



 **SMTC** Sydney Montessori Training Centre

AMI 12-18 MONTESSORI  
DIPLOMA

# Orientation Upgrade

Blended  
Part-time  
Perth



2023-2024

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# Overview

**The Orientation Upgrade stream is a pathway to an AMI 12–18 Montessori Diploma for students who graduated from eligible Orientation to Adolescent Studies programs conducted by AMI, NAMTA and/or Great Work.**

The Upgrade stream builds on the work already undertaken in the student's Orientation program and extends upon this work to cover all content and experience required to complete an AMI 12–18 Montessori Diploma.

Students in the "Upgrade steam" cohort would undertake various components online together in 2023 before joining the current AMI Diploma group cohort near Perth, WA, for their final in-person block and exams in January 2024.

This opportunity will inspire and further support a student's work within adolescent communities.

## COURSE SNAPSHOT

<b>Mode</b>	Part-time blended	Online and in-person
<b>In-person block location</b>	Fairbridge Village Western Australia	4 weeks in-person in January 2024
<b>Director of Training</b>	Laurie Ewert-Krocker	Supported by a faculty of experienced educators
<b>Eligible students</b>	Graduates of an Orientation to Adolescent Studies program conducted by AMI, NAMTA and/or Great Work, Inc in-person in 2020 or prior.	See the list of eligible programs in section 4
<b>Qualification</b>	AMI 12–18 Montessori Diploma	Issued by AMI

# Course description

**The AMI 12–18 Montessori Diploma is a rigorous study of Montessori principles and of the particular developmental characteristic and needs of young people from ages 12–18.**

The course offers theoretical principles, key experiences in the life and work of adolescent communities, and support for implementation strategies dovetailed to the particular cultural and local contexts for communities in different places and regions.

Students undertaking the Orientation Upgrade stream build on, and extend, the learnings obtained in their Orientation to Adolescent Studies program and sit exams with the Perth AMI 12–18 Diploma cohort at end of January 2024.



# Components

The Orientation Upgrade stream is made up of the following key components:

# 1

## Online sessions

A monthly online session of 2 hours plus follow-up work of 10-12 hours per month

# 2

## In-person

4 weeks in-person with the AMI 12-18 Diploma cohort near Perth in January 2024

# 3

## Other components

Other components include observation, practice teaching and literature review

# 4

## Examinations and course work

Various assignments and course work throughout with exams at the end of January 2024



# Eligible students

**Students who graduated from Orientation to Adolescent Studies programs conducted by AMI, NAMTA and/or Great Work, Inc. in-person in or prior to 2020 are eligible to participate in the Orientation Upgrade stream.**

A list of eligible Orientation to Adolescent Studies programs include (but are not limited to) those undertaken:

- in 2014 in Sweden
- in 2015–2016 at Montessori International College, Queensland, Australia
- in 2018–2019 at Templestowe College, Victoria, Australia
- in 2018 and various other years at Hershey Montessori School, Ohio, United States

There were also various other Orientation Programs that have been offered around the world that are not listed here. If a program is not listed here, please reach out to us at [admin@smtc.com.au](mailto:admin@smtc.com.au) to clarify whether the Orientation Upgrade is available for graduates of the program.



# Schedule

The schedule for key components of the Orientation Upgrade stream is outlined below.

COURSE SCHEDULE		
<b>Online</b>	February to June 2023 and September to November 2023	A monthly online session of 2 hours plus follow-up work of 10-12 hours per month
<b>In-person</b>	2 to 27 January 2024 Weekdays	On-site at Fairbridge Village, near Perth, Western Australia
<b>Other components</b>	February to November 2023 (by arrangement)	Observation Practice Teaching Literature Review
<b>Exams</b>	27 January 2024	On-site at Fairbridge Village, near Perth, Western Australia

Further detail on the timing will be provided in early 2023.

Online components will be undertaken in AWST (Australian Western Standard Time), generally on a weekend morning in Perth. This is generally also the morning in other parts of Australia and South East Asia and the prior evening in Europe and North America, depending on the time of year.

# Location and accommodation

**Students have the option of staying on-site at Fairbridge Village during the in-person block in January 2024 or may identify their own accommodation nearby.**

There are various accommodation and meal options available at Fairbridge Village including twin and single rooms. As a guide, 2023 accommodation and meal fee options are available by clicking [here](#) but pricing may vary for 2024.

Whilst the classroom is the focus during this block, there is much to do in the local region in a spare moment or during travel before or after the course.

The Western Australia coastline is dotted with beaches that have long stretches of white sand.

Town Beach and Halls Head Beach in Mandurah are the nearest coastal towns to Fairbridge Village and are also known as Perth's aquatic playground with their beaches, waterways and wetlands. Tourists can swim with dolphins, go whale watching and experience a wide range of water sports.

There is a Zoo and Conservation Park which is a 30-minute drive from Fairbridge Village. Here there is the opportunity to meet the Australian native animals unique to this part of the world.

For students who enjoy quality food and drinks, there is much to sample including a quick trip to the famous Margaret River wine region.





# Faculty

The 12–18 AMI Montessori Diploma is supported by a teaching faculty of experienced Montessori adolescent educators including:



**Laurie Ewert-Krocker**  
Director of Training



**Emily Dowell**  
Advisor



**Jan Gaffney**  
Advisor



**Laureen Barnard**  
Advisor



**Rose Langridge**  
Advisor



**Kathryn Shearer**  
Advisor



**Pippa Milroy**  
Advisor

Our faculty is supported by **other specialists** across the course.

# Fees and payments

## Course Fees

**\$7,500** plus GST: discounted Earlybird fee available **until 30 December 2022**.\*

\$9,000 plus GST: applications after 30 December 2022.

\*A student's application form must be received and a deposit of \$550 paid, on or before 30 December 2022.

## Other Costs

Transport, accommodation and meal costs for the January 2024 block are additional and are not included in the course fees.



## Payments

SMTC has three payment options for course fees:

- **upfront payment** which results in a further discount of 2.5%;
- **monthly instalment** payments over 7 months; or
- **custom instalment** arrangement by agreement with SMTC.

Payment can be made via electronic funds transfer (EFT) or credit card (credit card charges may apply).

# Earlybird discount \$1,500

Application form and deposit received on or before 30 December 2023\*

# Other information

## Visa information

Non-residents of Australia are responsible for obtaining their own visas to enter Australia.

Short-term business or tourist visas are generally adequate for most students for the January 2024 block in Perth however each individual's visa position will depend on their personal circumstances.

Please contact SMTC at [admin@smtc.com.au](mailto:admin@smtc.com.au) should you wish to discuss your visa situation further.

Visa documentation for non-residents must be provided before the first in-person block.

## Qualification Authorising Body

The AMI Diploma is awarded by Association Montessori Internationale and does not form part of the Australian Qualifications Framework.

AMI is considered as the worldwide leader in Montessori education. Its certified training is acknowledged for its rigour and authenticity and the AMI Diploma is internationally recognised. It qualifies the holder to work in a pre-existing 12–18 classroom or to start a new 12–18 classroom. All *Association Montessori Internationale* Diplomas state the holder has “*Studied the principles and practice of the Montessori method for children from 12–18 years of age*” and has “*passed the written and oral examinations*”.

The AMI Diploma does not automatically qualify the holder to teach. The state, territory or country in which the AMI Diploma-holder wishes to work may have other teaching requirements that must be fulfilled. For example, in New South Wales, all teachers must be accredited to teach through the NSW Education Standards Authority and other States and Territories of Australia have their own registration bodies and requirements.

## Application

Applications can be made via the online form on SMTC's website available [here](#).

## Supporting Material

Students must provide the following supporting documentation within 2 weeks of submitting their application:

- current resume;
- 1-page essay describing the student's current situation and why they would like to complete the AMI 12-18 Diploma Course; and
- copy of certificate from Orientation to Adolescent Studies course.

## Other

Various other information must be provided to SMTC before course commencement or as otherwise agreed with SMTC:

- Working With Children Check (WWCC) or similar in the state, territory or country in which the student currently lives works;
- current AMI membership covering the duration of the course, which SMTC can provide on the student's behalf for AUD \$55 (including GST) per year;
- visa documentation for non-residents must be provided before the first in-person block;
- if English is a student's second language, a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) of 6 may be required to undertake an AMI Diploma if the student has not completed a prior course with SMTC or an Orientation to Adolescent Studies program or University studies in English.

# Thank you for your support of Montessori training in Australia

SMTC is a not-for-profit Australian registered charity which trains Montessori educators, professionals and adults for a better world.

## Acknowledgements

SMTC acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of Australia and pays our respects to the Traditional Owners and Elders, past, present, and emerging of the various indigenous nations in which our training takes place



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 **SMTC**, Sydney Montessori Training Centre

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