

BFA COSTUME

Course Overview 2026

First Year

SEMESTER ONE

COS7102A Costume Interdisciplinary Collaboration A (15 credit points)

You will combine with other disciplines to collaboratively produce a number of productions per year. On these productions you will take on roles as costume-makers, assistants and crew. Production projects are allocated taking into consideration the design requirements and each student's interests where possible.

COS7104A Costume Making Techniques A (15 credit points)

You will develop foundational skills in costume making for performance with a focus on complex alterations, as well as the acquisition of specialist costume making skills and understanding structure and form.

COS7105A Costume Cutting and Construction A (15 credit points)

You will focus on developing your skills in flat pattern-making and draping techniques. You will develop patterns for complex garments and construct prototypes and relevant samples.

COM7101A Encountering Performance A (10 credit points)

The focus for this subject is how we respond to the performances we experience as audience members. Whether debriefing after a company run or brainstorming for inspiration, a core skill for all performing arts practitioners is sharing observations and reflections from works we have encountered in the past. In this subject, you learn interdisciplinary frameworks for discussing performances with others and transforming your audience experiences from immediate into considered, researched responses. This foundational appreciation for how audiences participate in all performances prepares you for the more technical, dramatic frameworks you will apply with peers in the Term 3 subject, Doing Dramaturgy.

COM7103A Winjara A (5 credit points)

Winjara encompasses two subjects that span the first year of study. You will be guided from a First Nations perspective towards concepts of interconnectivity, and you will practice deep listening, empathy, communication and collaboration. The focus of these subjects is to create the foundations for a long-term sustainable professional practice in the arts. You will be introduced to the foundational skills, vocabularies and processes which will underlie your ongoing engagement in the BFA courses, and the development of your practice as creative storytellers. This includes processes for ensuring safe and sustainable collaboration, as well as maintaining your health and wellbeing across your creative careers.

SEMESTER TWO

COS7102B Costume Interdisciplinary Collaboration B (15 credit points)

You will continue to collaborate with other disciplines to realise a number of productions per year. You will take on roles such as costume-makers, assistants and backstage costume crew, while applying time management and creative problem-solving strategies within your practice.

COS7103B Costume Professional Practice B (5 credit points)

You will be introduced to the tools for project management including managing and monitoring small budgets and workflows; managing time and resources; creating costume department specific documents; and investigating relevant case studies.

COS7105B Costume Cutting and Construction B (15 credit points)

You will further develop your skills in flat pattern-making and draping. You will also start to develop your skills in theatrical tailoring and begin to establish your own hybrid working methods.

COS7106B Clothing Cultures and Histories B (10 credit points)

You will learn the fundamental skills of accessing and curating information to support your practice as a costume professional. You will begin to explore costume and clothing in relation to its cultural, historical, contemporary and conceptual contexts.

COM7101B Performance and Ideas B (10 credit points)

In the second semester of this subject you will begin to contextualise your own creative foundations as an emerging practitioner. You will develop your dramaturgical skills in order to articulate how meaning is made in performance for artists and audience.

COM7103B Winjara B (5 credit points)

Winjara encompasses two subjects that span the first year of study. You will be guided from a First Nations perspective towards concepts of interconnectivity, and you will practice deep listening, empathy, communication and collaboration. The focus of these subjects is to create the foundations for a long-term sustainable professional practice in the arts. You will be introduced to the foundational skills, vocabularies and processes which will underlie your ongoing engagement in the BFA courses, and the development of your practice as creative storytellers. This includes processes for ensuring safe and sustainable collaboration, as well as maintaining your health and wellbeing across your creative careers.

Second Year

SEMESTER ONE

COS7202A Costume Interdisciplinary Collaboration A (10 credit points)

You will expand the depth of your specialist costume-making knowledge. With input from the designer, performer and stage management, you will problem-solve issues, and begin to form independent judgements on scale, proportion, line and detail. You will also engage in a range of digital and analogue fabrication techniques and technologies including leatherwork, digital design, laser-cutting and 3D printing.

COS7205A Costume Cutting and Construction A (15 credit points)

You will continue to develop skills in the flat pattern-making and draping techniques required for making costumes for performance. You will learn how to create the under-structures to support and create a range of costume silhouettes and forms.

COS7206A Clothing Cultures and Histories A (5 credit points)

You will continue to develop skills in accessing and curating information to support your practice as a costume professional. In this subject, you will focus on the way costume has been historically represented in a range of cultural contexts, including art, film and live performance.

COS7207A Costume Technology and Art Finishing A (20 credit points)

You will explore and experiment with art finishing materials and fabrication techniques in this subject. You will develop your understanding of the possibilities of art finishing, fabric printing and 3D printing, working with alternative materials and processes.

COM7204A Staging Ideas A (10 credit points)

During this subject you will gain a theoretical and critical understanding of significant forms and conventions within the Modernist avant-garde. In being introduced to Modernism's artistic movements, you will also develop an understanding of the contextual influences that shaped these practices. This knowledge will help you to actively relate avant-garde practices to 21st century performance in a range of cultural contexts.

SEMESTER TWO

COS7202B Costume Interdisciplinary Collaboration B (10 credit points)

You will consult with designers on details of the design and performance requirements of a particular costume or set of costumes for a NIDA production. You will continue to form independent judgements on scale, proportion, line and detail. Also, you will undertake a supervisory role for a small-scale production, in which you will work with stock costumes and focus on sustainability issues.

COS7203B Costume Professional Practice B (15 credit points)

You will develop tools for managing costumes in a screen context, and the processes for organising costumes for a small-scale film project. You'll also develop your knowledge of professional industry contexts in a short industry secondment.

COS7205A Costume Cutting and Construction B (15 credit points)

In this subject you will continue to develop advanced skills in flat patternmaking and draping techniques required for making costumes for live performance and screen contexts.

COS7206B Clothing Culture and Histories B (5 credit points)

You will begin to define a self-directed research project based on your own interests and professional goals. You will develop your skills in practice-oriented research methodologies used in the creative arts.

COM7204B Contexts of Performance B (10 credit points)

You will engage in discussion and inquiry about the ideas and practices that inform contemporary performance in a variety of forms and contexts. This subject aims to develop your knowledge of and critical response to 21st century contemporary performance practices.

COM7203B Student-Led Project (5 credit points)

In interdisciplinary groups you will draw on the individual strengths, knowledge and abilities of each member to work together and deepen your understanding of collaborative practices and giving and receiving feedback. The creative outcome will reflect a work-in-progress experience as a demonstration, installation, interactive event, video/audio display or other form.

Third Year

SEMESTER ONE

COS7302A Costume Interdisciplinary Collaboration A (30 credit points)

You will take on a role as a costume supervisor and key costume maker on major productions. Production projects are allocated to students while taking into consideration the design requirements and the student's interests where possible.

COS7303A Costume Professional Practice A (10 credit points)

You will develop your knowledge of professional industry contexts related to the legal and business aspects of professional practice, including report and grant writing, setting up a small business, interpreting contractual agreements and exploring pathways to employment.

COS7306A Clothing Culture and Histories A (5 credit points)

You will continue to develop the skills of accessing and curating information to support your practice as a costume professional. The focus of this subject is in developing skills in archival object-based research and costume in exhibition contexts.

COS7308A Costume Independent Research Project A (15 credit points)

You will plan and implement a self-directed research project based on your own interests and professional goals. You will engage with relevant practices and debate within the creative industries. This practice-based methodology aims to build your knowledge and skills in a specific area of costume practice.

SEMESTER TWO

COS7302B Costume Interdisciplinary Collaboration B (30 credit points)

You will take on a role as a costume supervisor and/or key costume maker on major productions. Production projects and roles are allocated to students while taking into consideration the design requirements and the student's interests where possible.

COS7303B Costume Professional Practice B (15 credit points)

You will investigate the non-discipline specific skills and knowledge you will require to successfully pursue careers within a professional artistic environment. Secondly, you will continue your introduction and integration into professional industries, networks and communities.

COS7308B Costume Independent Research Project B (15 credit points)

You will implement the practice-based research project which is based on your own interests and professional goals, in the second semester of this subject. The new knowledge about your practice will be shared with your peers in a presentational format.