials and the supporting theory.

Criteria for assessment include:

- Competence in the presentation and knowledge of the Montessori educational materials;
- Ability to articulate knowledge and understanding of the relationship between these materials and the supporting theory;
- Ability to integrate one part of the course with all other parts;
- Demonstrated critical thinking.

### **Required Individual Homework**

Students should be advised that a considerable number of hours should be allotted for their course work outside of scheduled lectures. A minimum of 10 hours each week is usually needed for preparing albums and illustrations, making materials, reading and studying. All album-writing and illustrations are to be done outside of class hours.

### **Required Readings**

Each student is required to read selected materials and participate in discussions on assigned topics throughout the course. The assigned readings are from the required course reading. If the assigned reading comes from another source, the text will be provided for students:

#### AMI Diploma Course Required Reading List for Students

By Dr Maria Montessori:

- The Secret of Childhood;
- The Discovery of the Child;
- The Absorbent Mind;
- The Formation of Man;
- Education and Peace;
- The Advanced Montessori Method, Vol. 1;
- 1946 London Lectures;
- The Four Planes of Education (AMI Pamphlet).

By Mario M. Montessori, Sr:

- The Human Tendencies and Montessori Education (AMI Pamphlet).

## Recommended Readings

### AMI Diploma Course Recommended Reading List for Students

By Dr Maria Montessori:

- From Childhood to Adolescence;
- To Educate the Human Potential;
- Education for a New World;
- The Child in the Family;
- The Child, Society and the World.

By Silvana Quattrocchi Montanaro, MD:

- Understanding the Human Being.

By Mario M. Montessori, Jnr:

- Education for Human Development.

By E.M. Standing:

- Maria Montessori – Her Life and Work.

### Other Books of Interest

- Maria Montessori, An Anthology;
- Montessori, A Modern Approach – Paula Polk Lillard;
- Montessori Today - Paula Polk Lillard;
- The 1913 Rome Lectures – Dr Maria Montessori.

### Ongoing Observation of Students by Academic Staff

Throughout the academic year, there are continuous opportunities for academic staff to observe students and assess their progress.

These include:

- Participation in seminars and tutorials;
- Contribution to small group and whole group discussions;
- Practice teaching and observations in Montessori early childhood settings;
- Practice with the Montessori educational materials.

These observations enable staff to provide ongoing feedback to students about their progress and to provide additional support as needed.

Criteria for assessment include:

- Ability to absorb and understand philosophical issues;
- Capacity for independent, original thought;
- Capacity to ask valid questions relevant to discussions;
- Attention to detail (to the analysed movements) when working with and presenting Montessori educational materials;
- Evidence of the social skills that will be required for respectful communication with parents and children;
- Ability to translate the theoretical underpinnings into practical situations.

## Conferences

Conferences with the student and the Director of Training are scheduled during each semester or module and again at the conclusion of the written examinations but before the oral examinations. During these conferences, a student's performance is reviewed and feedback is given about their completed work and progress within the course.

Aspects of the course which are discussed and reviewed include:

- Student's essay writing and research skills;
- Practice teaching reports;
- Time management;
- Work with the Montessori materials;
- The progress of required reading and additional texts;
- The Student Code of Conduct;
- Personal well-being and health.

Students have the opportunity to ask questions and request assistance.

Additional conferences are arranged when required. However, the student's academic progress remains the student's responsibility.

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENT WORK**

### **Evaluation of Work**

All assignments must be completed to the satisfaction of the Training Centre staff. A Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading system is used for course work. This system of grading applies to written papers, reference albums, practice with Montessori materials, practice teaching, material construction and any general course assignments. Work must be completed to be considered satisfactory. Numerical grading is used for final written examination papers and final oral examinations. All late assignments affect the final grades in the course.

Students submit regular album assignments that are read by Training Centre staff and AMI trained teachers. Student work is then returned with written comments. Students must keep all comment sheets to make required corrections as soon as possible, while the content is still fresh. No claim is made that all omissions or content errors will be found by readers, although we do our best.

SMTC recommends that students keep a copy, even if in the form of photographs, of all work submitted, to address the unlikely circumstance that the work is misplaced or lost.

However, please keep in mind our plagiarism and reproduction or recording of course lectures and materials when storing copies, in electronic form or otherwise, as breaches may lead to dismissal from the course.

### **Evaluation Records**

Training Centre staff are available as advisors to the student throughout the course. The staff keep detailed records of academic progress in relation to album work, practice teaching and practice sessions, observation notes and materials construction. Successful completion of the course will be based on records reflecting complete and satisfactory coursework, as well as satisfactory completion of the final written and oral examinations.

### **Deadline for Completion of Course Work**

Our experience indicates that students who consistently turn in their work on time are better prepared for the final examinations. As a result, due dates are strict, and it is expected that all work will be turned in on time. Students will be notified well in advance of work deadlines. A student may be placed on probationary status as a result of submitting late work on more than two occasions. There will be no guaranteed return date for work submitted late. Exceptions to this policy must be discussed in advance with the Director of Training.

### **Changes, Corrections and Resubmission of Album Work**

Typed or neatly handwritten illustrated records for each activity demonstrated, must be handed in for review as scheduled. Any or all work that does not meet the satisfaction of Training Centre staff must be corrected and resubmitted until it is satisfactory to ensure the work demonstrates clear thought, use of correct grammar and spelling and are complete. The student should change the text or illustrations in the album if the reader has indicated them to be incorrect, unclear or insufficient. If a student is unclear about the action required by a comment, please contact the Training Centre staff as soon as the work is returned.

If all coursework and albums (and their corrections) have not been submitted in a timely manner for a final check, a student may not sit the written and oral exams.

There will be a \$100.00 fee for each late album submitted after the albums' final due date which must be paid prior to the album being reviewed by Training Centre staff and returned to the student.

## Grading Criteria

The AMI 3 - 6 training course is demanding and exacting, comparable to graduate level work. Throughout the course, the Director of Training will make periodic evaluations of each student's theory and practical work. Any student not performing at the expected standards may be placed on probation or asked to withdraw from the course.

### *Grading criteria for albums and papers:*

- Submission of album work by the due date;
- Clear and complete written presentations;
- Accurate reflection of the presentations given on the course in which the student is enrolled. Only albums that reflect the course being followed can be evaluated toward this requirement;
- Evidence of understanding the nature of the assignment;
- Neatness and legibility: well-chosen font and adequate spacing;
- Edited for correct grammar, spelling and punctuation including complete sentences, paragraphs and subtitles as required;
- Adequate and accurate illustrations – absolutely no downloaded images should appear in your albums;
- Must be the student's original work.

### ***Plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the course.***

### *Grading Criteria for Materials:*

- Submission of materials by the due date;
- Completeness, care and accuracy of the materials;
- Attention to detail, including neatness and legibility;
- Includes the student's name written on each material.

### *Grading Criteria for Observation and Practice Teaching:*

Written observation notes will be due on dates as advised during the course. Raw notes addressing the assignment topic, as well as the summary paper and assignments, are required for a pass. During each of the practice teaching assignments, students are required to complete specifically requested records for a pass and submit them by the assigned date.

### *Grading Criteria for Written Examinations:*

Written papers are marked by SMTC academic staff according to specific criteria. All written papers are identified by a letter/number code and not by student name until marking is complete. Each question is marked out of 25 and the total pass mark for all four answered questions is 50%. Evaluation of the written exam is completed prior to the oral exam and students are given oral reviews of their performance prior to the oral exam. An independent invigilator is present for the extent of the written exams.

Criteria for assessment include:

- Depth of understanding of the subject matter;
- Relevance of the information given;
- Use of appropriate examples and illustrations;
- Integration of theory and practice.

To achieve a passing score, the student must answer all parts of the question, reflect an understanding of Montessori theory and the ability to relate examples to theoretical points. Students receive a confidential number, papers read by the course evaluators are not linked to a student until after all papers have been read and scored. Any paper that does not receive a passing grade will be read by at least one additional evaluator.

Students for whom English is not the native language will be allowed extra time according to AMI guidelines, where applicable.

#### *Grading Criteria for Oral Examinations:*

Each student must show his or her knowledge during an Oral Examination before an Examining Committee. Committee members are selected by AMI from among AMI training centres and others who are qualified examiners. An appointed examiner heads the examination team.

A score of 12.5 out of 25 in each of the four areas is required to pass the oral examination. These areas are: Practical Life, Sensorial (incorporating the cultural materials), Language and Mathematics. To receive a passing mark in each subject, the student must demonstrate that s/he knows:

- How to present the concept of the material named on the slip chosen;
- The purposes, direct and indirect aims and the ages of children to whom the material is presented;
- The activities that preceded the presentation, those that would follow it and what the presented exercise prepares for;
- Control of error, if any;
- General theory about the particular area;
- Highlights and progression of each of the subjects.

#### **Notification of Results:**

##### *Albums:*

Evaluators will make written comments for refining or correcting work. All changes must be made before the final album check. It is best practice to make the necessary changes immediately after the work is returned.

To be eligible to sit for oral exams, all albums must be submitted by the published due dates for final album check.

##### *Exams:*

Each student will be notified of the results of the written and oral examinations. For those not passing the exams, a letter outlining the steps for course completion will be posted to an address designated by the student. The decision of AMI examiners is final.

Students must complete the course with the grade of pass in both the written and oral examinations to graduate and be granted the AMI 3-6 Diploma.

#### **Make-up / Retake of Work or Examinations**

Students not completing any portion of the course work satisfactorily must make special arrangements for completion with the Director of Training. As stated previously, the charge for late albums is \$100.00 per album.

Students failing any portion of the final written or oral exams, or those unable to sit for oral exams as a result of incomplete work, may retake the failed portions of the examinations the following year (within 12 months). The examinations may be taken the second time at any certified AMI 3 - 6 Training Centre during their regularly scheduled examination periods, with prior written approval from that centre.

Additional practice with the materials, written work and/or attendance at lectures may be required as a prerequisite for retaking the examinations.

Final examinations may only be taken twice and no later than one year after the first sitting. The SMTC fee is \$200 for resitting the written exam and \$350 for resitting the oral exam. If the student resits the exam at another training centre, that centre will impose a financial assessment for the service.

### **Issuance of AMI 3-6 Diploma**

AMI will award the AMI Diploma to those students who have satisfied AMI examiners in each of the above requirements. The AMI Diploma must bear the signatures of the President and the Executive Director of AMI and be signed by the Director of Training for the course. The AMI Diploma certifies that the person has successfully completed the AMI 3-6 Course.

Please scan or photocopy your AMI Diploma and store the original in a safe place. AMI and SMTC does not issue duplicate AMI Diplomas, should they be lost or damaged.

## **SMTC POLICIES**

### **Plagiarism**

Submission of work that is not original, or is that of another person, constitutes cause for immediate dismissal from the course. Both parties involved passing or sharing work will be accountable and thus subject to consequences. No illustrations, diagrams, photos, etc. downloaded from the internet or obtained from a source other than SMTC pedagogical staff on this training course will be permitted.

Students who request work from fellow students for legitimate reasons (absence; illness) must request and complete the *Permission to Use Student Notes* form. To avoid any misunderstandings, this form must be handed in to the Course Assistant before the assignment in question is completed.

### **Reproduction or Recording of Course Lectures and Materials**

The albums that the students prepare and submit for examination are intended for that student's own personal use when working with children. They may not be published, shared, distributed or reproduced physically, digitally or in any other form, for any other purpose. All course handouts are provided for students' personal use and may not be published or reproduced for any other purpose than your own studies.

Recording of lectures, whether audio or video, is not permitted. Undisclosed recording of any kind will result in dismissal from the course.

### **Statement of Confidentiality and Accessibility of Files**

SMTC retains records through the delivery of the course. Daily attendance records for lectures and supervised practice are maintained by the Training Centre staff. Evaluations of course work, including album work, are held in the centre's office.

Upon completion of the course, or at the time of a student's withdrawal from the course, a permanent file is created and held in the archives. This file contains all of the following, or the appropriate portion thereof:

- Original application for admission and all supporting documents;
- Individual student records from the course;
- Summary evaluations of the Materials Reference Books (albums), materials, observations, and practice teaching;
- Summary sheets with scores from the written and oral examinations;
- A copy of the signed and dated Montessori Diploma.

All student files are held in the strictest of confidence. All parts of the permanent file remain in the sole possession of SMTC and the Director of Training and may be only be accessed by them to the extent required for a legitimate and lawful purpose. Further, each student authorises SMTC and the Director of Training to provide AMI with a copy of relevant student records where required by AMI guidelines or on receipt of a reasonable written request by AMI.

Records are only accessible by others if required by law or otherwise only upon written request and authorisation by the student to the Director of Training or, if the relevant Director of Training is unavailable for an extended period, to the board of SMTC.

Should a student wish for a verbal reference to be given by the Director of Training for the purposes of education or employment, after making a verbal request of the Director of Training, the student will need to provide written authorisation.

## **Attendance Policies**

Full attendance and satisfactory participation are required for all lecture/demonstration sessions as attendance records are kept. As a prerequisite for final examinations, students must attend regularly and be punctual for lectures, supervised practice, observation and practice teaching. Due to the intensity of the course work, students are urged to keep their absences due to illness or family emergencies to a minimum. Students are requested to notify Training Centre course staff in advance of an anticipated absence. Excessive absence will impair the student's graduation prospects and students must attain at least 90% attendance to sit for the written and oral exams.

If you are ill or cannot attend class, please contact the Training Centre staff in a timely manner. Messages may be sent to 0423 971 894.

Any absence from the course must have the Director of Training's approval. In the event of extended absence due to medical reasons, the Director will review the individual case. Students must arrange with Training Centre staff to make up course work missed due to excused absence.

Absences affect academic and practical performance. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their own absences and maintain at least 90% attendance in all aspects of the course. The Director of Training will meet with the student when there have been 3 or more absences and the student may be placed on probation until attendance improves.

## **Dropout, Leave of Absence (LOA) and Deferred Course Requirements (also known as the second-year extension policy)**

Students who drop out or ask to leave the course for a legitimate reason, such as a medical emergency or death in the family, must request special arrangements to complete the course requirements and take the examinations. The Director of Training will apply, on behalf of the student, to AMI to defer a student's course requirements for up to 12 months because of such extraordinary circumstances.

Extraordinary arrangements may include attending the next course offered by SMTC, if there is the same course or course modules occurring in the timeframe or travelling overseas to another AMI Training Centre. If another centre can accommodate the student, it is understood that the student may incur additional fees at their own cost because they are attending a different course.

## **Complaints**

Should you have a complaint or concern regarding any aspect of the course or environment, please contact the Director of Training immediately. We seek to channel all energies in a positive manner and a quick resolution of any misunderstanding will help in this regard.

A formal complaint process exists, details of which are available from the Company Secretary at [corporate@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au](mailto:corporate@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au)

## **Questions and Clarification**

At the end of lectures, there may be time for questions and clarification regarding the concepts and ideas presented. Questions you may have could also benefit other students, so don't be afraid to ask for clarification. The Director of Training and other pedagogical staff will also be able to answer questions privately as needed.

You are required to understand the concepts presented by instructors to complete the course. Reading your notes at the end of the day is a great way to gain understanding of the material. The entire class benefits from an open mind, and course instructors draw upon their own personal experiences with children. Although ideas are stated theoretically, they originate from direct experience with children in and out of classroom environments. Should your personal experiences differ, please arrange a private appointment with the lecturer for clarification.

## **Internet Policy**

Students are not permitted to use the internet while attending a lecture or during supervised practice. This conflicts with your studies as you need to be present to follow the demonstrations and participate in the activities of the group. This is also discourteous to the lecturer and sets the wrong precedent for your own classroom, where devices should not be used for personal reasons during class time. If a student is found to be using the internet during these times, the lecture or practice will be considered as an absence and recorded in the attendance record. No devices of any kind – phone, tablet or computer may be used for internet use during the supervised practical sessions.

## **Social Media Policy**

Students are expected to maintain confidentiality and demonstrate strong professional ethics on all aspects of the course, including, but not limited to: observation, practice teaching, SMTC and related events. We ask students to work with staff to resolve issues or concerns. Students must not disparage or post negatively about SMTC, AMI or any individual SMTC staff or directors on any social media.

## **Student Conduct**

SMTC broadly defines academic dishonesty as an act violating the rights of another student in academic work or involving misrepresentation of the student's own work.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating on assignments or examinations;
- Undisclosed recording;
- Plagiarising;
- Providing false documentation in relation to enrolment or absence procedures;
- Misrepresenting work done by another person as your own work;
- Interfering with another student's work.

SMTC staff will investigate charges of academic dishonesty. When charges are upheld, the student may be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended or dismissed from the course. This information will be recorded in the student's academic record.

## **Dismissal/Authorised Departure of a Student**

An individual student may be dismissed from the course for behaviour causing a safety hazard to others at SMTC or on the premises, for disrespectful or disobedient behaviour to another student or a staff member, for plagiarised work, or any other state or determined infraction of student conduct. Students may be asked to discontinue the course for medical, academic or other compelling reasons.

SMTC believes that a positive and constructive working relationship between the Training Centre and the student is essential to the fulfilment of our mission. Thus, SMTC reserves the right to discontinue enrolment of a student if SMTC reasonably conclude that the student's actions make such a positive and constructive relationship impossible. Student behaviours that are neither respectful nor conducive to the community, including irresolvable differences regarding policies, interfere with SMTC's accomplishment of its educational purposes and the student's success.

All students are expected to abide by the conditions established for the course and any arrangement made for their training during the course.

Tuition refunds will be determined by the SMTC Board in accordance with the Refund Policy and the circumstances of dismissal.

## **Lecture Policy**

Lectures given by SMTC staff may not be recorded as they are the intellectual property of the speaker. Using speech-to-text programmes, smart pens or similar recording technology is strictly prohibited during lectures. Transcripts of lectures, course handouts, album pages and other course work should not be published on the internet or otherwise distributed without written permission from SMTC.

## **Student Grade Reports and Transcripts**

Student academic records are maintained by SMTC. You can obtain a transcript by sending a letter of request to SMTC. These are on a pass/fail basis only. Except where required by law, student records are not released by SMTC to anyone other than AMI or the student without the express written consent of the student for that purpose.

## **Disability Statement**

Students must disclose the need for special learning considerations or accommodations before the course begins. The student is responsible for providing SMTC with a written copy of the supporting diagnostic test results and professional prescriptions for auxiliary aids. Instructors are not required to compromise essential elements of the course or AMI evaluation standards. While SMTC will provide reasonable accommodations as needed, academic success is the student's responsibility.

Details should be sent to [training@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au](mailto:training@montessoritrainingcentre.com.au)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Unexpected Closures**

In the event of an emergency or unexpected closure of the Training Centre, students will be contacted by SMS message and/or email. Please ensure that your contact details are always up to date.

### **Dress**

The dress standard for SMTC is casual; each student is personally responsible for maintaining an appropriate appearance and manner of dress. Students are required to dress professionally when completing observation and practice teaching in school environments.

### **Food and Drinks**

Students may bring their lunch or purchase food in the nearby area. A microwave and fridge are available for heating and storing your lunch. Please remove food containers from the fridges at the end of each day. Any containers left in the fridge at the end of the day will be removed. Food placed in the fridge should be in sealed containers or securely wrapped.

Please ensure the kitchen is left in a clean and tidy manner, with all used items washed and returned to the cupboards.

Food and drinks may not be brought into practice areas.

### **Protection of Personal Belongings**

Students are asked to bring only those items necessary. SMTC strongly urges students to protect their valuables by not leaving them unattended. SMTC is not responsible for any loss of personal belongings.

### **Smoking**

SMTC is a non-smoking environment. Smoking is not permitted inside any buildings, enclosed areas or grounds.

### **Alcohol and Drugs Policy**

You are responsible for ensuring your capacity to perform your duties is not impaired using alcohol or drugs and that the use of such substances does not put you or any other person's health and safety at risk.

As a student at SMTC, you must:

- Not attend under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or non-prescribed and/or restricted substances;
- Not consume alcohol, illegal drugs or non-prescribed and/or restricted substances while at the Training Centre;
- Notify SMTC staff if you are aware that your study performance or conduct could be adversely affected as a result of the effect of a prescribed drug;
- Act to resolve any alcohol or other drug-related problems that you may have;
- Consult with the Director of Training if you are concerned about other students or an employee who may be affected by drugs or alcohol.

## **Telephone**

Mobile phones are to be turned off and left in bags during lecture and practice sessions. If you are concerned that an emergency call might be missed, please speak privately to the course staff.

## **Visitors**

Visitors, including family or friends of students, may tour the classroom when class is not in session by prior arrangement with the Director of Training. For AMI Diploma-holders, permission to audit a lecture may be requested from the Director of Training.

The materials in the practice space are for SMTC students' use only.

## **PERSONAL AND LEGAL CONCERNS**

### **Ethical Conduct**

SMTC aspires to the highest level of professional behaviour, respect, integrity and the provision of equal opportunity in all we do.

Conduct with a professional and ethical culture is expected from everyone working, studying or being part of our community. We expect you to act ethically, fairly, transparently and with generosity of spirit.

We treat any breach seriously and encourage this to be reported.

### **Sexual Harassment Policy**

SMTC recognises the right of every employee, student and volunteer to be able to attend the Training Centre and perform their duties and studies without being subjected to any form of sexual harassment.

It is the obligation and responsibility of every employee, student and volunteer to ensure that the Training Centre is free from sexual harassment.

SMTC is fully committed to its obligation to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace.

### **Time Commitment**

Time management skills will be valuable. The greater time commitment you make to the course work, the better prepared you will be for AMI examinations and for your work in the future with children.

### **General Attitude**

A positive, professional attitude should be maintained during the course, observations and practice teaching. A high degree of independence is also required for success throughout all aspects of the course. Characteristics of behaviour and personality will be considered and related observations may be discussed with you at conferences throughout your training. This is done in fairness to yourself, other students, the faculty and staff, the children and their families with whom you will be working in future. Please feel free to discuss your observations and opinions with the Director of Training.

## FACULTY FOR 2020

### Amy Kirkham



Amy Kirkham has been the 3 to 6 AMI Trainer in Melbourne since 2008. She has also directed a Diploma course on the Sunshine Coast and Certificate courses in Adelaide and Perth. As a member of the China Faculty, she provides training and support on Diploma, Certificate, Administrators and Mentor courses in China.

In addition to her Montessori qualifications, Amy is a registered Early Childhood teacher and has a Bachelor of Educational Studies (Hearing Impairment) and a Master of Education from the University of Melbourne. She is actively involved in the provision of professional development including parent and community education. Amy can also be found working with children, mentoring in different 3 to 6 environments and even occasionally providing support to the Montessori Football programmes!

Amy joined SMTC in 2019 as Director of Training for the 3 – 6 Diploma and Assistants Certificate courses.

## APPENDIX A: AMI REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION



**ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE**  
Founded by Dr Maria Montessori in 1929

Koninginneweg 161  
1075 CN Amsterdam  
Netherlands

T: +31 20 6798932  
E: [info@montessori-ami.org](mailto:info@montessori-ami.org)  
W: [www.montessori-ami.org](http://www.montessori-ami.org)

AMI Agreement Schedule II

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION FOR AMI PRIMARY TRAINING COURSES

Admission to the course does not guarantee certification. Basic requirements (hereunder) must be met by each student in all areas of the course. Individual training centres may have additional requirements.

#### Eligibility

- A. In order to be eligible to sit for the written and oral examinations a minimum attendance of 90% is required in the following:
- \* theory lectures;
  - \* demonstrations of materials in each area;
  - \* discussions/reviews as organised by the training course;
  - \* the required reading seminars on Montessori books as stipulated by the training course.

Attendance at supervised practical sessions (minimum 140 hours)

#### Certification

- B. In order to receive a diploma at the end of the training course the following requirements must be met:
1. A pass mark for written (Papers A & B) and oral examinations
  2. To complete:
    - (i) compilation and submission of acceptable and original albums in all areas;
    - (ii) compilation and submission of acceptable materials as required by the course;
    - (iii) observation and observation reports;
    - (iv) practice teaching as scheduled.

#### Deferral Examination

Students deferred for any part of the examinations (see B1) must retake that part the subsequent year (within 12 months) and may re-sit each examination only once. It will be necessary to comply with the recommendations made by the AMI Board of Examiners. If this necessitates travel to an AMI affiliated training centre other than where you took the course, all expenses involved are for the account of the student, as well as any examination and related fees charged by the host centre.

### Failure to Complete Course Work

Students failing to complete any part(s) of the other requirements (see B2) must fulfil that part(s) the subsequent year (within 12 months) in compliance with the recommendations and dates laid down by the Board of Examiners and/or the Director of Training.

### Issue of Diploma

In both cases (B1 and B2, as above) the AMI Diploma will be issued no later than the end of the course/academic year in which the result has been finalised.

### Courses Offered Once Only in Current Location

Students deferred who are enrolled at a training centre that is offering a one-time course will be informed by the Director of Training of the nearest centre where s/he can appear in the examinations the following year (within 12 months). These arrangements will be settled in conjunction with the Director of Training. All the expenses involved are for the account of the student.

### Fail Status

Students who fail Paper A, Paper B and two out of four subjects during the Oral examinations have failed the course. Clarification of this will be given by the Director of Training. In this case, if a student wishes to obtain an AMI diploma it will be necessary to re-take the entire course.

### Academic Honesty

The Centre has an obligation to deal with acts of academic dishonesty. Acts of academic dishonesty that will result in suspension or dismissal from the course are:

- Plagiarism in all its forms and facilitating academic dishonesty on the part of another student;
- Students caught in acts of academic dishonesty during written examinations will be immediately dismissed from the course and will not be eligible to complete the examination process, resulting in a fail grade recorded for the course;
- Undisclosed recording of any kind on the premises of the Training Centre.

The undersigned declare that these 'requirements and conditions' have been presented to the student, who has read and agreed to the contents.

Date:

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Student's Name

---

Director of Training's Name

---

Student's Signature

---

Director of Training's Signature

## **APPENDIX B: SMTC STUDENT CONTRACT – AMI DIPLOMA COURSE**

This contract refers to your enrolment on the following Sydney Montessori Training Centre (**SMTC**) AMI Montessori Diploma Course (known as the '**Course**'): AMI Montessori Diploma (3-6).

Set out below are the terms and conditions that will govern the agreement between you and SMTC regarding your participation.

### **1. Enrolment Prerequisites**

1.1. You agree that you meet the following prerequisites for the course as specified during your application process (unless you have made special arrangements with SMTC).

These prerequisites include:

- (a) proficiency in oral and written English language: if English is not your first language or if your education has been in a language other than in English, a score of 5.5 on the International English Language Teaching Standard (IELTS) or equivalent will be required. If this is required, you must provide SMTC with a certified copy of your IELTS score;
- (b) capacity to undertake successful tertiary study: you must demonstrate this to the reasonable satisfaction of SMTC and you may do this by supplying evidence of the successful completion of previous studies and/or your employment history;
- (c) eligibility to undertake formal full-time study in Australia: refer to section 5 below.

### **2. Course Requirements**

2.1. To be eligible as a graduate of the course for an award of the Association Montessori Internationale (**AMI**) Diploma, you are required to fulfil a number of course requirements to the satisfaction of AMI and SMTC.

These include:

- (a) complying with all the requirements of this contract: when you sign this letter, it becomes the student contract between SMTC and yourself. In this regard, please note carefully the representations and obligations set out in sections 5 and 6 below;
- (b) signing and complying with all the requirements of the AMI Requirements for Certification: the AMI Requirements for Certification includes, details of attendance requirements, assignment work, field experience and examinations. The Director of Training will explain the AMI Requirements for Certification to you at the commencement of the course and you must sign the document. A copy will be provided to you for your records;
- (c) complying with all course requirements: the formal requirements relating to attendance, participation, classroom observations, professional experience, written and oral assignment work, material reference manuals and examinations are set out in the AMI Requirements for Certification but you must also comply with any other requirements prescribed by SMTC and the Director of Training;
- (d) complying with policies: you must also comply with all SMTC and AMI policies set out in the Student Handbook or which may be notified to you by the Director of Training or SMTC during the course;
- (e) paying fees: you must pay all course fees and other amounts payable by you in relation to the course promptly by the time those fees and other amounts are required to be paid.

2.2. You will not be eligible to sit written or oral examinations in relation to the course if you have not adequately complied with all the requirements as set out or referred to in paragraph 2.1.

2.3. If there are any circumstances (for example illness), which may prevent you from completing any of the course requirements, you must immediately contact the Director of Training to discuss whether alternative arrangements may be made. Whether satisfactory alternative arrangements can be made will be within the discretion of the Director of Training.

2.4. If your attendance, participation record, conduct or demeanour, indicates that you will or are likely to be unable to comply with any of the course requirements, SMTC is entitled to direct that you discontinue the course. In that event, and even if the reason for the inability is not within your control (such as illness), you will not be entitled to a refund of any course fees or other amounts and you will remain liable to pay any such fees or other amounts which are unpaid at the time of discontinuance (whether the time for payment has fallen due). All such amounts must be paid within one month after discontinuance or such longer period as SMTC permits.

### **3. Deferral**

3.1. If you do not satisfactorily complete all course requirements within the period of the course, SMTC may with the approval of AMI in certain circumstances grant you a deferral of up to one year to complete the outstanding requirements. Those circumstances include:

(a) incomplete AMI course work: if you do not complete AMI course requirements (for example, material reference manuals (albums), Montessori material-making, supervised practice with materials, classroom observation, practice teaching, assignment work, or attendance at lectures), SMTC may in its discretion permit you up to the end of the twelve months following the end of the course to complete them. If SMTC does not offer the same course within that twelve months, you will be required to complete the course at another AMI centre;

(b) examinations failed or not sat: if you do not pass, or are not permitted to sit, any of the examinations, SMTC may at its discretion permit you to sit, or resit, those examinations. You may be required to attend another AMI centre for this purpose.

3.2. In any of the circumstances described in paragraphs 3.1(a) and (b), you will solely be responsible for making the necessary arrangements and for paying the costs involved. (Refer to Student Handbook, Second Year Extension Policy.)

3.3. In any of the circumstances referred to in paragraphs 3.1(a) and (b), you will not be eligible to receive the relevant AMI Diploma until the end of the year in which you satisfactorily complete the relevant components of the course.

### **4. Award of the AMI Diploma**

4.1. You must satisfactorily complete all the components of the AMI course to be eligible for an award of the AMI Diploma. The AMI Diploma will be awarded at the end of the course to each student who has by that time satisfactorily completed all the relevant components of the course and has fulfilled all other requirements in relation to the course (including payment of fees).

4.2. Except as described in section 3 above, if you fail any examination, or if you do not satisfactorily complete other course components as described or referred to in paragraph 2.1 above, you fail the course. In such a case, to obtain the AMI Diploma, you will be required, at your own expense, to re-enrol in another course and be a student and comply with all the requirements of that course. You would not necessarily have any priority in relation to an application for enrolment in any such course.

### **5. Undertakings and Obligations regarding Residency and Visa Status**

5.1. SMTC must comply with strict requirements under Australian law, including but not limited to, the Migration Act and Regulations and the Education Services for Overseas Students Act. In order that SMTC may fully comply with its obligations under legislation, SMTC must satisfy itself as to various matters regarding your visa and residency status and your intentions regarding your future in Australia.

5.2. Accordingly, your enrolment as a student in the course will be based on the following representations and undertakings to SMTC:

(a) That you are an Australian citizen, or, if you are not an Australian citizen, that you have supplied to SMTC, your visa and passport for inspection, together with any other original documentation relevant to your status as a visitor or a temporary or permanent resident of Australia;

- (b) That you will inform SMTC in writing immediately of any change to your visa status or right of residency in Australia;
  - (c) That you do not hold and have not applied for a 'student' visa under Australian law, that you have no intention of applying for such 'student' visa and that you will inform SMTC in writing immediately if in future you intend to apply for an Australian 'student' visa;
  - (d) That if you are not an Australian citizen, it is solely your responsibility to obtain and maintain a valid and appropriate Australian visa which entitles you to participate in the course and you must always comply with any visa conditions.
- 5.3 SMTC has no responsibility in relation to your obligations described in paragraph 5.2 above to maintain an appropriate visa and to continue to be entitled to be resident in Australia during the continuance of the course.

## **6. General Obligations**

- 6.1. Enrolment as a student in the course will be on the basis that you have agreed to comply with the following obligations:
- (a) That you will, throughout the duration of the course (including any period of deferral) always comply with all the requirements as set out in the Student Handbook including but not limited to, the Student Code of Conduct and the policies on Equal Opportunity, Discrimination and Harassment and Work, Health and Safety;
  - (b) That you will always behave in a manner consistent with the objectives of AMI and SMTC as set out in the Student Handbook and to promote the efficient and harmonious running of the course;
  - (c) That you will comply with the requirements of any Code of Conduct or other requirement of any governmental or regulatory authority with which students of the course are required to comply and which are from time to time notified to you;
  - (d) That you will promptly pay to SMTC all fees or other amounts payable by you as and when such amounts become due and payable, and that if you do not pay any such amount by the due date for payment, or if SMTC agrees to a deferral of payment, then you will pay interest on the amount unpaid, or the deferred amount (as applicable), from the due date until payment, at the rate of 8% per annum, calculated on a daily basis;
  - (e) That you will comply with any reasonable and lawful directions given by SMTC or AMI in relation to the course or your participation in it;
  - (f) That you will notify SMTC in writing immediately upon any change in your details or circumstances which might directly or indirectly relate to your enrolment or position as a student of the course, including any details provided by you in accordance with SMTC Administration Rules referred to in paragraph (a) above.
- 6.2. If you are in breach of any of the obligations set out or referred to in this letter and the breach cannot be remedied or, if remediable, is not remedied promptly on SMTC's request to you to do so, then, in addition to any other right which SMTC may have arising out of the breach, SMTC will be entitled to direct that you immediately discontinue the course, as to which the consequences provided for in paragraph 2.4 above apply.

If you agree with the terms set out above, please sign this letter where indicated and hand it to the Director of Training. A photocopy will be provided for your records.

Your signature will constitute:

1. your representation that, to the best of your knowledge and belief as at the time of signing, all the information provided in your application for enrolment in the course or in any other correspondence or material provided by you is true, complete and accurate;
2. your acknowledgement that you have read and agree to be bound at all times by all the requirements set out or referred to in this letter, and in any documents referred to in this letter, including the Student Handbook; and
3. your offer to SMTC to enter into a Student Contract with SMTC on the terms set out in this letter.

On behalf of SMTC, I offer you my best wishes for your success in the course.

Yours sincerely,



Zoe Ezzard

On behalf of the SMTC Board

.....  
I offer to SMTC to enter into a Student Contract on the terms and conditions as set out in this letter, and, if SMTC accepts that offer, I agree to comply with those terms and conditions.

Student Name:

Address:

Date:

Student Signature:

**APPENDIX C: SYDNEY MONTESSORI TRAINING CENTRE  
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

As an enrolled student of Sydney Montessori Training Centre, I agree to the following:

- I will follow the highest standards of honesty and integrity. My behaviour will be professional and non-discriminatory;
- I will represent the Sydney Montessori Training Centre and the general Montessori community in an exemplary manner;
- I will discuss confidential information only with the authorised persons;
- I will follow the doctrine of Montessori philosophy of childhood to the best of my ability;
- I will strive to work cooperatively within the Montessori community to promote goodwill and maximise communication;
- I will not knowingly falsify or misrepresent records or facts about myself, other students, children, parents or colleagues and will work to actively suppress harmful behaviours;
- I will not let personal affairs interfere with my responsibilities or my professionalism;
- I will adhere to the policies and procedures as set forth in the Student Handbook;
- I will demonstrate respect for myself, others and the environment;
- I will treat others with kindness, fairness and respect;
- I will seek to resolve a conflict in a fair and responsible manner;
- I will respect the privacy of others;
- I will submit work that represents my own efforts and originality.

Print Name:

Student Signature:

Date: