

**NIDA** National Institute  
of Dramatic Art

**COURSE GUIDE 2025**

# A SPACE OF POSSIBILITY





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.

We also recognise the work and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, workers and creatives within the NIDA community that spans this continent.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

Always was, always will be  
Aboriginal land.







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# HELLO AND WELCOME

This course guide contains information about studying at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) including how to apply, scholarship opportunities and details on the various support available while studying, as well as insights into life at NIDA.

NIDA is Australia's national dramatic arts educator and innovator. NIDA's unparalleled rigour, practice-based learning, connections to industry and culture of innovation have produced some of the world's most influential and in-demand storytellers across stage, screen and new digital platforms.

NIDA has ranked consistently in The Hollywood Reporter's World's 25 Best Drama Schools alongside New York's Julliard School and Carnegie Mellon. In 2023, NIDA was the only drama school outside of England and the USA on the list and in 2024, we also made the World's Top Costume Design Schools list.

NIDA also offers Bachelor and Masters courses for theatre-makers and storytellers;

costume, props and set makers; designers and creatives in lighting, sound and video; as well as practitioners working behind the scenes to realise exciting projects in stage, screen and beyond. Whether you want to immerse yourself in a three-year undergraduate degree; undertake a short and sharp vocational diploma; evolve your creative practice as a writer or director; or take your professional experience as an arts manager, producer or cultural leader to the next level, NIDA offers relevant, high calibre practice-based and industry connected education and training pitched to your needs.

NIDA graduates are everywhere - theatre, film, television, dance, opera, live events, interactive gaming, and often take their skills outside of arts and entertainment. They win Academy Awards, run Olympic Games ceremonies, lead arts and screen production companies, write our stories, fill our screens, operate music gigs, crew film and television sets, manage regional arts centres, create start-up XR studios and push the boundaries of art, technology and storytelling.

## WHAT MAKES NIDA UNIQUE?

NIDA is dedicated to creating and nurturing the world's best storytellers and unlocking the power of the dramatic arts. We put you at the centre of a hands-on, collaborative learning experience with leading industry practitioners, expert staff, special guest artists and experienced professionals working across various creative industries. This is complemented by core subjects which introduce you to the dramaturgy of stage and screen, the foundations of professional practice, sustainability and how to look after your health and wellbeing, whether as a student or a professional. Students also gain access to NIDA's state-of-the-art facilities which allow them to learn and experiment with a suite of industry relevant resources.

While studying at NIDA you will acquire the tools, skills and confidence in your chosen field to translate creative concepts into stories and to develop your unique voice as a maker,

performer, writer or designer. Stories that will shape Australian culture into the future. NIDA is focused on developing diverse stories that reflect our ever-changing national landscape.

We endeavour to grow the diversity of NIDA's student cohorts and staffing, seeking to enable talented individuals from diverse communities and socio-economic backgrounds across the country to pursue their artistic aspirations in a rigorous yet supportive environment. In this context, NIDA has developed its scholarship program to ensure that First Nations students, students who are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, living with financial hardship or students from rural and remote backgrounds, have the opportunity to attend NIDA. We want to break down barriers so talented individuals from across Australia feel represented, welcomed and supported at NIDA.



# LEARN AT NIDA

Anchored in practice, NIDA's learning environment seeks to provide you with the skills that equip you to work in the arts and entertainment industries. Practical skills acquisition is complemented by regular opportunities to engage with your peers on interdisciplinary projects, ranging from live theatre productions to screen projects.

NIDA also seeks to ensure that students have access to important life skills encompassing academic, embodied and digital literacies while building a strong understanding of industry protocols and learning how to manage your career into the future. NIDA's commitment to continuous improvement sees individual courses responding to student feedback and an ever-changing industry.

NIDA's Common subjects are undertaken by first- and second-year BFA students and all MFA students to cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration skills. Aiming to combine foundational performance ideas and essential academic skills, these subjects offer students meaningful connections with peers, consultation with Course Leaders, and authentic engagement with NIDA's First Nations team, allowing them to further develop a strong and empathetic collaborative practice.

## MAKING VALUABLE INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

Students at NIDA have unparalleled opportunities to engage with leading professionals to develop and present theatre productions and screen projects. Most courses offer industry placements and opportunities to engage with NIDA's extensive industry networks.

Engagement with professionals across disciplines provides invaluable opportunities to develop working relationships with industry professionals during your studies.

Examples of recent artists working with NIDA students include:

- Adam Mada – Magic and illusion consultant
- Alex Stuart – Props Master, Sydney Theatre Company
- Andrew Chan – Designer, 3D modelling specialist
- Anneke Harrison – Stage manager
- Anne-Maree McDonald – Performer
- Anthony Keena – Audio specialist
- Antony Hateley – Lighting designer
- Bradley Barrack – Producer, stage manager

- Brian Walsh – Former Executive Director, Foxtel
- Brigid Zengeni – Performer
- Brittanie Shipway – Writer, performer
- Carly Heaton – Creative Director, Fremantle Australia
- Caroline Bowditch – CEO and Artistic Director, Arts Access Victoria
- Cheryl Barker – International soprano
- Christopher Fleming – Technical manager
- Cynthia Simango – Hair specialist
- Dalara Williams – Actor, writer
- David Gardos – Musical Director
- Damon Gameau – Actor, Director, producer
- David Grigg – Sound designer
- David Knight – Film director, director of photography
- Dino Dimitriadis – Director, Milk Crate Theatre
- Eamon Flack – Artistic Director, Belvoir Theatre
- Eugenia Farrell – Stage manager
- Garry Alcorn – Stage manager, Opera Australia
- Garth Holcombe – Performer
- Gavan Swift – Lighting designer
- Gordon Burns - Designer
- Guy Simon – Performer
- Helen Stronach-Thatcher – Wig specialist
- Ian Michael – Director, Sydney Theatre Company
- Imara Savage – Director, Sydney Chamber Opera
- Jacob Nash – Former Head of Design, Bangarra
- Jay James-Moody – Performer
- Jennifer Irwin – Costume designer, Bangarra
- Joey Ruigrok - Designer and performance maker
- John Bucchino – Songwriter
- Katie Williams – Head of Puppet Making & puppeteer, Windmill Pictures
- Kim Hardwick – Director
- Kingsley Reeve – Sound Designer
- Kip Williams – Artistic Director, Sydney Theatre Company
- Leonard Fung – Director
- Les Chantery – Screen specialist, author
- Louise Fox – Writer
- Marta Dusseldorp – Actor, producer
- Matt Cox – Lighting designer
- Matt Zeremes & Guy Edmonds – Performers and writers, Boomshaka Film
- Matthew Whittet – Writer
- Monica Girard – Stage Manager, Sydney Opera House
- Monica Sayers – Performer
- Nigel Turner-Carroll – Director
- Peter Pound – Storyboard artist
- Philip Quast AM – Performer
- Priya Srinivasan – Co-Artistic Director, Sangam Festival
- Richard Whitehouse – Head of Production, Belvoir St Theatre
- Russell Carey – Scenic artist
- Sabina Myers – Costume and production designer
- Sam Meikle – Writer
- Sandra Wograndl – Make-up artist
- Savannah Mojidi – Head of Fabrication, Dead Puppet Society
- Shari Sebbens – Resident Director, Sydney Theatre Company
- Silvia Guerrera – Leatherwork specialist, Birdsall Leather
- Spencer McLaren – Actor and producer
- Tasnim Hossain – Resident Director, Melbourne Theatre Company
- Tessa Leong – Artistic Director, Contemporary Asian Australian Performance
- Tiana Canterbury – Choreographer/performer
- Tim Ferguson – Writer and comedian
- Tom Hodgson – Choreographer
- Tommy Murphy – Playwright and screenwriter
- Tom Wright – Artistic Associate, Belvoir Theatre
- Toni Paul – Hair specialist
- Troy Honeysett – Movement specialist
- Veronique Benett - Designer
- Vicki Van Hout – Indigenous independent artist
- Vidya Makan – Actor and Composer
- Yael Stone – Actor



# INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

A major highlight of a NIDA course is field trips, secondments, work placements and networking with leading industry organisations. We provide many opportunities for students to put their training into practice in dynamic working environments.

Thanks to NIDA's extensive network built over more than 60 years with TV, film and theatre professionals, you can secure outstanding opportunities on major international productions shooting domestically, alongside a diverse suite of placement possibilities, many of which lead to employment and future projects.

## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

### Theatre companies

Melbourne Theatre Company, National Theatre (UK), Sydney Theatre Company

### Musical theatre

*Hamilton* productions in Sydney and Melbourne, *Come from Away* in Sydney

### Design studios

Annie *Aktins* Studio (UK), Christopher Oram (UK), Alexander Dodge Design (USA)

### Film production companies

Bazmark (*Elvis*), Kennedy Miller Mitchell (*Three Thousand Years of Longing*)

### TV/streaming platforms/digital creators

ABC, Seven Network, Netflix, Stan, Disney Australia

### Opera and ballet companies

The Australian Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet (UK), English National Opera (UK), Opera Australia, Pinchgut Opera, Sydney Dance Company

### Staging and event companies

Geordie Theatre (Canada), Stagekings Australia

### Costume production companies

Hawthorn Tailoring (UK), Jane Law (UK), Sydney Costume Workshop (Hamilton)

### Festivals and events

Adelaide Festival, Edinburgh Festival (UK), Summerworks, Festival Toronto (Canada), Theatertreffen Festival Berlin (Germany), Sydney Festival

### Performing arts institutes

Cambodia Living Arts (Phnom Penh, Cambodia), Centre for Contemporary Arts Centre (Glasgow, UK), Centre for Dance & Performance Studies South Africa, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (UK), Victory Harvest, Willoughby Theatre Company (Sydney, Australia), Yale Peabody Museum, (Connecticut, USA)



# PRODUCTIONS AND SHOWCASES

Studying at NIDA means you'll have many opportunities to be involved in fully staged productions under the guidance of leading international and Australian directors, writers, choreographers, technical specialists, illusionists and designers.

These opportunities include three annual seasons of student productions, short films, musical theatre, cabaret, studio performances, writers' readings, exhibitions, puppet shows, costume displays, magic shows, properties and objects presentations and more.

Increasingly, all students work on screen-based projects to ensure employability across the arts and entertainment industries.

NIDA also invites industry leaders and future employers to view showcases and productions as part of its commitment to providing industry engagement opportunities for all students.



## ARTICULATE

Acting students deep dive into the world of voice dubbing and sound effects creation for film and TV.



## TRIPLE J UNEARTHED MUSIC VIDEOS

Directing and Design students collaborate with triple j Unearthed artists to create music videos.



## FESTIVAL OF EMERGING ARTISTS

A series of daring new works by the next generation of directors, set, costume and technical designers.



## STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

Learning on the floor, renowned directors come to NIDA to work with students of all disciplines on full-scale productions.



## MAKE-UP SHOWCASE

A special audience-immersive event showcasing stage and screen make-up, presented to the public and industry guests.



## MASTERWORK PRESENTATIONS

Students in Costume, Props and Effects, and Set Construction Technologies showcase an in-depth research project based on their own areas of interest in making.



## MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE

Musical Theatre students collaborate with all Diploma students to produce an energetic performance presented to producers and industry agents.



## PUPPET SHOW

An amazing performance in which Props and Effects students become puppeteers and present their creations.



## EXHIBITIONS

Design, props, costumes and audio-visual work take centre stage, showcasing work that gives a rare insight into what happens behind the scenes.

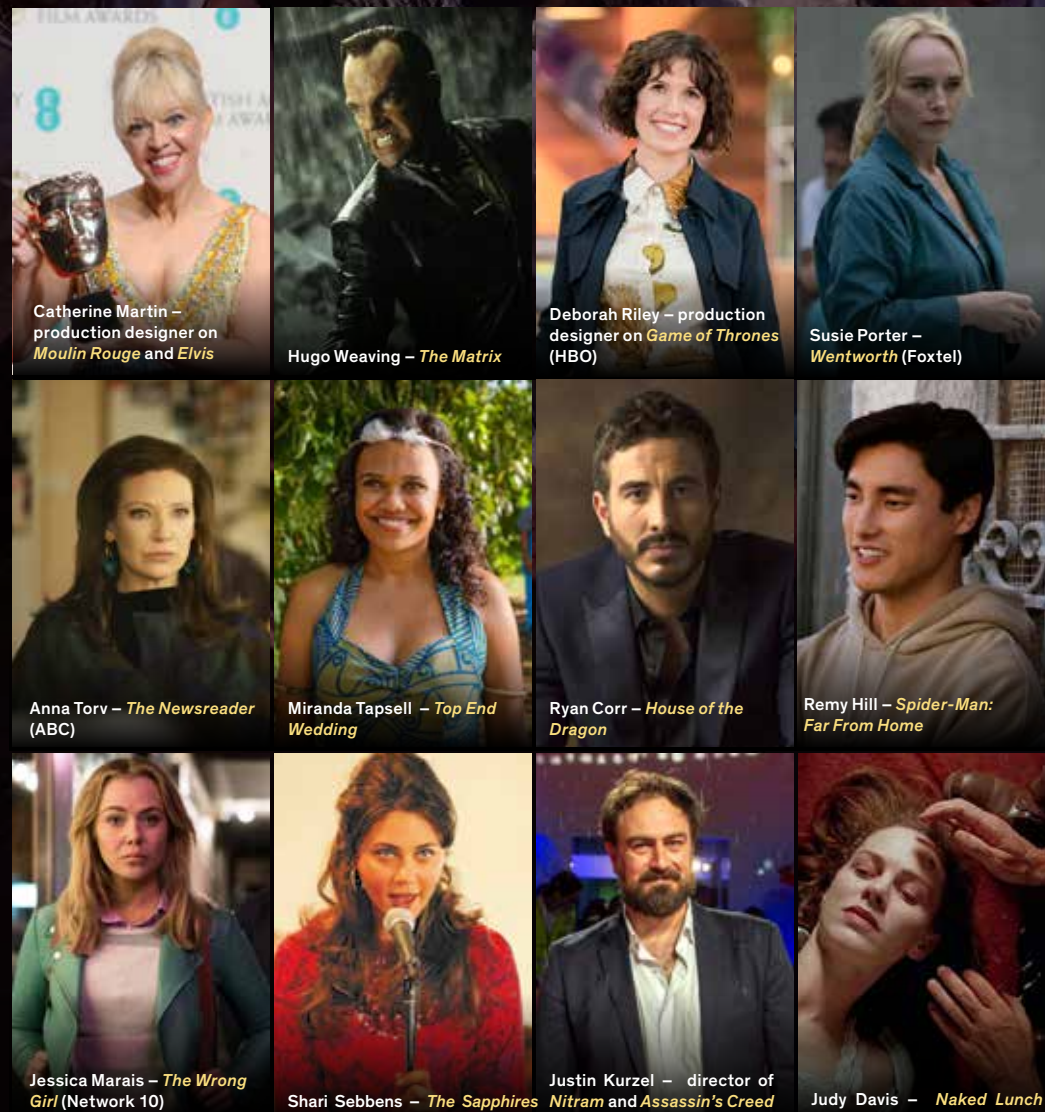


# ALUMNI

Countless NIDA alumni can be found working on and behind stages and screens, and in interactive entertainment all over the world. They are recognised for their success across many areas of the creative industries, as well as their commitment to telling Australian stories.

Acclaimed alumni include Justin Kurzel, Essie Davis, Ryan Corr, Shari Sebbens, Yerin Ha, Alice Babidge, Miranda Tapsell, Anna Torv, Sam Worthington, Uli Latukefu, Heather Mitchell, Baz Luhrmann, Hugo Weaving and many more.

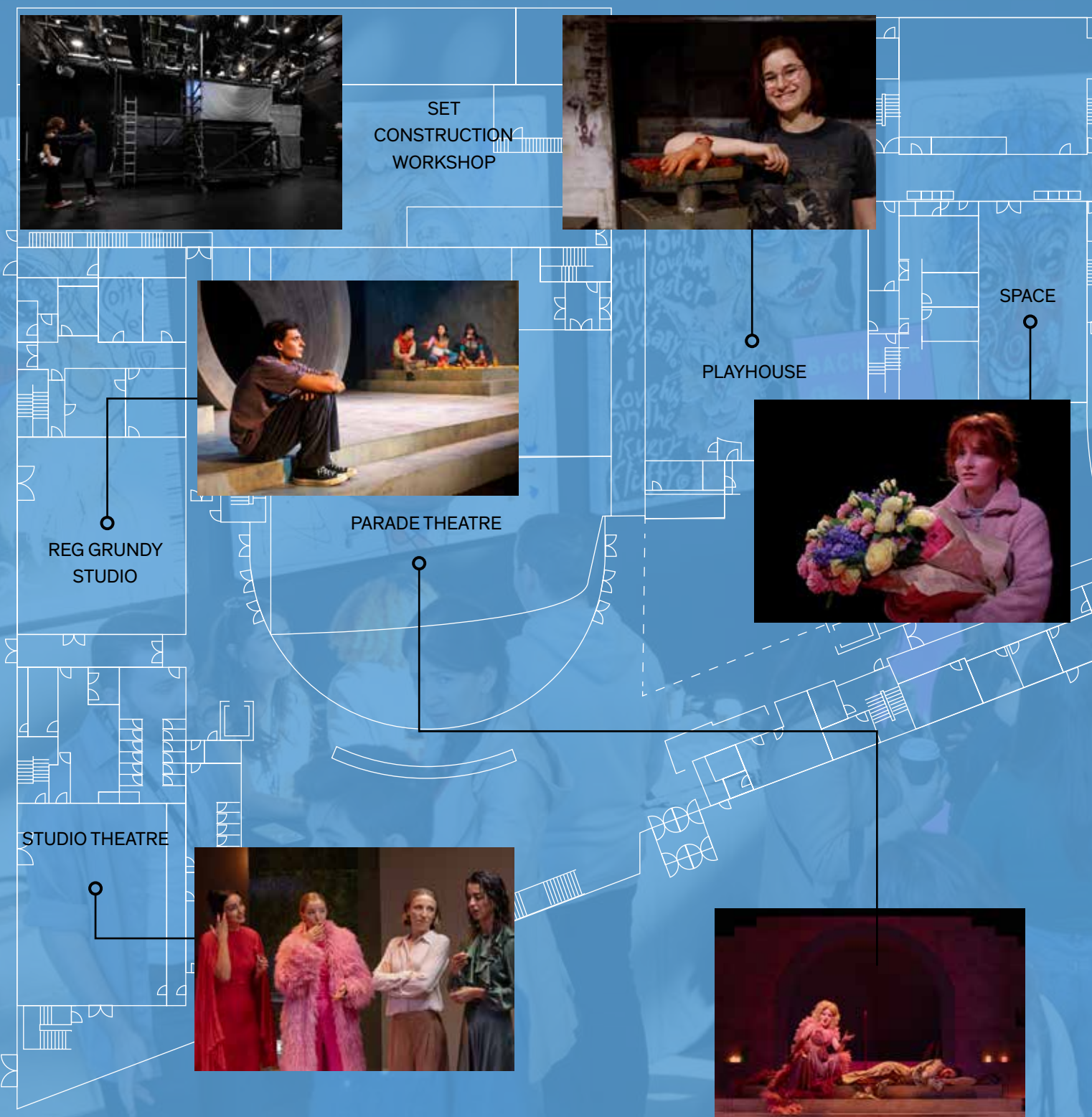
Meet our alumni at [nida.edu.au/alumni-and-industry/all-alumni/](http://nida.edu.au/alumni-and-industry/all-alumni/)



OUR ALUMNI  
ARE SOME  
OF THE  
WORLD'S MOST  
INFLUENTIAL  
STORYTELLERS.



# OUR CAMPUS



## NIDA GREEN PLAN

NIDA is becoming a leading environmental sustainability educator in the creative and cultural industries.

The NIDA Green Plan outlines five critical areas to champion sustainability including curriculum, production, leadership, building and operations, and teamwork. NIDA is committed to developing and delivering sustainable practice for both staff and students and in turn, championing change in the creative and cultural industries. NIDA's Sustainability Manager oversees the NIDA Green Plan working with staff, students and the entire NIDA community.

## THE MOST EXCITNG DEDICATED ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CAMPUS IN AUSTRALIA

Based in Kensington, Sydney, NIDA's campus is located across the road from the education precinct of UNSW Sydney, with light rail and bus routes stopping right outside the front door. NIDA's award-winning campus boasts state-of-the-art facilities. The indoor and outdoor performance spaces are constantly alive with productions, showcases and projects all year round.

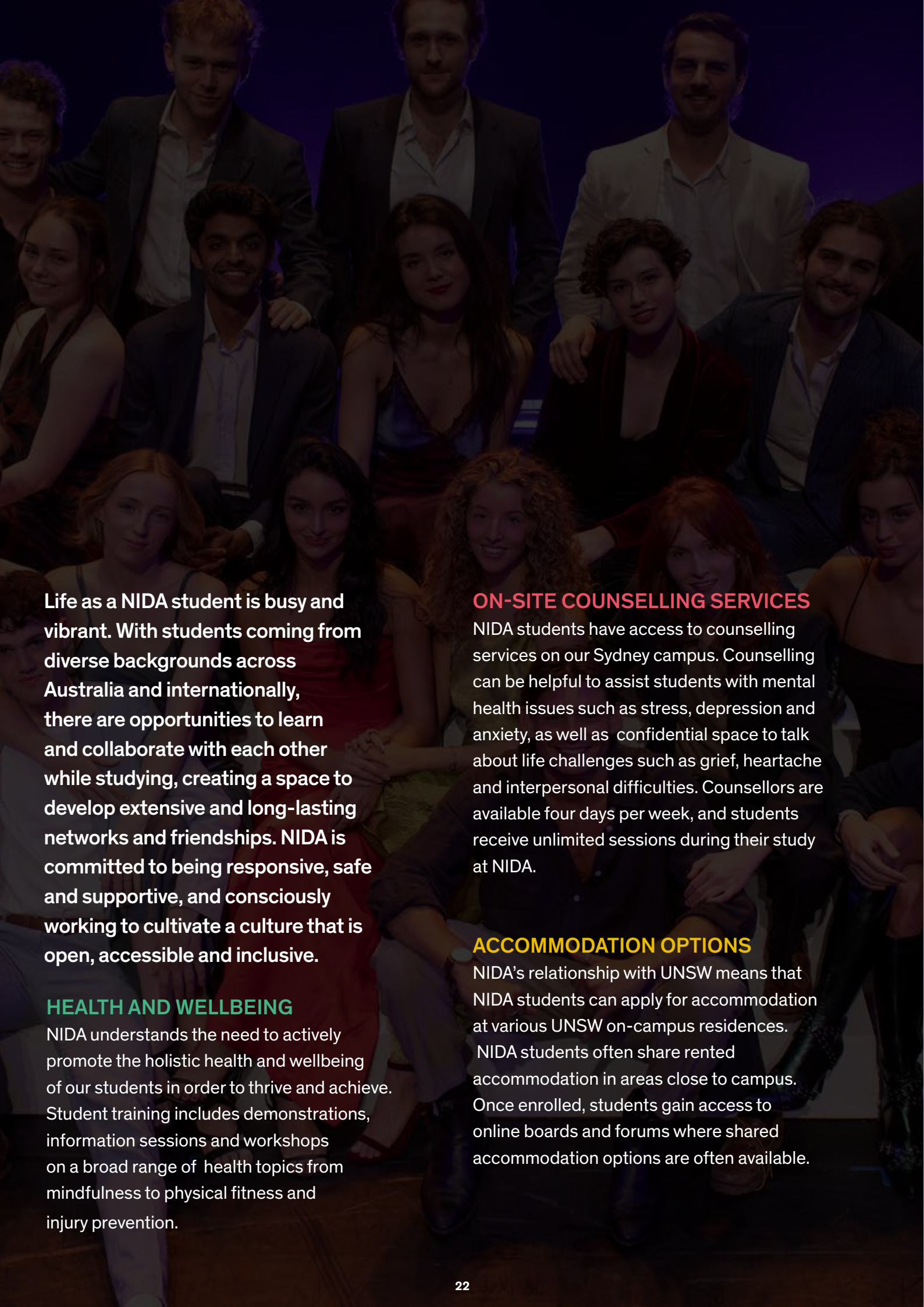
- Six performance venues including a 700-seat proscenium arch theatre
- Nine fully equipped rehearsal rooms
- Acoustic studios for voice work and sound recordings
- Design and lighting studios
- Construction, costume and props workshops
- Rodney Seaborn Library, which includes over 30,000 drama books and play scripts



# STUDENT LIFE







**Life as a NIDA student is busy and vibrant. With students coming from diverse backgrounds across Australia and internationally, there are opportunities to learn and collaborate with each other while studying, creating a space to develop extensive and long-lasting networks and friendships. NIDA is committed to being responsive, safe and supportive, and consciously working to cultivate a culture that is open, accessible and inclusive.**

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

NIDA understands the need to actively promote the holistic health and wellbeing of our students in order to thrive and achieve. Student training includes demonstrations, information sessions and workshops on a broad range of health topics from mindfulness to physical fitness and injury prevention.

### ON-SITE COUNSELLING SERVICES

NIDA students have access to counselling services on our Sydney campus. Counselling can be helpful to assist students with mental health issues such as stress, depression and anxiety, as well as confidential space to talk about life challenges such as grief, heartache and interpersonal difficulties. Counsellors are available four days per week, and students receive unlimited sessions during their study at NIDA.

### ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

NIDA's relationship with UNSW means that NIDA students can apply for accommodation at various UNSW on-campus residences. NIDA students often share rented accommodation in areas close to campus. Once enrolled, students gain access to online boards and forums where shared accommodation options are often available.

### POLICIES

To protect the welfare and safety of students, NIDA has a Student Charter and Code of Conduct in place, as well as both academic and non-academic policies encompassing a range of topics from academic integrity to Work Health and Safety (WHS).  
[nida.edu.au/policies](http://nida.edu.au/policies)

### STUDENT COUNCIL OF NIDA (SCON)

SCON represents students from each degree, diploma and discipline and exists to give students a voice at NIDA. SCON members initiate a range of social activities and regularly engage with senior staff to ensure that any concerns that may arise are dealt with promptly.

### EQUITY AND INCLUSION

NIDA is pleased to announce the appointment of its first Equity and Inclusion Manager, Dr Alexia Derbas. In her current role, Alexia will guide diversity initiatives and advise staff and students on best practices to foster a diverse, welcoming and inclusive environment.

### FIRST NATIONS

NIDA is committed to supporting First Nations students and their stories, and is dedicated to the development of Indigenous creativity and content. NIDA's Uncle-in-Residence and First Nations Cultural Advisor, Matthew Doyle, works with students to help them navigate their courses, as well as sharing his knowledge in First Nations culture and traditions.

Our Head of First Nations, Travis Cardona, is leading NIDA to engage with First Nations creatives, organisations and communities; directing and implementing strategy; and connecting and supporting First Nations staff and students at NIDA, as well as when they transition into the creative industries.

Rhoda Roberts AO has been providing valuable guidance and leadership at NIDA since 2021 and continues to be an important contributor to our community.



# TUITION FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All students, including domestic and international students, are required to pay tuition fees for any course at NIDA.

Domestic students in the BFA and MFA courses can apply for FEE-HELP, an Australian Government loan scheme that assists eligible students in paying all or part of their tuition fees. To find out information and how to apply, visit the Australian Government website, [studyassist.gov.au](http://studyassist.gov.au).

NIDA offers a scholarship program supporting students in financial need. To learn more about scholarships, visit [nida.edu.au/study/students/scholarships](http://nida.edu.au/study/students/scholarships)

NIDA is an approved VET Student Loans provider. Students in the Vocational Diploma courses can apply for VET Student Loans, an Australian Government loan scheme that assists eligible students in paying part of their tuition fees. To find out information and how to apply, visit the Australian Government website, [dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans](http://dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans)

All NIDA policies and procedures including those related to fee refunds, can be found online at [nida.edu.au/study/students/policies](http://nida.edu.au/study/students/policies)

For all other information about fees, email us at [applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au) or call 02 9697 7600.

**Applications for 2025 intake open Monday 3 June 2024**  
**Closing Dates for applications (cut off midnight)**

**Monday 16 September 2024**

BFA (Acting) , Diploma Musical Theatre , Diploma Stage and Screen Performance

**Monday 30 September 2024**

BFA (all other courses), MFA (Dramatic Writing), MFA (Directing), Diploma of Screen and Media (Specialist Make-up Services), Diploma Live Production and Technical Services

**Wednesday 16 October 2024**

MFA (Cultural Leadership)

NIDA strongly encourages applications from First Nations students, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) students, and other under-represented backgrounds.



# NIDA CAREER PATHWAYS

NIDA trains the full suite of roles necessary to create and deliver performance experiences for audiences all over Australia and around the world. This includes theatre, film, television, dance, opera, live events, interactive gaming and often jobs outside arts and entertainment.

## Career pathway key

### Bachelor of Fine Art

- A** Acting
- C** Costume
- D** Design for Performance
- P** Props and Effects
- S** Set Construction Technologies
- T** Technical Theatre and Stage Management

### Master of Fine Art

- CL** Cultural Leadership
- Di** Directing
- DW** Dramatic Writing

### Vocational Diplomas

- L** Live Production and Technical Services CUA50420
- MT** Musical Theatre CUA50220
- MS** Screen and Media (Specialist Make-up Services) CUA51020
- SS** Stage and Screen Performance 10914NAT

## ARTS/CULTURAL MANAGERS

Arts and cultural advisor and advocate **CL**  
 Arts and cultural consultant **CL**  
 Artistic director **D, P, Di, CL**  
 Community cultural programmer **CL**  
 Creative producer **CL**  
 Creative social innovator **CL**  
 Cultural facilities manager **CL**  
 Cultural policy and strategy expert **CL**  
 Cultural researcher **CL**  
 Curator **CL**  
 Event director **Di**  
 Executive director **CL**  
 Production manager **Di, CL**  
 Program manager **Di, CL**  
 Resident/touring director **Di, CL**  
 Theatre producer **CL**

## DESIGNERS/MAKERS

Animator **P**  
 Art department **P, D**  
 Art fabrication **P**  
 Art finisher **D, C, P**  
 Art installer **S, T, P**  
 Buyer-costume/props /sets **P, D, C, T**  
 Concept model-maker **P**  
 Construction supervisor-stage/screen **S, T**  
 Costume assistant or standby **C**  
 Costume art finisher **C**  
 Costume buyer **C**  
 Costume curator **P, D, C**

Costume cutter **C**  
 Costume designer **P, D**  
 Costume designer (interactive technology) **P, D**  
 Costume finisher **C**  
 Costume maker **C**  
 Costume researcher **P, D, C**  
 Costume standby **P, D, C**  
 Costume supervisor **C**  
 Design assistant/associate **P, D**  
 Design educator in the arts **P, D**  
 Designer **P, D**  
 Digital fabrication **P**  
 Draftsperson **D, P, T**  
 Event designer **P, D**  
 Exhibition display **P, D**  
 Footwear designer **P, D**  
 Footwear maker **C**  
 Hair stylist **MS**  
 Headwear designer **P, D, C**  
 Headwear maker **C**  
 Game designer **P, D**  
 Installation designer **P, D, T**  
 Installation manager **P, D, T**  
 Illustrator (costume) **P, D**  
 Illustrator (pre-visualisation) **P, D**  
 Lighting designer **D, T**  
 Make-up artist **MS**  
 Milliner **C**  
 Model maker **D, P**  
 Mould maker **P**  
 Practical effects maker **P**  
 Production designer **P, D**  
 Properties designer **P, D**

Properties maker **P**  
 Properties standby **P**  
 Prosthetics maker **P, MS**  
 Puppet maker **P**  
 Scenic artist **P**  
 Sculptor **P**  
 Set builder **S**  
 Set decorator/dresser **D, P**  
 Set designer **P, D**  
 Set director **P, D, S**  
 Special effects artist **P**  
 Special effects designer **S**  
 Special effects make-up artist **MS**  
 Special effects make-up designer **MS**  
 Speciality props **P**  
 Speciality costume **C**  
 Stagehand stage/screen **S, L**  
 Storyboard artist **D**  
 Systems integrator **S**  
 Technical designer **S**  
 Theatre maker **T**  
 Theatrical tailor **C**  
 3D modeller **P**  
 3D fabrication **P**  
 3D sculptor **P**  
 Video content designer **D**  
 Video for live performance designer **T**  
 Wardrobe manager **C**  
 Wig maker **MS**  
 Workshop manager **C, P, S**

## DIRECTORS AND WRITERS

Artistic director **Di, CL, D**  
 Director in digital (video, game design) **Di**  
 Director – stage and screen **Di**  
 Dramaturg **DW**  
 Event director **Di**  
 Immersive theatre director **Di**  
 Immersive theatre writer **DW**  
 Opera director **Di**  
 Performance director **Di**  
 Playwright **DW**  
 Resident/touring director **Di, CL**  
 Screenwriter **DW**  
 TV director **Di**  
 Writer in performance genres (radio, video games and digital media) **DW**  
 Writer for audiobooks **DW**  
 Writer for stage and screen **DW, SS**

## PERFORMERS

Actors-musical theatre **A, MT**  
 Actors-screen **A, SS**  
 Actors-stage **A, MT, SS**  
 Cabaret performer **A, MT**  
 Dancer **MT**  
 Motion capture artist **A, SS**  
 Movement coach **A**  
 Musical theatre performer **A, MT**  
 Opera performer **A, MT**  
 Performer- stage/screen **A, MT, SS**  
 Presenter **A, MT, SS**  
 Singer **A, MT**

Singing actor **A, MT**  
 Voice artist **A, SS**  
 Voice-over actor **A, SS**

## TECHNICAL PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERS

Assistant stage manager **T**  
 Automation operator **T**  
 Automation technician **T**  
 Backstage crew member **T, L**  
 Draftsperson **D, P, T**  
 Events manager **T**  
 Foley artist (sounds for film, video, and other media) **T, L**  
 Lighting designer **D, T**  
 Lighting operator **T, L**  
 Lighting programmer **T, L**  
 Lighting technician **T, L**  
 Mechanist **S**  
 Project manager **T**  
 Production manager **S, T**  
 Sound designer **T**  
 Sound operator **T, L**  
 Sound recordist **T**  
 Stage manager **T**  
 Staging technician **S, T, L**  
 Technical director **T**  
 Technical manager **S, T**  
 Theatrical technician **T, L**  
 Video programmer **T**  
 Vision systems operator **T, L**



# SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2025



NIDA offers a range of scholarships to support students in attending NIDA, helping to cover living expenses and/or tuition fees.

Some scholarships can be awarded prior to arrival at NIDA and may cover one year or multiple years of a degree. We also offer scholarships at the beginning of each academic year, supporting our students to continue their NIDA journey.

Scholarships are available for domestic applicants (those who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia, a citizen of New Zealand or the holder of an Australian humanitarian visa).

In 2024, the NIDA Foundation Trust awarded close to \$1.2 million in scholarship support to students, ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 per year.

We are committed to building a diverse community of students and strongly encourage applications from students of diverse backgrounds. While most scholarships are available to students who can demonstrate financial need, we also have specific scholarships dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students from regional or remote areas, female-identifying students, students who are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), and more.

NIDA gratefully collaborates with generous industry partners, philanthropic organisations and individuals, trusts, foundations and bequests to offer a wide range of scholarship opportunities.

To find out more about scholarships, visit [nida.edu.au/study/students/scholarships](https://nida.edu.au/study/students/scholarships)





# CONSERVISM

SCON is organised and facilitated entirely by student representatives. Students apply to be a part of the council for the year, as a voice for their discipline and the wider student body. SCON has three roles. Firstly, facilitating student events, inside and outside the building including PROM, talent shows, PRIDE and Welcome Week. We strive to offer students opportunities to decompress and connect with one another both inside your course and within the wider NIDA community.

Secondly, we are a conduit for individuals and cohorts to hold discussions with staff, faculty, and the executive arm of the institution. Thirdly, we hold positions on the Education Committee, Academic Board and WHS committees (amongst others), and are directly involved in wider discussions of the future of NIDA. Most of all, we are your friends and colleagues, there to help in any way we can and working together to ensure a vibrant, respectful environment for us to flourish within.

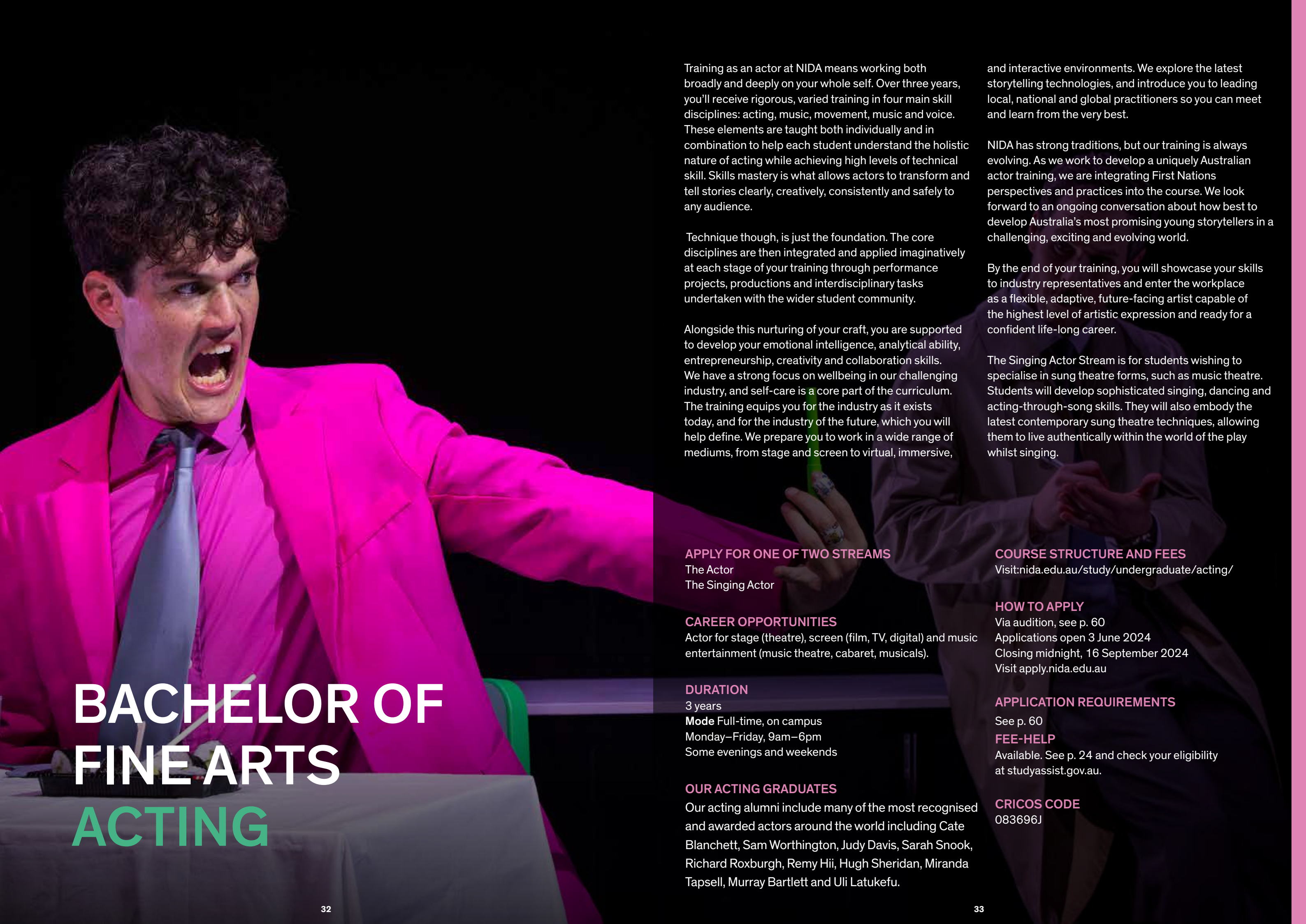
We support students to extract the most from their unique talents and engage with a myriad of unique people and experiences in our community. Find us anytime you need help, wish to raise an issue, can't find a room, or don't know where Guzman y Gomez is (it's next to IGA across the road at UNSW).

**Rachael Palazzi**

SCON President, 2024

BFA (Props and Effects) 2025





# BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS ACTING

Training as an actor at NIDA means working both broadly and deeply on your whole self. Over three years, you'll receive rigorous, varied training in four main skill disciplines: acting, music, movement, music and voice. These elements are taught both individually and in combination to help each student understand the holistic nature of acting while achieving high levels of technical skill. Skills mastery is what allows actors to transform and tell stories clearly, creatively, consistently and safely to any audience.

Technique though, is just the foundation. The core disciplines are then integrated and applied imaginatively at each stage of your training through performance projects, productions and interdisciplinary tasks undertaken with the wider student community.

Alongside this nurturing of your craft, you are supported to develop your emotional intelligence, analytical ability, entrepreneurship, creativity and collaboration skills. We have a strong focus on wellbeing in our challenging industry, and self-care is a core part of the curriculum. The training equips you for the industry as it exists today, and for the industry of the future, which you will help define. We prepare you to work in a wide range of mediums, from stage and screen to virtual, immersive,

and interactive environments. We explore the latest storytelling technologies, and introduce you to leading local, national and global practitioners so you can meet and learn from the very best.

NIDA has strong traditions, but our training is always evolving. As we work to develop a uniquely Australian actor training, we are integrating First Nations perspectives and practices into the course. We look forward to an ongoing conversation about how best to develop Australia's most promising young storytellers in a challenging, exciting and evolving world.

By the end of your training, you will showcase your skills to industry representatives and enter the workplace as a flexible, adaptive, future-facing artist capable of the highest level of artistic expression and ready for a confident life-long career.

The Singing Actor Stream is for students wishing to specialise in sung theatre forms, such as music theatre. Students will develop sophisticated singing, dancing and acting-through-song skills. They will also embody the latest contemporary sung theatre techniques, allowing them to live authentically within the world of the play whilst singing.

## APPLY FOR ONE OF TWO STREAMS

The Actor  
The Singing Actor

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Actor for stage (theatre), screen (film, TV, digital) and music entertainment (music theatre, cabaret, musicals).

## DURATION

3 years  
**Mode** Full-time, on campus  
Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm  
Some evenings and weekends

## OUR ACTING GRADUATES

Our acting alumni include many of the most recognised and awarded actors around the world including Cate Blanchett, Sam Worthington, Judy Davis, Sarah Snook, Richard Roxburgh, Remy Hii, Hugh Sheridan, Miranda Tapsell, Murray Bartlett and Uli Latukefu.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit: [nida.edu.au/study/undergraduate/acting/](https://nida.edu.au/study/undergraduate/acting/)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via audition, see p. 60  
Applications open 3 June 2024  
Closing midnight, 16 September 2024  
Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

See p. 60

## FEE-HELP

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au).

## CRICOS CODE

083696J



A man with glasses and a beard is working on a costume in a workshop. He is wearing a blue cardigan over a white t-shirt. He is using a pair of scissors to cut a piece of fabric. The background is filled with various fabrics and costumes.

# BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS COSTUME

The BFA Costume program will equip you to become a professional costume maker and costume supervisor for theatre, film, television and the entertainment industries. With world-class facilities and a wealth of diverse presentation opportunities, you will not only gain a solid theoretical understanding of traditional and emerging skills in costume making, but also priceless opportunities to collaborate on full-scale productions from brief to execution.

Working in small group classes, you will practice and develop skills in costume cutting (pattern making), fitting and construction, fabric dyeing, art finishing and fabrication, underpinnings, leatherwork, theatrical tailoring and headwear. Your knowledge is further deepened through teaching by industry professionals equipped with diverse historical and cultural knowledge and practices that will strengthen your understanding

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Costume supervisor, TV costume coordinator, costume maker, costume cutter, costume assistant or standby, theatrical tailor, buyer, stylist, costume art finisher, milliner, wardrobe manager across the creative industries including theatrical performance (film, TV, theatre, opera, dance), digital (film, screen, video, game design), immersive theatre and events.

## DURATION

3 years

**Mode** Full-time, on campus

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

## OUR COSTUME GRADUATES

Our graduates are employed by Opera Australia, The Australian Ballet, Sydney Theatre Company, Cosprop (London), Bangarra Dance Theatre and Ensemble Theatre, among others. They have worked in live theatre productions such as *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and *Frozen*, and on films such as *Aquaman*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Three Thousand Years of Longing*, *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, Bazmark Films' *Elvis*, and TV programs such as *Dancing with the Stars*.

of the traditions, values and knowledge carried within the arts industry.

By the third year, you will take responsibility for a team as a costume supervisor on a student production. This includes budget management and collaboration with actors, stage managers and costume designers. To complete your degree, you will take your skills on a placement with leading theatre, opera and dance companies, as well as major film and television studios.

Collaborating with leading guests and specialists in opera, theatre and film costume in Australia and the world will provide a unique network development opportunity, supporting your transition into the industry. You will graduate with a robust skill set, valuable industry connections and confidence about your future.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/study/undergraduate/costume/](https://nida.edu.au/study/undergraduate/costume/)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via garment submission, portfolio and interview.

See p. 60

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

See p. 60

## FEE-HELP

Available. See pg 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)

## CRICOS CODE

083698G



A student with curly hair, wearing a light blue shirt and a necklace, is focused on working on a model set inside a clear glass box. The background is a workshop filled with various materials and equipment.

# BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design for Performance (DFP) course will equip you with the knowledge, practical skills, critical thinking and necessary experiences to graduate as curious and empathetic set and costume designers, storytellers and collaborators, capable of contributing to all areas of the performing arts and entertainment industries including live performance such as theatre, dance and opera, as well as film, television, digital media and immersive experiences.

At NIDA, learning is embedded in individual and collaborative design projects, with students, teachers and industry mentors working collectively to create a fertile environment for mutual learning that brings together the best thinking and doing. Working in small groups in professionally equipped studios, theatres and workshops, you will develop your design skills with a focus on intellectual inquiry and sustainable practice.

NIDA was recently named one of the top 10 costume design courses in the world. A strength of the course is its holistic approach to scenography where you will learn both set and costume design. You will apply rigorous critical and dramaturgical principles complemented

by drawing, model making and digital modelling skills. These skills are utilised to interrogate the language and key theories of theatre, fashion, architecture and art, as well as costume history and construction methods, spatial forms, materials and technologies to develop and create innovative set and costume designs that instil meaning into performance and shape the audience experience in a range of contexts.

Design for Performance acknowledges the continuous practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytelling in Australia and its connection to understanding Country. In *Story and Place* you will engage with First Nations artists and knowledge holders to build your understanding of these profound concepts.

NIDA's embodied learning and collaborative environment values and rewards curiosity, initiative, experimentation and creativity. As critical thinkers and creative design leaders, you will be empowered to embrace artistic risk-taking, generate new ideas and entrepreneurial opportunities, in preparation for successful career paths that will shape the ongoing transformation of the performance landscape.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Designer of set, production, costume, lighting, video and properties; art director or design educator in the arts, entertainment and creative industries, including for traditional performance (film, TV, theatre, opera, dance), digital (film, screen, video, game design), immersive theatre and events.

## DURATION

3 years

**Mode** Full-time, on campus

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

## OUR DESIGN GRADUATES

Our award-winning graduates have been the recipients of numerous awards including Academy Awards, BAFTAs, AACTAs, APDG Awards, Green Room and Sydney Theatre Awards. They have designed for Cirque du Soleil, Bangarra Dance Theatre, and international feature films including *Elvis*, *Aladdin*, *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *The Matrix*, *Romeo + Juliet*, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Parts 1 and 2*, *Watchmen*, *300*, *Garden State*, *The Favourite*, *Game of Thrones*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *True History of the Kelly Gang*, *21 Grams*, numerous Olympic Games and more.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/design-for-performance](https://nida.edu.au/design-for-performance)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via portfolio and interview, see p. 60

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

See p. 60

## FEE-HELP

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)

## CRICOS CODE

083699F





# BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS PROPS AND EFFECTS

The BFA Props and Effects (PFX) seeks to prepare you to pursue a successful career in the performing arts and entertainment industries. You will be empowered with the knowledge, practical skills and breadth of experience necessary to become inclusive and sustainable designer-makers of both digital and physical properties and effects for events, entertainment and artistic productions across platforms.

Through the practical implementation of your knowledge and skills, you will evolve into culturally aware and sustainable post-digital practitioners able to imagine, develop and realise ideas, while working individually and collaboratively in small and large teams. You will learn to employ creative thinking skills to determine when and how to bring together digital design, visualisation and fabrication technologies with traditional plant equipment, power and hand tools, to fulfill project requirements.

Props and Effects is a course driven by experimentation, in which you will explore your ideas by 'thinking

through making' as the means to fully realising complex collaborative and individual projects. From conceptualisation and ideation to analysis, proposition and execution, this holistic approach to practice will teach you how to adapt and manage workflows in response to each project's contextual parameters.

As well as accessing various workshop spaces with tools and equipment for more hands-on fabrication, you will have access to a digital lab with equipment for numerical manufacturing, including laser cutters, 3D printers and CNC machines, allowing you to pioneer new fabrication processes and keep up-to-date with an ever-evolving industry. You will be mentored, guided and supported by NIDA's cross-educational collaborators and industry partners, broadening your understanding of the artistic and entrepreneurial practices associated with the dramatic arts and entertainment industries. You will leave NIDA with a robust skillset, practical experiences, valuable industry connections and confident about your professional future.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Props designer-maker, scenic artist, set decorator, animator, puppet maker, model maker, digital fabricator, special effects artist, draftsperson, 3D modeler, project manager, properties workshop manager, freelance artist, set dresser across traditional performance (film, TV, theatre, opera, dance), digital (film, screen, video, game design), immersive theatre and events.

## DURATION

3 years

**Mode** Full-time, on campus

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

## OUR PROPERTIES AND EFFECTS GRADUATES

Our graduates have been employed by Cirque du Soleil, Creature Technology Company, Wētā Workshops, Aardman, Sydney Theatre Co. and Opera Australia, among others.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/props-and-effects](https://nida.edu.au/props-and-effects)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via portfolio and interview, see p. 60

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

See p. 60

## FEE-HELP

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)

## CRICOS CODE

083697G





# BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS SET CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Providing an unparalleled learning opportunity in Australia, and as one of only a few programs available worldwide, this course offers unique practical and immersive learning experiences. It equips students with broad-ranging creative, conceptual, practical and technical skills essential for constructing performance environments in the performing arts and entertainment industries.

Working in small groups within the NIDA set construction workshop, students develop into practitioners capable of interpreting a director's and a designer's vision. They learn to offer staging approaches from multiple standpoints, creatively interpreting briefs from fabrication, mechanical and automation perspectives. Thorough training in timber and steel fabrication, rigging, structural, mechanical and electronic concepts leading to the automation of scenic elements is provided. Additionally, students collaborate with artists and curatorial staff in creating and exhibiting fine art installations and performances, broadening their employment opportunities.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Staging technician, set builder, construction manager, theatre mechanist, technical manager, technical designer, art/exhibition installer, special effects technician/designer, systems integrator, automation technician, architectural consultant in the arts, entertainment and creative industries, including traditional performance (film, TV, theatre, opera, dance), immersive theatre and events.

## DURATION

3 years

**Mode** Full-time, on campus

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

## OUR SCENIC CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGIES GRADUATES

Our graduates have been employed by Disney Studios, Warner Bros., Opera Australia, Sydney Theatre Company, Stagekings Australia, All Scene All Props UK, Sold Out, Henn Projekt Germany, Pollard Productions, Tri-Point Productions, Dan FX, SimpleMotion, Stage Technologies, TAIT Towers USA, The Australian Ballet, MnR Constructions, and more.

These industry-focused workshop skills are complemented and expanded upon by topics such as project management, Work, Health and Safety, risk analysis, technical writing and presentation skills. Wētā

To complete the degree, students have the opportunity to utilise their skills through a placement with a leading production company, either in Australia or internationally. Employment opportunities span theatre, film, events, automation, rigging and special effects for film, as well as construction coordination and management. Graduates leave NIDA with a robust skill set, valuable industry connections and confidence in their future within the arts and entertainment industries.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/undergraduate/set-construction-technologies](https://nida.edu.au/undergraduate/set-construction-technologies)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via portfolio and interview, see p. 60

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

See p. 60

## FEE-HELP

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)

## CRICOS CODE

083700G



A young man with short brown hair is seen in profile, focused on operating a stage lighting console. He is wearing a dark t-shirt. The console is filled with numerous buttons and sliders, some of which are illuminated with green and red lights. In the background, a woman is visible, possibly another student or a performer, standing near a desk with a laptop. The setting appears to be a rehearsal space or a theatre control room, with warm, ambient lighting.

# BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS TECHNICAL THEATRE AND STAGE MANAGEMENT

With high employment outcomes, this immersive, practice-based course will guide you on your journey to becoming a successful and adept technical theatre and stage management practitioner.

You will learn to work in diverse performance genres, utilising a wide range of tools and processes informed by an appreciation of artistic and dramaturgical intent, creative collaboration and storytelling principles. You will learn to manage, integrate and communicate the technical requirements for theatre, live events, musicals, opera and concerts, while developing your analytical and entrepreneurial skills towards a sustainable career, noting too that environmentally sustainable practices within the performing arts and entertainment industries are fundamental to its continuing evolution.

You will graduate equipped with a broad range of experiences and knowledge required to take on key roles in the industry and an understanding of your role within the creative collaboration process. These skills are also translatable to screen production roles. Working with

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, video designer, production manager, event manager, technical manager, theatre technician.

## DURATION

3 years

**Mode** Full-time, on campus

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

## OUR TECHNICAL THEATRE AND STAGE MANAGEMENT GRADUATES

Recent graduates have been employed by Sydney Theatre Company, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Dance Company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, The Australian Ballet, Cirque du Soleil, Abbey Theatre (Dublin), Sydney Festival, Adelaide Festival, Michael Cassell Group, RGM Productions (London), Crossroads Live, Disney Theatrical Group, PRG Scenic Technology (USA) and more.

industry-standard equipment, you will learn the theory and practice of stage management, as well as lighting, sound and video design for live performance. You will acquire a high level of practical, hands-on experience as a stage manager and in lighting, sound or video roles on live productions during NIDA's three student production seasons.

As part of your training, you will have the opportunity to undertake industry placements. This may include working with major theatre, opera or dance companies, commercial musicals, arts festivals, and leading arts practitioners in Australia and overseas to gain real-world experience, leading you to a sustainable career in the arts as a highly sought-after technical theatre and stage management professional.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/technical-theatre-and-stage-management](https://nida.edu.au/technical-theatre-and-stage-management)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via creative response, project and interview, see p. 60

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

See p. 60

## FEE-HELP

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)

## CRICOS CODE

083701F





# MASTER OF FINE ARTS CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

NIDA's MFA Cultural Leadership invites participants to explore the ways in which positive change is enacted throughout the arts and cultural sectors. Consequently, this course seeks not only to create a vision for our shared future but to develop strategies that allow those visions to be realised. Understanding the interdependencies between environmental, social, and economic ecosystems is embedded in the program, to effectively foster inclusive and diverse cultures of leadership.

It is designed specifically for those who already have active roles in the arts and cultural sector and who aspire to facilitate resilient, new leadership models. We are looking for courageous and aspirational professionals passionate about questioning and debating the role of the arts and cultural sector in our society, and your place within it.

Through part-time online learning and face-to-face intensives at NIDA's Sydney campus, you will be encouraged to exchange and collaborate in innovative

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Executive director, general manager, creative social innovator, theatre director, creative producer, interdisciplinary artist, community cultural programmer, company manager, cultural facilities manager, artistic director, theatre-maker, cultural researcher, arts and cultural consultant, curator, cultural policy and strategy expert, arts and cultural advisor and advocate.

## DURATION

30 months

**Mode** Part-time online,  
on-campus intensives in Sydney

## OUR CULTURAL LEADERSHIP GRADUATES

Our graduates are actively engaged in a wide range of contexts including arts festivals, performing arts companies, local government and arts funding bodies, libraries, performing arts venues, independent artists and producers, museums and galleries, creative industries and cultural service organisations.

approaches to creative professional practice. Topics covered include governance, cultural policy, change management, communication, advocacy, cultural transformation, sustainability and practice-based research.

Throughout the course, you will develop into a future-focused arts leader. You will be taught by experienced cultural leaders and supported by senior NIDA academics. In recognition of the breadth of skills, knowledge, and diverse lived experience that students bring to the course, we encourage and support a unique peer-learning environment.

The course includes the opportunity to undertake a research-driven, international case study and placement to enhance your networks, and a collaborative capstone project through which you put your knowledge into practice and share the expertise and skills gained through the program.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/study/postgraduate/mfa-cultural-leadership](https://nida.edu.au/study/postgraduate/mfa-cultural-leadership)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via written application and interview, see p. 56  
Applications open 3 June 2024  
Closing midnight, 16 October 2024  
Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate degree or at least five years of documented professional experience in the arts, cultural, creative or other relevant sector/s, including evidence of sector leadership experience, see p. 62

## FEE-HELP

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)





# MASTER OF FINE ARTS DIRECTING

NIDA has been nurturing talented, versatile, and visionary artists for five decades, honing their craft and deepening their understanding of the directing process. Our training is renowned for its emphasis on studio-based learning and fostering the development of each individual's distinctive directorial voice.

As a student at NIDA, you will be encouraged to explore and articulate your artistic vision, engage with contemporary audiences and help shape the future of the arts and entertainment industries. Our curriculum revolves around immersive, real-world projects spanning classical and modern theatre, screenwork, opera, musicals and devised performances. You will collaborate closely with leading figures from the Australian and international entertainment scene, gaining invaluable insights and mentorship.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Theatre director, opera director, film and television director, artistic director, rehearsal director, event director, director in digital environments (video, game design), immersive theatre director.

## DURATION

18 months

## Mode

Full-time, on campus in Sydney

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

## OUR DIRECTING GRADUATES

NIDA graduates are nationally and internationally recognised and have gone on to win prestigious awards, including several AFI Awards, Australian and international film festival awards, Sydney Film Critics' Awards, Directors' Guild Awards, the Prix Italia Award for Directing, Helpmann Awards and Sydney Theatre Awards. Our graduates have been employed by Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Melbourne Theatre Company, Opera Australia, Schaubühne Berlin, Royal Court Theatre (London), Bazmark (Baz Luhrmann) Films, Warner Bros. Entertainment and more

\* Opportunities to travel interstate and internationally are dependent on prevailing conditions and are not guaranteed.

Throughout your journey, you will have the chance to interact with actors, designers, production companies, and performing arts venues both in Australia and abroad, whether virtually or through physical travel experiences. As you approach the culmination of your studies, you will conceive, cast and direct a short production of your choosing, to be showcased by NIDA. This capstone project will be attended not only by the public but also by artistic directors and industry professionals, providing a platform to showcase your talent.

Before graduating, you will undertake an industry placement, gaining firsthand experience and cementing vital connections to kickstart your career. Armed with advanced skills in collaboration and leadership, a thorough understanding of the directing process and a robust network of industry contacts, you will leave NIDA ready to make your mark.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/study/postgraduate/mfa-directing](https://nida.edu.au/study/postgraduate/mfa-directing)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via portfolio, essay and interview, see p. 56

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate degree or five years of professional experience in an area relevant to directing, see p. 63


## FEE-HELP

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)

## CRICOS CODE

113112H





# MASTER OF FINE ARTS DRAMATIC WRITING

The MFA Dramatic Writing is an industry-focused course designed to support and accelerate the careers of new writers telling compelling stories across stage and screen.

Students undergo a rigorous exploration of the building blocks of dramatic craft as applied across theatre, film, television, interactive and immersive writing. This is a practice-based course that structures learning around imaginative writing exercises and the development of a portfolio of industry-focused projects, including two full-length works and multiple outlines ready to pitch. Students also develop professional friendships and undertake collaborative projects, such as working in TV writers' rooms, as well as working with directors and actors in the workshopping of scenes, and production of works across stage and screen.

This is an intensive course designed to prepare students for life as a professional writer; however, it also offers flexibility and a culturally safe, supportive and stimulating environment within which students can be curious,

experiment with form and subject matter, and explore their own unique imagination and voice.

We believe that some of our most important stories are those least told and therefore strongly encourage applications from First Nations writers, and those from underrepresented communities. Building inclusive and collaborative environments and understanding issues of story ownership are viewed by NIDA as the core to developing an ethical practice.

The course is focused on developing versatile and adaptive dramatic writers capable of having sustainable writing careers. With the capacity to work across theatre, film and television, students receive a thorough overview of those industries, illustrated by industry guests, and learn how to generate opportunities to pitch themselves and their projects. NIDA's strong links with industry facilitate pathways into those fields, as well as allowing students to begin establishing a network of professional connections.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Writing across dramatic genres, including playwright, screenwriter for film and television, narrative designer for games and interactive, as well as story development roles across genres.

## DURATION

18 months

## Mode

Full-time, blended delivery (online and on campus)

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

## OUR WRITING GRADUATES

As writing for stage, screen and other entertainment platforms is typically a freelance occupation, you will be equipped with the knowledge and entrepreneurial skills to access and navigate a portfolio career. Our award-winning graduates have been employed as playwrights and as writers for theatre, film, TV, and interactive media.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/ /study/postgraduate/mfa-dramatic-writing](https://nida.edu.au/study/postgraduate/mfa-dramatic-writing)

## HOW TO APPLY

Via interview and written work, see p. 56

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate degree or five years professional experience in an area relevant to writing, see p. 63


## FEE-HELP

Available . See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au](https://studyassist.gov.au)

## CRICOS CODE

113111J



A young man with dark, curly hair is focused on adjusting a large, professional stage light fixture. The light has a bright, glowing lens and a complex internal structure with various wires and components. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a stage or rehearsal space.

CUA50420

# DIPLOMA OF LIVE PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

This course is an intensive year of practical study that allows you to plan, coordinate carry out, and evaluate technical requirements for productions, events or exhibitions in the creative arts industry.

You will also learn how to organise lighting, audio and vision resources, and take part in their installation and operation processes for live production environments.

Your tutors are practicing professionals from the arts and entertainment industry. The course is supported by

industry, including Opera Australia, Foundation Theatres, Sydney Theatre Company and Sydney Coliseum.

The course includes site visits to a range of Sydney theatre venues. Classes are practical, providing you with a hands-on approach to learning. Throughout the course, you will apply your skills to live performance and film projects, collaborating with students from other creative disciplines across NIDA. As a key part of the course, you will also undertake an industry placement, enabling you to develop networks and pursue an area of specialisation.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities include roles such as lighting technician, lighting operator, audio technician, radio mic technician, audio operator, vision system technician, vision system operation, and technical supervisor.

## DURATION

1 year

Mode Full-time, on campus

## HOW TO APPLY

Via interview, see p. 64

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-live-production-and-technical-services](http://nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-live-production-and-technical-services)


## VET STUDENT LOANS

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [studyassist.gov.au/vet-student](http://studyassist.gov.au/vet-student)

## RTO CODE

90349





CUA51020

# DIPLoma OF SCREEN AND MEDIA (SPECIALIST MAKE-UP SERVICES)

This practical and intensive year of study provides you with the essential skills and knowledge to work in a broad range of creative contexts including in photography, theatre, music-video and film productions.

NIDA's tutors are working practitioners and specialists in their field of expertise.

The course is supported by Pinchgut Opera and includes visits to working industry venues such as Opera Australia

and City Recital Hall. Placement on NIDA productions allows you to hone your craft, build your professional portfolio and collaborate with current and future industry professionals.

At the end of the course, you present a live and filmed showcase of your work in one of NIDA's theatres. Attended by entertainment industry practitioners, producers and agents, this is an ideal opportunity for you to display your skills and connect with industry.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Make-up artist, hair and wig stylist, special effects and prosthetics make-up artist across traditional performance (film, TV, theatre, opera, dance), digital (film, screen, video, game design), immersive theatre and events.

## DURATION

1 year

Mode Full-time, on campus

## HOW TO APPLY

Via interview, see p. 65

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 30 September 2024

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-screen-and-media-specialist-make-up-services](https://nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-screen-and-media-specialist-make-up-services)

## VET STUDENT LOANS

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students](https://dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students)

## RTO CODE

90349





10914 NAT

# DIPLOMA OF STAGE AND SCREEN PERFORMANCE

This year-long intensive and practical course puts you centre stage and in front of the camera, giving you the tools to develop and perform your own stories for stage and screen.

During the course, you learn how to collaborate with others to develop and create original works for various media. Training includes classes in improvisation technique, acting for stage and screen, stage and screen combat, audition technique and screen testing. The course also provides masterclasses with industry guests.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Performer and creator for stage and screen.

## DURATION

1 year

Mode Full-time, on campus

## HOW TO APPLY

Via audition and interview, see p. 65

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 16 September 2024

You will learn about the multiplicity of roles, technologies and methodologies that exist within the theatre, film, television and digital industries. NIDA tutors are working practitioners and specialists in their field of expertise.

At the end of the course, you present a live and filmed showcase of your work in one of NIDA's theatres. Attended by entertainment industry practitioners, producers, directors and agents, this is an ideal opportunity for you to present your skills and connect with industry.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-stage-and-screen-performance](https://nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-stage-and-screen-performance)

## VET STUDENT LOANS

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students](https://dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students)

## RTO CODE

90349





CUA50220

# DIPLOMA OF MUSICAL THEATRE

This course is an intensive year of study that prepares you to become a 'triple threat' - singer, dancer and actor. An industry-driven course, NIDA's tutors are working practitioners and specialists in their field of expertise.

The course provides you with the necessary rigour and skill required to get a foothold in musical theatre. You are trained to respond creatively to scripts and songs, collaborate effectively with other performers, and to make informed decisions about character interpretation. Training is practical, with an even distribution of classes in each of the disciplines of

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Musical theatre performer, singer, dancer, actor, cabaret performer.

## DURATION

1 year

**Mode** Full-time, on campus

## HOW TO APPLY

Via audition and interview, see p. 65

Applications open 3 June 2024

Closing midnight, 16 September 2024

singing, dancing and acting.

Subjects cover ensemble and solo singing for a range of musical theatre repertoire, improvisation technique, acting technique for both spoken and sung dialogue, screen acting, and ensemble and individual dance in a variety of styles.

At the end of the course, you present a live showcase of your work in one of NIDA's theatres. Attended by entertainment industry practitioners, producers, directors and agents, this is an ideal opportunity for you to present your skills and to connect with industry.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit [nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-musical-theatre](https://nida.edu.au/study/vocational-studies/diploma-of-musical-theatre)

## VET STUDENT LOANS

Available. See p. 24 and check your eligibility at [dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students](https://dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students)

## RTO CODE

90349



# READY TO APPLY?

We are keen to hear from passionate and courageous individuals who want to create stories across stages, screens and beyond.

NIDA strongly encourages First Nations applicants, and applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.

## APPLICANTS SEEKING ADMISSION MUST:

- Have reached the age of 18 before the commencement of the course\*.
- For the BFA: hold a Year 12 Certificate or equivalent from any state or territory in Australia or overseas; ATAR is not required.
- For the MFA: have an undergraduate degree or be able to evidence at least five years of professional experience in a relevant area.
- Be fluent in spoken English and proficient in written English. International students need 8.0 IELTS (Academic) or equivalent for MFA courses and BFA Acting; 7.0 IELTS (Academic) or equivalent for all other BFA courses.
- Complete the audition or requirements for their chosen course (please refer to [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au) from 3 June 2024 for full details).

\* in exceptional circumstances this may be waived

## ROUND 1

### 1. CHOOSE A COURSE

Visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au) for detailed and up-to-date information about the courses on offer, selection criteria for each course, and NIDA official events, talks and demonstrations.

### 2. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted directly to NIDA via [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au). Follow the prompts on the application page and make sure you include all supporting documentation.

This year, to give more people the opportunity to apply, there will be NO APPLICATION FEE for any 2025 full-time NIDA course.

Applications open 3 June 2024.

Once you've submitted your application, you can then submit a scholarship application via our website.

NOTE: late applications may be considered where there are places available. Applicants will be notified whether they will be required for an audition or interview.

### APPLICATION SUPPORT

We're here to help you – for any questions related to your applications contact us at: [applications@nida.edu.au](mailto:applications@nida.edu.au)

## ROUND 2

### 3. PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION/ INTERVIEW

If you are successful in the first round, you will be invited for an interview or recalled for an audition.

Full audition and interview requirements are available at [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au).

### 4. UNDERTAKE YOUR AUDITION/ INTERVIEW

All interviews and recalls for non-Acting BFA courses will be held face-to-face unless otherwise advised.

Recalls for Acting will be held either in most Australian capital cities or online via Zoom.

### 5. RECEIVE AN OFFER

If you are successful and NIDA offers you a place on the course, you will be advised in writing and/or by telephone of your study offer.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

## AUDITION PROCESS

All applicants are invited to submit an online application at [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au).

### The Actor or The Singing Actor

Applicants to both The Actor and The Singing Actor streams undertake a first-round audition via video.

Your audition video should include two monologues:

- Heightened text and language (e.g. Kae Tempest, Ntozake Shange and William Shakespeare)
- Modern or contemporary: one short monologue from a modern or contemporary play (Australian or international).

If you are applying for the Singing Actor stream you must include a separate 60-second video performing a song from a musical theatre piece of your choice. This could even be an opera or operetta! This must be sung without any accompaniment (a cappella).

If successful, you will be invited to attend a face-to-face recall, and you may be asked to participate in a practical workshop to assess your vocal, physical and performance skills. If any travel restrictions apply, then you may be recalled via Zoom session.

This will involve preparing the following:

### The Actor

A third audition monologue which may be contemporary or classical. Be prepared to work on a scene (supplied) with a scene partner.

### The Singing Actor

Two songs (from the list provided). Be prepared to explore some choreography. If you are unsuccessful in gaining a place on the Singing Actor stream, NIDA may offer you a place on the Actor stream.

Application requirements are subject to change. Full details of the 2025 process will be available at [nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply](https://nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply) from 3 June 2024.

# COSTUME DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE PROPS AND EFFECTS SET CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES TECHNICAL THEATRE AND STAGE MANAGEMENT

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

All applicants are invited to submit an online application at [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au) and must prepare a portfolio of their work, and/or an artist's statement and submit this in a digital format.

Specific portfolio details will be available at [nida.edu.au](https://nida.edu.au) from 3 June 2024.

If you are successful in the first round, you will be invited to attend a face-to-face or online interview via Zoom, and to complete the online written response or the creative project.

## INTERVIEW PROCESS

The interview includes a brief introduction to NIDA and the course, followed by a discussion about your portfolio, your ideas about arts and entertainment industries including theatre, film, TV, exhibitions and events, and why you want to study at NIDA. There will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions.

Application requirements are subject to change. Full details of the 2025 intake process will be available at [nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply](https://nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply) from 3 June 2024.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS MASTER OF FINE ARTS

## CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

### SELECTION PROCESS

All applicants are invited to discuss their strategic vision, creative process and experiences at a face-to-face or online interview via Zoom or Skype.

Applicants who do not have an undergraduate degree may be considered on the basis of evidence of at least five years' extensive and relevant professional experience. A relevant area may be cultural, creative or other relevant sector/s, including evidence of leadership experience.

You will be required to submit:

- A detailed CV highlighting your education and training, professional work and other relevant information.
- A personal statement of no more than 600 words, outlining interest in the course and your leadership aspirations.
- A photocopy of your university transcript or certificate of award, or proof of five years of professional experience in a relevant area. If you are offered a place at NIDA, you will be required to provide certified copies of any documentation.

## DIRECTING

### SELECTION PROCESS

All applicants are invited to discuss their ambition, creative process and experience at a face-to-face or online interview via Zoom or Skype.

You will be required to submit:

- A detailed CV highlighting your education and training, professional work and other relevant information.
- A 500–700-word essay/report discussing an area of directing that you are interested in, your directing practice or a particular cultural event you have witnessed. This will form part of the discussion at the interview.

- Your production project: a concept proposal based around one play/musical/opera/ballet from a list at [nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply](https://nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply) from 3 June 2024.
- A photocopy of your university transcript or certificate of award, or evidence of five years of professional experience in a relevant area. If you are offered a place at NIDA, you will be required to provide certified copies of any documentation.

If you are successful in the first round of interviews, you may be invited to a second-round interview. This will be held on a separate day.

## DRAMATIC WRITING

### SELECTION PROCESS

All applicants are invited to discuss their ambition, creative process and experience at an interview.

You will be required to submit:

- Your three best pieces of creative writing. These do not have to be plays or film or television scripts, but at least one should display dramatic qualities and one should contain a sample of dialogue. Each extract or complete piece should be no longer than 2,000 words.
- A detailed CV highlighting your education and training, professional experience and any other relevant information.
- A photocopy of your university transcript or certificate of award, or evidence of five years of professional experience in a relevant area. If you are offered a place at NIDA, you will be required to provide certified copies of any documentation.

As part of the selection process, you may be asked to rewrite and resubmit part of your work based on comments provided by the Course Leader, Dramatic Writing. NIDA may keep all or part of your work until the final selection of applicants is made. Ensure you keep a copy of all written work, as it will not be returned.

For the full interview and project requirements, please refer to the application guide [nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply](https://nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply) from 3 June 2024.

Application requirements are subject to change. Full details of the 2025 process will be available at [nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply](https://nida.edu.au/study/students/how-to-apply) from 3 June 2024.





# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## WE SELECT APPLICANTS WHO:

- Demonstrate skills in their area of interest.
- Exhibit a capacity to collaborate.
- Communicate effectively.
- Respond to feedback.

## CUA50420 DIPLOMA OF LIVE PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

### APPLY ONLINE

Application details are published on [apply.nida.edu.au](http://apply.nida.edu.au) and include a video submission, in which you introduce yourself and discuss your interests, experience and training.

### INTERVIEWS

Once you've completed your application, you may be asked to participate in an interview, online or in person.

If we meet you for an interview:

- Provide a short testimonial from a teacher, colleague or employer outlining why you would be a good candidate for the course.

At the interview, you may be asked to:

- Talk to us about your experiences and/or training, in at least one technical area: staging, lighting, sound or vision.
- Undertake a written short-answer questionnaire.
- Participate in one or more group problem-solving tasks.
- Participate in a practical task in a technical area (lighting, audio or vision).

## CUA50220 DIPLOMA OF MUSICAL THEATRE

### APPLY ONLINE

Application details are published on [apply.nida.edu.au](http://apply.nida.edu.au), and include a video submission, in which you sing two songs that are different in style, perform a monologue, and discuss your experiences and training.

### AUDITIONS AND INTERVIEWS

Once you've completed your application, you may be asked to participate in an audition and interview, online or in person.

At the audition and interview, you may be asked to:

- Sing one or more songs.
- Present a monologue.
- Talk to us about your experiences and/or training.
- Participate in individual and/or group acting tasks.

## CUA51020 DIPLOMA OF SCREEN AND MEDIA (SPECIALIST MAKE-UP SERVICES)

### APPLY ONLINE

Application details are published on [apply.nida.edu.au](http://apply.nida.edu.au) and include a video submission, in which you introduce yourself and discuss your interests, experience and training.

### INTERVIEWS

Once you've completed your application, you may be asked to participate in an interview, online or in person.

At the interview, you may be asked to:

- Present a portfolio of your creative work (drawings, make-up face charts, photos of any make-up designs you have created).
- Talk to us about your experiences and/or training.
- Undertake a written short-answer questionnaire.
- Participate in a practical make-up task.

If we meet you for an interview:

- Provide a short testimonial from a teacher, colleague or employer outlining why you would be a good candidate for the course.
- Bring along basic make-up items for a practical task.

## 10914NAT DIPLOMA OF STAGE AND SCREEN PERFORMANCE

### APPLY ONLINE

Application details are published on [apply.nida.edu.au](http://apply.nida.edu.au) and include a video submission, in which you introduce yourself, and perform two monologues.

At the interview, you may be asked to:

- Perform one or more of your monologues.
- Talk to us about your experiences and/or training.
- Participate in individual and/or group acting tasks.

### AUDITIONS AND INTERVIEWS

Once you've completed your application, you may be asked to participate in an audition and interview, online or in person.







The information contained in the brochure was accurate at the time of publication: May 2024.

NIDA reserves the right at any time to make changes as it deems appropriate.

For the most up to date information visit [apply.nida.edu.au](https://apply.nida.edu.au)

National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA)

215 Anzac Parade  
Kensington NSW 2033  
Australia

**Post** NIDA UNSW  
Sydney NSW 2052  
Australia

**Phone** 02 9697 7600  
**Email** [nida.generalenquiries@nida.edu.au](mailto:nida.generalenquiries@nida.edu.au)  
**ABN** 99 000 257 741

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