




Policy number	AC09
Approving authority	Academic Board
Date implemented	24 July 2024
Current version	4.1
Date of review	June 2028
Contact officer	Director Learning and Innovation
Related policies, procedures and documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy • Academic Complaints and Appeals Policy • Course Regulations documentation. • Course Development, Monitoring, Review and Disestablishment Policy. • Subject outlines.

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides the basis for the allocation of credit point values to subjects and the associated student workload hours assumed within a subject for all NIDA degree programs.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

Undergraduate Courses (BFAs)	Postgraduate Courses (MFAs)	Vocational Studies
		

3. PRINCIPLES

- NIDA degree courses are a coherent accumulation of a body of knowledge resulting in the acquisition of specialist knowledge and skills and generic attributes.
- Our Bachelor degrees are levelled at AQF level 7. The course and subject learning outcomes enable students to acquire and apply a coherent body of knowledge and skills aligned to the level 7 criteria and Bachelor degree descriptor.
- NIDA Bachelor degrees have 360 credit points. Bachelor degrees are typically offered full-time over three years and carry 120 credit points per year.
- Our Masters degrees are levelled at AQF Level 9. The course and subject learning outcomes enable students to acquire and apply a coherent body of knowledge and skills aligned to the level 9 criteria and Master Degree descriptor.
- NIDA Masters degrees have 180 credit points. Masters degrees can be offered full-time (typically over 18 months) or part-time (typically over 3 years). Full-time Masters degrees typically carry 120 credit points in year 1 and 60 credit points in year 2.
- There is a direct relationship between the minimum level of student effort and time required for successful completion of a subject and its credit point value. 1 credit point carries a notational 10 hours of student effort.

- The credit point framework supports NIDA’s educational aims and the consistency of the courses while providing appropriate flexibility for subjects directly related to productions.

4. POLICY

4.1 Credit points shall be related to student workload.

4.2 One credit point will notionally equate to 10 hours of student effort in a combination of staff contact hours and self-directed learning. In the case of Subjects directly related to production and industry placements (Work Integrated Learning) a consideration of one credit point equalling 15 hours of student effort in a combination of staff contact hours and production/placement activities is deemed acceptable.

4.3 It is recognised that the split between staff contact hours and self-directed learning time shall differ from discipline to discipline.

4.4 Ratios of Staff contact hours to self-directed learning time may reduce over the duration of a degree as students develop more autonomy in exercising skills and knowledge in practice.

4.5 All Bachelors courses will be structured on the basis of 120 credit points comprising the full-time workload for each year of study, giving a total of 360 credit points for the three (3) year courses.

4.6 All Masters courses will be structured on the basis of 120 credit points comprising the full-time workload for each year of study, giving a total of 180 credit points for the one and a half (1.5) year courses in full time programs or 180 across 2.5-3 years in part time courses.

4.7 A change to the credit points for a subject is considered a major change and is subject to course approval processes in accordance with the NIDA’s Course Development, Review and Approval and Disestablishment policy

4.8 The credit point value of a subject must be clearly stated in subject outlines, course regulations, fee schedules and other relevant marketing material.

5. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Course	Any of the Bachelor or Masters programs offered by NIDA.
Credit Point	A unit of measure to indicate the student workload in a subject. One credit point will notionally equate to 10 hours of student effort consisting of a combination of face to face and self-directed learning. Credit points encompass contact hours, time undertaking assessments and self-directed learning hours.
EFTSL	Effective Full Time Study Load (EFTSL) represents the total workload of a full-time student in any single academic year in a course where 1 EFTSL is 120 credit points.
Full-time	Refers to a student who is enrolled for 100% or more of an Equivalent Full-Time Student Load

Part-time	Refers to a student who is enrolled for less than 100% of an Equivalent Full-Time Student Load
Non-standard progression	This term relates to the study pattern for any student not enrolled in a full-time load.
Student workload	The number of hours a student is expected to engage with learning in a standard study pattern. Contact hours, where students engage in mediated and designed learning activities, can be comprised of a range of modes of teaching, including, practical classes, workshops, productions, placements, lectures, and tutorials as well as blended or online activities. Self-directed learning allows students to consolidate and expand on what they have learned by taking charge of their own learning outside scheduled class-time. This includes time for students to complete assignments, group work, readings / viewings and research, and to access NIDA equipment and facilities in accordance with availability and in compliance with relevant School guidelines

*These are NIDA definitions and may not necessarily coincide with definitions applied by external agencies - such as those that are responsible for administering government benefits.

6. BENCHMARKING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Benchmarked against policies and practice from a number of higher education providers and other sources. Relevant policy documents and statements from the following are gratefully acknowledged:

- University of New England
- La Trobe University
- UNSW
- AFTRS
- National Art School

7. CONSULTATION: ACADEMIC HEADS OF COURSES, EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND NIDA ACADEMIC BOARD

This Policy and Procedures document should be read in conjunction with:

Legislation and Regulatory Frameworks	<p>Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021</p> <p>Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 National Code 2018</p> <p>Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)</p>
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8. CHANGE HISTORY

Date	Change description	Reason for change	Author	Version
December 2025	Editorial change to review date and policy titles	New policy review schedule approved by Academic Board October 2025	Academic Compliance Manager	4.1
February 2024	Revised definitions, updated template and syntax	Policy review	Manager Student Services and Quality Assurance	3.0
June 2018	New template Additional definition Minor text changes No substantive change in meaning or intent	Policy Review	Manager Learning and Teaching	2.0
June 2012	New Policy	Policy review		RM8 Record No: 14/06484