

# NIDA

National Institute  
of Dramatic Art

THEATRE  
FILM  
TELEVISION



# MFA DIRECTING APPLICATION GUIDE

CRICOS Code: 113112H

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES  
PLEASE CONTACT

**[applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au)**  
**(02) 9697 7686**

Learn more at [apply.nida.edu.au](http://apply.nida.edu.au)

**NIDA acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the sacred lands, from the mountains to the sea, on which we learn and tell stories.**

**The lands of the Bidjigal, Gadigal, Dharawal and Dharug peoples. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present.**

**Image details:  
Phil Erbacher 2023  
*Sandaime Richard*  
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# BEFORE YOU APPLY

## APPLICATION PERIOD

Open Monday 3rd June 2024 - Close Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 5:00pm (AEST)

Late applications may be considered depending on interview schedule availability.

## APPLICATION PROCESS SUMMARY

The application process for the Master of Fine Arts (Directing) consists of two rounds:

- **Round One** - Online Application, including CV, Critical Essay and Portfolio due Monday 30<sup>th</sup> **September** 2024, 5:00pm AEST).

All applicants who submit the required elements for round one will be invited for an interview with Directing staff via Microsoft Teams.

- **Round Two** - Directing Recall

**Only applicants who are successful in Round One will be invited to attend a recall.**

## BEFORE APPLYING

Before completing your application, please read the following information:

- Course information, dates, fees and frequently asked questions:  
<https://www.nida.edu.au/study/postgraduate/>
- NIDA Student Handbook, Policies and Procedures, and Course Regulations for MFA (Directing) course: <https://www.nida.edu.au/study/students/policies/>

**If you have any further questions at this stage, please contact us at**  
**[applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au)**

# ROUND ONE

## Application, Project and Portfolio

### ONLINE APPLICATION

#### STEP 1

Create your application account in the Application Portal: [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

You will receive an email with your login details.

For applicants who have applied to NIDA from 2019 onwards, your login details will be the same. Do not create a duplicate profile.

If you are unsure of your applicant number, please email [applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au) with the following details:

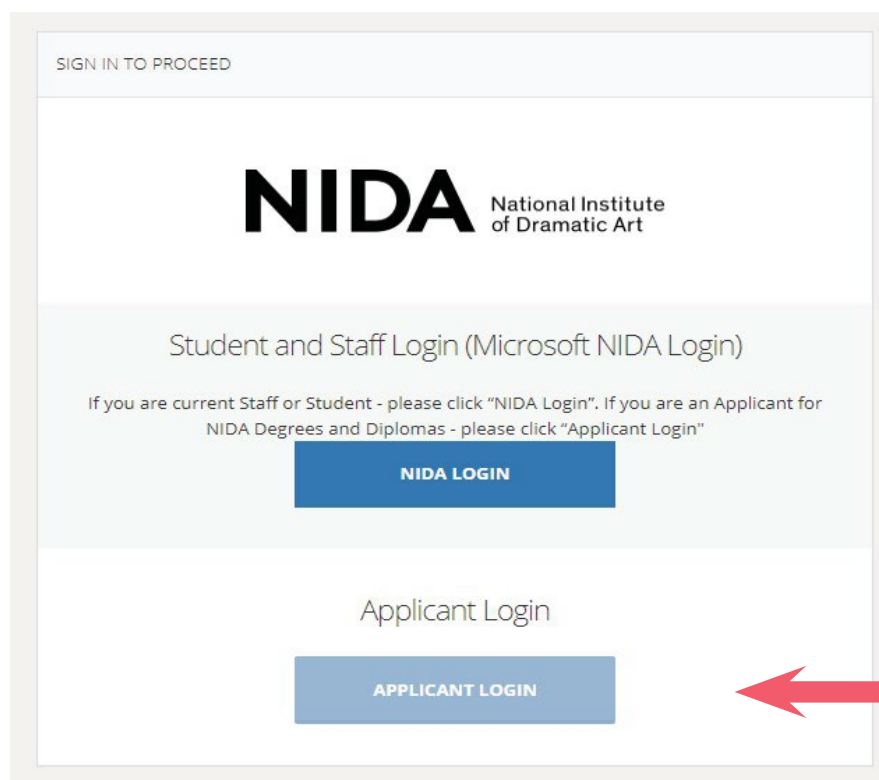
Full Legal name:

Date of Birth:

Email address linked to previous application:

Phone Number linked to previous application:

Log in to the Application Portal and click the **'Applicant Login'** button.




## IMPORTANT NOTE:

You are able to save your application and return to it at any point before the closing date.

To do so, click the pencil icon to the right of the course you wish to continue applying for (refer to the image below).

Please note: You can only edit if the 'Application Status' is set to 'In Process'. Once you submit your application, this option will not be available.

This is located on the summary page when you sign in under the 'Course Applications' heading at the bottom of the page.

10/02/2025	TSM7000025	19/11/2027	Applied	In Process	NIDA_APP			
Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries						Previous	1	Next
							<a href="#">NEW APPLICATION</a>	

## THERE IS AN ERROR IN MY APPLICATION

If you believe you have made an error or uploaded the wrong document, please email [applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au) outlining the error and include the following information:

Full Legal name:

Date of Birth:

Email address linked application:

Phone number linked application:

Course(s) applied for:

## **STEP 2 - Collect the following documents for your application:**

- Copy of your most recent qualification. MFA (Directing) applicants must hold an undergraduate degree (in any area) or have five years' relevant experience in a related area.
- Proof of identification showing your date of birth (e.g. passport, driver's licence, birth certificate).

### **International applicants (and non-Australian citizens with permanent visas) must also submit:**

- A copy of your passport (must be valid for at least the first 12 months of your course).
- Proof of 8.0 Academic IELTS or equivalent for MFA (Directing).
- If you have a Permanent Visa (e.g. Permanent Resident, Partner visa Subclass 801), we require a copy of your visa.

**Please ensure all documents are either PDF, PNG or JPEG file types.**

**The max file upload size is 80Mb**

## **STEP 3 - CV, Critical Essay and Portfolio**

You must prepare the following to submit with your application by the deadline of Monday 30th September 2024.

### **PROFESSIONAL CV**

You should upload a detailed CV highlighting your training, professional work, and other relevant information. If you do not hold an undergraduate degree, your CV must show evidence of at least 5+ years of relevant experience in an area relating to Directing.

#### **It must be clearly titled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_cv\_MFADIR\_2025

### **CRITICAL ESSAY**

Prepare a 500-700 critical essay or report on your practice, or a particular cultural event you have experienced.

#### **It must be clearly titled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_essay\_MFADIR\_2025

## PORTFOLIO

You should prepare examples of past work that you feel will support your application and demonstrate your suitability for a career in directing, and in the arts and entertainment industry.

**It must be clearly titled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_\_portfolio\_\_MFADIR\_\_2025

## INTERVIEW PROJECT

### STEP 4

Prepare a hypothetical project based on a published play text of your choosing.

Consider the following questions in relation to the specified play and be ready to discuss them at your interview:

- **Text:** What ideas is the playwright trying to express? What is the relevance of the play to contemporary Australian audiences?
- **Characters and Actors:** What kind of people are the characters in the play? In what kind of world do they exist? If you had complete freedom of choice, which actors would you cast in your production?
- **Design:** How does the design create the imaginative world of the play? What does it look like? How does it respond or transform with the story?
- **Lighting:** How should lighting be used to reveal and expose areas of this play and the design of your production?
- **Costume, Sets and Props:** What requirements are there in each of these areas?
- **Music and Sound:** What kind of music or sound effects would you use, and why?
- **Theatre:** Where would you stage your production? What kind of theatre or site will it be in? What kind of equipment will you require? What challenges might arise in the staging?
- **Production Design Concept:** Communicate your production through collected material. This could include set models/drawings of sets and costumes, impressions in collage or electronic; anything that will help the selection panel to understand your production concept in detail.

**It must be clearly titled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_\_project\_\_MFADIR\_\_2025

You will upload your CV, critical essay, portfolio and interview project in the **'Course Specific Application Requirements'** attachment section of your online application.

## **STEP 5 - Complete and submit your application**

Once you have uploaded your documentation you may submit your application.

## **STEP 6 - Attend your interview**

You will receive an email invitation to book in your Teams interview.

All efforts will be made to give applicants their preferred interview date, but NIDA cannot guarantee the date and time – it is subject to staff availability.

Interviews are conducted by two NIDA staff members. All Round One interviews will take place via Microsoft Teams. Interviews will run for approximately 45 minutes.

First, there will be a brief talk about NIDA, the MFA (Directing) course and what will happen during the interview. There will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have about NIDA or about the interview itself.

Each applicant will then be interviewed for around 40 minutes. During the interview, we will discuss your project; your ideas about theatre, film, and the broader creative industries; and why you want to study Directing at NIDA.

### **Some tips:**

We know that interviews can sometimes be stressful, but we will do our best to make your experience as relaxing and enjoyable as possible.

The interview process is friendly, informal, and open, and is designed to give you the best opportunity to show us your potential and readiness to study at NIDA.

Remember, the more time and effort you put into your application and project, the better prepared you will be, and the more you will enjoy the interview.

### **You will be advised by email if you are successful in Round One.**

If you are successful, you will receive an invitation for Round Two. This will include confirmation of a Directing Recall date.



# ROUND TWO

## Directing Recall

### Step 7 - Attend the Directing Recall

If the selection panel would like to see more, you may be asked back for a recall audition on a separate date. Recall auditions, both in-person and remotely, will take place in November.

If you are short-listed for acceptance into the course after the recall, you may be asked to submit a list of three referees who have seen your work or worked with you in some arts-related capacity. NIDA may contact these referees before making a study offer.

Please note applicants who do not make it through to the recall stage for Master of Fine Arts (Directing) should consider their application unsuccessful for the 2025 intake.

### CONDITIONS OF APPLYING

- Selection is based on merit; not all applicants who meet the published minimum entry requirements will receive a study offer.
- All applicants are responsible for reviewing the course requirements and tuition fees as stated on the NIDA website.
- It is not possible to provide applicants with individual written or oral feedback on their audition/interview.
- Applicants who receive a study offer for 2025 must accept the offer within the time frame indicated.
- It is not possible to defer a study offer at NIDA.

# FAQs

## **CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE COURSE?**

Yes, however, a separate online application form is required for each course you would like to apply for.

## **WHAT ATAR DO I NEED TO GET INTO NIDA?**

Entry into NIDA is by audition or interview only. We do not ask for exam scores or ATARs. However, all applicants applying for MFA (Directing) must have an undergraduate degree (in any area) or at least five years' relevant experience in a related area.

## **WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVEN'T RECEIVED DETAILS OF MY APPLICATION ACCOUNT?**

If you do not receive any automated emails from NIDA regarding your application account, please check your junk/spam/promotions filter. If you are still experiencing difficulties, please contact us at [applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au).

## **WHERE WILL MY INTERVIEW TAKE PLACE?**

Interviews for MFA (Directing) will take place online via Microsoft Teams. A link will be provided to you via email. Directing recalls will take place in-person (dates and locations TBC) or live via Teams.

## **DOES NIDA GIVE INTERVIEW FEEDBACK?**

Due to the large number of people being interviewed, it is not possible for NIDA to provide individual feedback.

## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY INTERVIEW?**

Final selections are made for each course in December, and study offers will be distributed to successful applicants via email.

## **WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NIDA?**

As part of the application process, once applicants have submitted a course application, they can then submit a scholarship application. See [NIDA Scholarships](#).

You can apply for a scholarship once you have submitted your course application form. If you are shortlisted and offered a place at NIDA, we will then schedule an interview to review your scholarship application.