

POSTGRADUATE TUITION FEE SCHEDULE 2026

DOMESTIC STUDENTS

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

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Postgraduate Tuition Fee Schedule 2026

Domestic Students

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Introduction

The following is a summary of the current tuition fees, payment options and administration fees for 2026. This information is provided as a guide to assist your understanding of the Master of Fine Arts fees. Refer to the relevant Subject Fee schedule to determine how the Tuition fee is calculated for your course enrolment.

- Fees are subject to annual review and may increase each year.
- Any changes to fees are implemented at the beginning of an academic year and apply to all eligible students for the remainder of their course.
- Tuition fees are invoiced on a semester basis.
- All fees are in Australian dollars.

Payment Options

Domestic students have three options for paying fees:

1. Upfront payments:

You can pay:

- In full for the year
- By Study Period (semester),

Or

- On an instalment plan, with a payment schedule negotiated with NIDA.
Fees must be fully paid by the end of the semester.

2. Using FEE-HELP (for FEE-HELP eligible courses only)

No payment is required at the time of enrolment or re-enrolment if you access FEE-HELP. Eligibility requirements apply. See Study Assist [Loan Eligibility](#).

3. Combination of Upfront and FEE-HELP

When choosing a Combination of Upfront and Fee Help, you must select which subjects you are paying upfront, and which subjects you are paying via Fee Help.
See below for more information on payment methods.

Upfront

Tuition fees are to be paid in advance before the commencement of each study period (semester). You can either elect to pay in full upfront, or pay a portion upfront, with the balanced deferred to FEE-HELP.

If you elect to pay your tuition fees upfront, this does not prevent you from accessing FEE-HELP at any time, provided a [Request for Commonwealth assistance form](#) is lodged through eCAF before the relevant Census Date for each study period.

FEE-HELP*

The National Institute of Dramatic Art has been approved by the Commonwealth Government to offer FEE-HELP.

FEE-HELP is a loan scheme that assists eligible fee-paying students to pay all or part of their tuition fees. The Commonwealth Government pays the fees directly to NIDA. Eligible students can borrow up to the FEE-HELP limit (\$126,839 in 2025**) to pay their tuition fees.

FEE-HELP does not cover any additional expenses such as course materials, art & technical equipment, or living expenses. There is no interest applied to the FEE-HELP debt, however it is indexed annually by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to maintain its real value by adjusting it in line with changes in the cost of living.

Eligibility

To be eligible for FEE-HELP you must be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent humanitarian visa whilst remaining a resident in Australia. See eligibility requirements on the [Study Assist](#) website.

When is a FEE-HELP debt incurred?

You incur a FEE-HELP debt immediately after the census date for the study period for which you received FEE-HELP assistance. If you have requested a FEE-HELP loan, but change your mind about studying, you must cancel or defer your enrolment in writing from the subject(s) on or before the census date or you will incur a debt to the Commonwealth Government.

*This information is current as of May 2025. Any changes to government legislation will be updated when available. For more information about FEE-HELP, your rights & obligations, please visit the Commonwealth Government website [Study Assist](#).

** <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/combined-help-loan-limit>

Census dates

Census dates are the last date in a semester that you can withdraw from a subject without being liable for tuition fees. If you withdraw from the subject before midnight on the census date, you will not be financially liable for fees due for that subject. If you withdraw from the subject after midnight on the census date, you will be liable for fees due for that subject. The Census date is the deadline for submitting your Request for FEE-HELP assistance form and/or submission of your Tax File Number (TFN).

If you miss the Census date, you will not be eligible to access FEE-HELP for that study period and will be required to pay your tuition fees upfront.

As a student, it is your responsibility to be aware of the Census date for each subject and confirming all your enrolment details before this date.

It is also the last date that you can change your mind about studying without incurring academic penalty.

Census dates for the Master of Fine Arts in 2026 are included in the tuition fee list.

Administration Fees 2026

These fees are payable at the time the service is provided or item purchased.

Administration and Other Fees 2026		
Item/Service	Detail	Cost 2026
Photocopying	B/W - single sided	\$0.05
Photocopying	B/W - double sided	\$0.10
Photocopying	Colour - single sided	\$0.20
Photocopying	Colour - double sided	\$0.40
Student ID Card Replacement	Replacement of a lost student card	\$25.00
Locker Key	Deposit	N/A
Locker Key	Replacement of lost locker key	\$25.00
Graduation (+2 guests no charge)	Academic Dress Hire: gown, hood and cap	\$50.00
Graduation	Additional tickets for guests	\$27.50
Testamur replacement	1 testamur – domestic postage	\$100.00
Testamur replacement	1 testamur – standard international postage	\$120.00
Transcript replacement	1 transcript – domestic postage	\$35.00
Transcript replacement	1 transcript – standard international postage	\$50.00

Tuition Fees

MASTER OF FINE ARTS 2026

The Tuition Fees below apply to standard course progression per year.

Any changes in fees will be communicated to you prior to any formal offer of enrolment.

All prices are quoted in Australian dollars (AUD) exempt of GST and are subject to change without notice.

	Course Duration	2026 Annual Tuition Fee \$AUD*	Estimated Course Tuition Fee \$AUD*
Master of Fine Arts (Directing)	18 months	\$29,520.00	\$44,280.00
Master of Fine Arts (Dramatic Writing)	18 months	\$29,520.00	\$44,280.00
Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) - New Course	30 months	\$13,975	\$38,700.00
Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) - Teaching Out	27 months		

***Tuition fees are reviewed annually. If you are enrolled, you are liable for any additional tuition costs should the tuition fees rise during the course of your enrolment.**

For details of tuition fees by course and subjects and for other costs associated with your chosen course for 2026, please refer to the specific course page in this schedule.

Master of Fine Arts (Directing)

Full Time

Course duration: 18 months (3 Semesters)

Tuition Fees

1 st Year 2026					
Subject Code	Subject	Credit Points	EFTSL**	Tuition Fee*	Census Dates 2026
Semester 1 2026					
DIR9101A	Directing Techniques A	20	0.17	\$4,920.00	Thu 12 March 2026
DIR9102A	Directing Practice A	25	0.21	\$6,150.00	Thu 12 March 2026
DIR9104A	The Contemporary Director A	5	0.04	\$1,230.00	Thu 12 March 2026
DIR9105A	Dramaturgy A	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 12 March 2026
Total for Semester 1		60	0.5	\$14,760.00	
Semester 2 2026					
DIR9101B	Directing Techniques B	20	0.17	\$4,920.00	Thu 20 August 2026
DIR9102B	Directing Practice B	25	0.21	\$6,150.00	Thu 20 August 2026
DIR9104B	The Contemporary Director B	5	0.04	\$1,230.00	Thu 20 August 2026
COM9103B	Practice Based Research Project B	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 3 September 2026
Total for Semester 2		60	0.5	\$14,760.00	
2 nd Year 2026					
Semester 1 2026					
DIR9104C	The Contemporary Director C	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 12 March 2026
DIR9106C	Major Directing Project C	40	0.34	\$9,840.00	Thu 12 March 2026
COM9103C	Practice Based Research Project C	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 12 March 2026
Total for Semester 3		60	0.5	\$14,760.00	
TOTAL COURSE		180	1.5	\$44,280.00	

*The tuition fees are reviewed each year and you will be liable for the additional tuition costs if the tuition fees rise during the course of your enrolment.

** EFTSL – Effective Full-Time Study Load: indicates the relative study load of a subject against a full-time study load of 1.0 for an academic year. For consistency the EFTSL** have been rounded to 2 decimal places. This is not indicative of the full value of the EFTSL.

Master of Fine Arts (Directing)

Additional Costs

Book List

As part of your course, you must acquire copies of the following books.

Knebel, Maria (2021). *Active Analysis*. ed. Anatoli Vassiliev, trans. Irina Brown. Routledge.

Merlin, Bella (2007). *The Complete Stanislavsky Toolkit*. Nick Hern Books.

Mitchell, Katie (2009). *The Director's Craft*. Routledge.

Tools

- Laptop/tablet.

Information Technology Recommendations

Students are required to have access to a Laptop (Windows 10 and later), MacBook (Mac OS 10.15 Catalina or later). All the devices should comply with 5ghz (dual band).

For file transfers and data backup, it is advised to use the Microsoft OneDrive storage provided by your NIDA Account, for optimum video processing (if required by your subject) on your computer (Laptop/MacBook/Desktop etc.).

A 1GB dedicated graphics card is recommended but not compulsory.

Master of Fine Arts (Dramatic Writing)

Full Time

Course duration: 18 months (3 semesters).

Tuition Fees

1 st Year, 2026					
Subject Code	Subject	Credit Points	EFTSL **	Tuition Fee*	Census Dates 2026
Semester 1 2026					
DWR9101A	Principles of Dramatic Writing	30	0.25	\$7,380.00	Thu 26 February 2026
DWR9102A	Story & Culture	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 12 March 2026
DWR9103A	Writing for Stage	20	0.17	\$4,920.00	Thu 30 April 2026
Total for Semester 1		60	0.5	\$14,760.00	
Semester 2 2026					
DWR9104B	Writing for Screen	20	0.17	\$4,920.00	Thu 6 August 2026
DWR9105B	Episodic Writing	20	0.17	\$4,920.00	Thu 1 October 2026
DWR9106B	Business of Writing	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 20 August 2026
COM9103B	Practice Based Research Project B	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 3 September 2026
Total for Semester 2		60	0.5	\$14,760.00	
2 nd Year 2026					
Semester 1 2026					
DWR9107C	Interactive and Immersive Story Telling	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 12 March 2026
DWR9108C	Major Writing Project	40	0.34	\$9,840.00	Thu 12 March 2026
COM9103C	Practice Based Research Project C	10	0.08	\$2,460.00	Thu 12 March 2026
Total for Semester 3		60	0.5	\$14,760.00	
TOTAL COURSE		180	1.5	\$44,280.00	

*The tuition fees are reviewed each year and you will be liable for the additional tuition costs if the tuition fees rise during the course of your enrolment.

** EFTSL – Effective Full-Time Study Load: indicates the relative study load of a subject against a full-time study load of 1.0 for an academic year. For consistency the EFTSL** have been rounded to 2 decimal places. This is not indicative of the full value of the EFTSL.

Information Technology Recommendations

Students are required to have access to a Laptop (Windows 10 and later), MacBook (Mac OS 10.15 Catalina or later). All the devices should comply with 5ghz (dual band).

For file transfers and data backup, it is advised to use the Microsoft OneDrive storage provided by your NIDA Account, for optimum video processing (if required by your subject) on your computer (Laptop/MacBook/Desktop etc.)

A 1GB dedicated graphics card is recommended but not compulsory.

Students will need to have access to scriptwriting software on their laptops. Appropriate software will be recommended.

Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership)

Part Time

Course duration: 27 months (5 semesters).

Tuition Fees – Cultural Leadership CUL9002021 (classes being taught out)

Subject Code	Subject	Credit Points	EFTSL**	Tuition Fee*	Census Dates 2026
2nd Year 2026					
Semester 1 2026					
CUL9101	Cultural Transformation and Sustainability	50	0.361	\$10,750.00	Thu 9 April 2026
CUL9105	Communications & Persuasive Presentation	10	0.072	\$2,150.00	Thu 12 March 2026
CUL9106	Communications and Advocacy	5	0.036	\$1,075.00	Thu 7 May 2026
Semester 2 2026					
CUL9107	Evaluation Methodologies for Cultural Leaders	10	0.072	\$2,150.00	Thu 20 August 2026

***The tuition fees are reviewed each year and you will be liable for the additional tuition costs if the tuition fees rise during the course of your enrolment.**

**** EFTSL – Effective Full-Time Study Load:** indicates the relative study load of a subject against a full-time study load of 1.0 for an academic year. For consistency the EFTSL** have been rounded to 3 decimal places. This is not indicative of the full value of the EFTSL.

Part Time

Course duration: 30 months (5 semesters).

Tuition Fees – Cultural Leadership CUL9002025

Subject Code	Subject	Credit Points	EFTSL**	Tuition Fee*	Census Dates 2026
1st Year 2026					
Semester 1 2026					
CUL9104	Leadership and Governance	20	0.14	\$4,300.00	Thu 12 March 2026
CUL9106	Communications and Advocacy	15	0.11	\$3,225.00	Thu 12 March 2026
Total for Semester 1		35	0.25	\$7,525.00	
Semester 2 2026					
CUL9103	Cultural Policy and Practice	20	0.14	\$4,300.00	Thu 20 August 2026
COM9103B	Practice Based Research B	10	0.08	\$2,150.00	Thu 3 September 2026
Total for Semester 2		30	0.22	\$6,450.00	
Total 1st Year		65	0.47	\$13,975.00	
2nd Year 2026					
CUL9101	Cultural Transformation and Sustainability	40	0.28	\$8,600.00	Thu 9 April 2026
COM9103C	Practice Based Research C	10	0.08	\$2,150.00	Thu 12 March 2026
CUL9107	Evaluation Methodologies for Cultural Leaders	15	0.11	\$3,225.00	Thu 20 August 2026
Total 2nd Year		65	0.47	\$13,975.00	
3rd Year 2026					
CUL9109	Cultural Futures Lab	15	0.11	\$3,225.00	TBC
CUL9108	International Case Study	35	0.25	\$7,525.00	Thu 12 March 2026
Total 3rd Year		50	0.36	\$10,750.00	
TOTAL COURSE *		180	1.3	\$38,700.00	

***The tuition fees are reviewed each year and you will be liable for the additional tuition costs if the tuition fees rise during the course of your enrolment.**

**** EFTSL – Effective Full-Time Study Load:** indicates the relative study load of a subject against a full-time study load of 1.0 for an academic year. For consistency the EFTSL** have been rounded to 2 decimal places. This is not indicative of the full value of the EFTSL.

Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership)

Additional Requirements

The Cultural Leadership course is structured to enable students to participate through week- long and weekend intensives, and online learning. All students will also undertake an international placement during the final six months of the course. The airfare and a capped contribution (\$5000) to expenses will be provided by NIDA for these placements.

Online Component

Online learning and teaching will take place between the residential intensives. Students must be available to engage on a regular basis and will be required to equip themselves with the necessary technology to participate. Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) students may participate in online sessions via videoconferencing or in person at the Kensington campus.

Collaborative Online Platforms

Please note that student will need to utilise collaborative online tools through Canvas. Please also note that students may need to utilise enterprise collaborative tools from within the Google+ suite. Students will be issued user accounts for use in both these instances.

Intensives

The Cultural Leadership course is delivered part-time. Four 4-5 days intensives (over a weekend) are held each year on campus, and all students must be available to participate for the full period (including evenings as required). Travel and accommodation to attend intensives is at the expense of the student.

During on-campus intensives students will have access to the graduate school and all facilities that are provided to all NIDA graduate students.

Internet Speed

Use a broadband connection (256 Kbit/sec or faster—this will ensure that you can view videos and online presentations) through USB wireless modem, ADSL, T1/T2, fibre optic or cable.

Internet Browsers

Compatible browsers include:

- Google Chrome 32-bit version 38 or later (recommended for optimal compatibility, this has been thoroughly tested on Windows)

- Safari 8 or later (recommended for optimal compatibility, this has been thoroughly tested on Mac)
- Mozilla Firefox 35.0 or later
- Note that add-ons and toolbars can affect any browser's performance. MS Internet Explorer is not recommended.

Information Technology Recommendations

Students are required to have access to a Laptop (Windows 10 and later), MacBook (Mac OS 10.15 Catalina or later). All the devices should comply with 5ghz (dual band).

For file transfers and data backup, it is advised to use the Microsoft OneDrive storage provided by your NIDA Account, for optimum video processing (if required by your subject) on your computer (Laptop/MacBook/Desktop etc.) a 1GB dedicated graphics card is recommended but not compulsory.

Scholarships

NIDA scholarships are designed to encourage and enable students to devote themselves full-time to their NIDA studies. Scholarship funds are limited and vary from year to year. Scholarships will only supplement the cost of living and do not cover full living costs while studying.

Through the generosity of donors and bequests each year NIDA is able to offer a number of scholarships to students to assist with living costs. These are allocated to students using a range of criteria, including financial need.

Full-time Degree and Postgraduate Degree students are eligible to apply, as long as they are domestic applicants (those who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia, citizens of New Zealand or holders of an Australian humanitarian visa). Details and the application form can be found on the NIDA Website [Scholarships](#) page.

How are they allocated?

Scholarships are means tested. Once a student completes their scholarship application and the scholarship application period closes, the scholarship committee meets to assess the applications and allocate funds against a range of criteria including financial need.

Scholarships are paid fortnightly over the course of the academic year. Not all students receive the same amount of money. Scholarships vary in amount and may be assessed annually according to the type of scholarships, the amount of available funding and the number of applications received.

Travel Concessions

Australian students are eligible to apply for a NSW Tertiary Student Concession Card and/or concession Opal card.

You are eligible for a NSW Tertiary Student Concession Card if you:

- ☐ Are an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia

- ☐ Reside in New South Wales
- ☐ Are enrolled in an Australian Qualifications Framework, accredited higher education or vocational education and training course, at a tertiary institution authorised by Transport for NSW to issue tertiary student concession cards
- ☐ Are a full-time student enrolled on an internal basis (except where a person, by reason of disability, is enrolled on a part-time basis and/or on an external basis).

All students being issued with a travel concession must fill in an application form which will be provided at enrolment.

Concession Opal cards [FAQS](#).

Tuition Fee Refund Policy

A domestic student, who lodges a written request for withdrawal from a Unit of Study on or before the census date, will be withdrawn without penalty from the Unit of Study in which they are enrolled. The student will be refunded any tuition fees paid up front for the Unit of Study and/or will not incur a FEE-HELP debt for the Unit. The student is not required to apply for a refund; rather the action of withdrawing from a Unit of Study is sufficient action.

A student who lodges a written request for withdrawal from a Subject/Unit of Study **after** the census date will not receive a refund of any tuition fees paid upfront and/or will incur a FEE-HELP debt for the Unit of Study.

A student may apply to have any tuition fees they have paid up front or their FEE-HELP balance re-credited, if the student withdraws from a Unit of Study after the census date, due to exceptional circumstances, or if the student has been prevented from completing the requirements of a Unit of Study after the census date, due to special circumstances. The student must provide independent supporting documentary evidence and demonstrate that there are special circumstances that meet the definition. Students who have a FEE-HELP loan for tuition fees for the relevant period should refer to the NIDA Policy on Re-crediting FEE-HELP Balance and Removal of FEE-HELP Debt.

Re-Crediting FEE-HELP Balance and Removal of FEE-HELP

A student can apply to have their FEE-HELP balance re-credited if the student withdraws from their studies after the census date and/or the student has not completed the requirements of the unit.

The application must be made in writing within 6 months of the withdrawal date, or if the student has not withdrawn, within 6 months of the end of the period of study in which the unit was, or was to be, undertaken. NIDA may waive the requirement for an application to be made before the end of the application period, on the ground that it would not be, or was not possible for the application to be made before the end of that period.

The Application Form and all supporting material is lodged with The Director of Learning and Innovation. A student must provide independent supporting documentary evidence and demonstrate that there are special circumstances, which support the requests that are:

- ☐ Beyond the student's control

- ☐ Do not make their full impact on the student until on, or after, the census date; and
- ☐ Make it impracticable for the student to complete the requirements for the unit during the period in which the student undertook or was to undertake the unit.

The Director of Learning and Innovation is responsible for making initial decisions about the re-crediting of a student's contribution amount and/or the re-crediting of their FEE-HELP balance and removal of FEE-HELP. The Director of Learning and Innovation will report their determination in writing to the CEO.

The Director of Learning and Innovation will notify the student within two weeks of the decision, the reasons for making the decision and advise the student of their rights for a review of the decision if the student is unsatisfied with the outcome. If the decision is made to re-credit the FEE-HELP balance, NIDA will notify the Department of Education through the HELP Variations File.

NIDA will repay to the Commonwealth any FEE- HELP assistance NIDA received from it on the student's behalf. The Department of Education will inform the Australian Taxation Office, who administers FEE-HELP, that the debt has been removed.

Review of a decision

A student has the right to apply to the CEO for a review of a decision not to re-credit the student's FEE-HELP balance. The CEO will not have been involved in making the original decision and the CEO is senior to the original decision makers. The time limit for applying for a review of a decision is 28 days from the student receiving notice of the decision. The student must state the reasons why they are applying for a review. Upon receipt of the Application for Review the CEO will review any decisions regarding re-crediting of the student contribution amount or the re-crediting of their FEE-HELP balance and removal of FEE-HELP.

The Administrative Review Tribunal

A student may make an application to the Administrative Review Tribunal for a reconsideration of NIDA's decision to refuse to re-credit a person's FEE-HELP balance and may supply additional information to the Administrative Review Tribunal, which they did not previously supply to NIDA. Upon written notification from the Department of Education that an appeal has been lodged, NIDA will provide the Department of Education within a further 5 business days all original documentation relevant to the appeal. The Secretary of the Department of Education or the Commonwealth Government department which has the responsibility for administering the Higher Education Support Act 2003, (the Department) or the Secretary's delegate will be the respondent for cases that are brought before the Administrative Review Tribunal.

Withdrawing from NIDA

A student may withdraw from a course at any time by completing NIDA's official withdrawal form.

The relevant subject census date is the last date for students to withdraw from a subject and receive a refund of tuition fees or without incurring a tuition fee liability for a FEE-HELP loan for the subject.

If a student withdraws after the census date, there will be no refund of fees, and a debt or a FEE-HELP debt

will be incurred.

An undergraduate student will have 'Withdrawn' registered on their academic transcript providing the withdrawal takes place no later than one calendar month after the census date in the relevant semester. If a student withdraws after that date, a result of 'Fail' will be recorded on the transcript for the relevant subject/s.

Indebtedness to NIDA or UNSW

The Director of Learning and Innovation after proper notice, may withhold assessment results, prohibit re-enrolment, or refuse graduation to any student who is in debt to NIDA and/or UNSW. Indebtedness includes failure to pay any fee, fine, loan or other charge and failure to return all library books and other equipment. Under special circumstances, the CEO may waive or defer these matters.