

# NIDA

National Institute of Dramatic Art



## MFA DIRECTING APPLICATION GUIDE

**CRICOS Code: 113112H**

For all enquiries, please contact [applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au) or (02) 9697 7686

Learn more at [nida.edu.au](http://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:  
Photography by Julia Firk  
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# BEFORE YOU APPLY

## APPLICATION PERIOD

Open Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - Close Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 11:59pm (AEST)

## 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, Portfolio, Interview Project due Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 11:59pm 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/courses/graduate>
- 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, Essay, Project and Portfolio

### ONLINE APPLICATION

#### STEP 1 – Application Portal

Create your application account [here](#).

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:

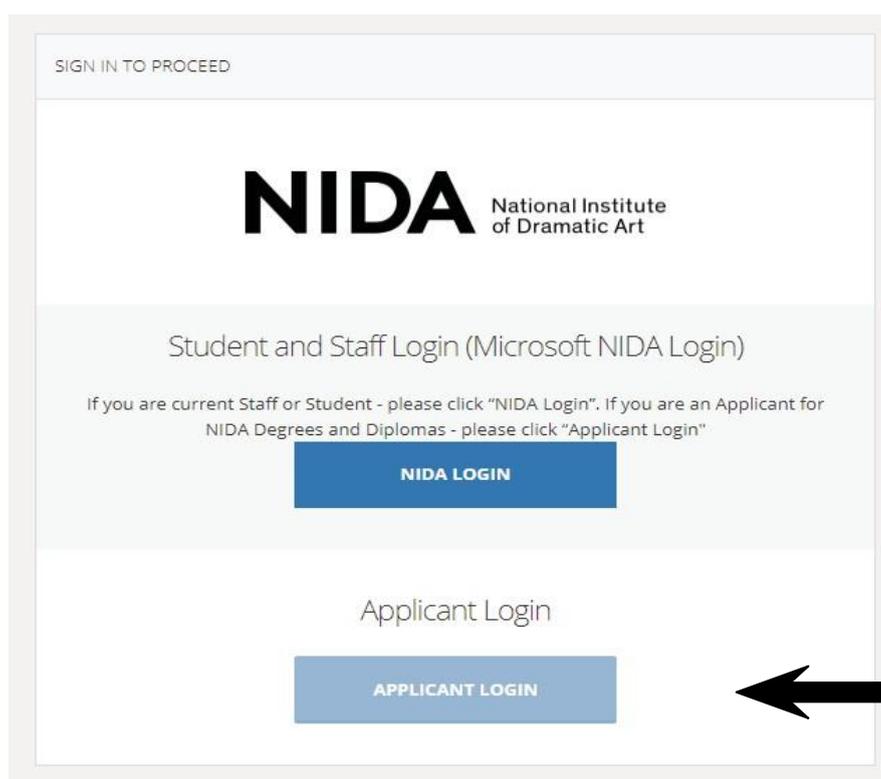
Full Legal name:

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, Portfolio and Interview Project**

You must prepare the following to submit with your application by the deadline of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

### **PROFESSIONAL CV**

Upload a detailed CV that outlines your education/training, professional experience and other relevant activities. If you do not hold an undergraduate degree, your CV must show evidence of at least 5+ years of relevant experience in an area related to directing.

#### **Ensure your CV is clearly labelled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_cv\_MFADIR\_2026

### **CRITICAL ESSAY**

Prepare a 500-700 critical essay or report reflecting on your own directing practice or analysing a cultural event you have experienced.

The essay should demonstrate your ability to think critically and reflectively about the arts.

Some examples are:

- A critical reflection on your artistic practice as an emerging director.
- An in-depth discussion of a specific production you directed, including key insights and discoveries.
- A critical reflection on a significant cultural experience and its impact on your practice.
- A critical response to a live production you have attended, focusing on its artistic and directorial choices.

#### **Ensure your essay is clearly labelled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_essay\_MFADIR\_2026

## PORTFOLIO

Submit examples of past work that best represent your skills, experiences, and suitability for a career in directing and the wider arts and entertainment industry. This may include images, video links, programs, scripts, reviews, or documentation of previous projects. You may submit your portfolio in any format.

**Ensure your portfolio is clearly labelled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_portfolio\_MFADIR\_2026

## INTERVIEW PROJECT

Prepare a hypothetical directing project based on a published play text of your choice. You will present and discuss this project in your interview.

In your preparation, consider and be ready to discuss the following:

- **Text:** What ideas is the playwright trying to express? How is the play relevant to contemporary Australian audiences?
- **Characters and Casting:** Who are the characters? What kind of actors would you cast and why?
- **Design:** Describe the visual world of the production. How does the design evolve with the story?
- **Lighting:** How might light reveal the tone and geography of the production?
- **Costume, Sets and Props:** Identify key requirements in these areas.
- **Music and Sound:** What audio elements would support your vision and why?
- **Venue & Staging:** Where would you stage your production? What kind of space, equipment or technical considerations are involved?
- **Design Concept Presentation:** Include visual or conceptual materials to communicate your production vision. This could be set models, sketches, collages, digital renders or mood boards.

**Ensure your essay is clearly labelled with your name as follows:**

fullname\_project\_MFADIR\_2026

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

## **STEP 4 - Complete and submit your application**

To complete your application, agree on the Terms and Conditions by ticking the boxes, then enter your name and date of application.

## **STEP 5 - Attend your interview**

All applicants who submit the required elements for Round One (CV, Critical Essay, Portfolio and Interview Project) will receive an email invitation to book in your interview on Microsoft Teams. 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.

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

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

# ROUND TWO:

## Directing Recall

### **Step 6 - Attend the Directing Recall**

If you are successful in Round One, you will receive an email invitation for Round Two. Recall auditions will take place during November 2025 and further details will be provided about the date and location. In the recall audition, applicants will workshop a scene from their interview project with two actors.

If you are short-listed for acceptance into the course after the recall, you may be asked to provide the contact details of three referees who have worked with you in an arts-related capacity. NIDA may contact these referees before making a final 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 2026 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 2026 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?**

Scholarship applications will be available to all those applicants who are invited to Round 2 interviews or auditions. See [NIDA Scholarships](#)