NIDA National Institute of Dramatic Art

COURSE REGULATIONS:

Award	Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership)
Postnominal	MFA (Cultural Leadership)
Study Level	Postgraduate
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 9
Credit Points	180 credit points
Course Duration	Part time: 2.5 years
NIDA Course Code	CUL9002025
CRICOS Code	Not available to international students

Responsibility for implementation	Director, Learning and Innovation
Approval body	Academic Board
Date originally approved	January 2016
Date this version approved	7 October 2026
Date effective	January 2027
Contact position	Director, Learning and Innovation
Content Manager Number	NC26/3

1. Scope

These course regulations apply to the following degree:

- Master of Fine Arts (Cultural leadership)

For students commencing in 2027.

2. Authority to award the qualification

On the recommendation of the Academic Board, the NIDA Board of Directors may confer the degree of Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) on any person who completes this course of study in accordance with these regulations.

3. Graduate Attributes

NIDA graduates of MFA courses:

3.1. Knowledge and discipline expertise
Have deep discipline knowledge and expertise commensurate with the expectations of the relevant professional area within the arts and cultural sectors in Australia and internationally, and the capability to provide discipline leadership.

3.2. Critical and creative thinking
Have a high level ability to be creative and innovative with the capacity for analytical and critical thinking in a creative environment.

3.3. Realisation and application
Can confidently apply their skills and knowledge to create work, collaborate as part of a creative team, and provide leadership in a range of challenging and engaging contexts, productions and events.

3.4. Communication
Have a high level ability to interpret, communicate and present ideas, problems and arguments in ways appropriate to their discipline, audience and purpose using clear written and spoken expression, and appropriate technologies.

3.5. Individual and collaborative practice
Can work autonomously and collaboratively underpinned by an understanding of the scholarship of integration, together with a practical insight into and experience of each individual's role and responsibility in an interdisciplinary creative process.

3.6. Research
Have the ability to design, implement, document and disseminate research projects relevant to their discipline.

3.7. Social engagement
Act with integrity, contextualising their practice in response to social, cultural and ethical issues, and provide discipline leadership through discovery, innovation and broad creative thinking.

3.8. Lifelong learning
Are lifelong, self-directed learners with a curiosity for new ideas, innovative techniques,

methodologies, practices and technology.

3.9. Enterprise skills
Have the professional and entrepreneurial skills to successfully instigate, manage and collaborate on creative projects in their own practice.

4. Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, graduates will be able to:

4.1. Implement resilient, future-focused creative leadership models and practices.
4.2. Facilitate leadership through collaborative, co- designed, ambitious, enterprising and entrepreneurial strategies
4.3. Evidence a deep understanding of culturally diverse and intersectional leadership values and protocols in an Australian context.
4.4. Critically analyse and articulate national and global issues including environmental, social, and economic (eco)systems that inform the role and purpose of cultural practice in society.
4.5. Navigate appropriate and respectful engagement with Australian First Nations and global Indigenous cultural knowledge systems, and leadership practices.
4.6. Understand the value of practice-based research and apply research and evaluation methodologies to their practice.
4.7. Advocate for transformational change in professional leadership practices.

5. Admission requirements

In order to be admitted to this course, applicants will be required to have:

- An undergraduate degree
- At least five years' documented professional experience in the arts, cultural, creative or other relevant sector/s, including evidence of sector leadership experience

6. Course requirements

6.1. Course structure

A minimum of 180 credit points drawn from the approved course structure is required in order for a student to graduate with the Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) degree. The Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) course comprises nine (9) subjects, all of which are core. These are:

	Subjects	Credit points
Year 1 Semester 1	CUL9104 Leadership and Governance	20
	CUL9106 Communications and Advocacy	15
Year 1 Semester 2	CUL9103 Cultural Policy and Practice	20
	COM9103B Creative Practice Research	10
Year 2 Semester 1	CUL9101 Cultural Transformation and Sustainability (Taken over S1 and S2)	40
	COM9103C Practice Based Research 2	10
Year 2 Semester 2	CUL9101 Cultural Transformation and Sustainability (Taken over S1 and S2)	Enrolment continues
	CUL9107 Evaluation Methodologies for Cultural Leaders	15
Year 3 Semester 1	CUL9109 Cultural Futures Lab	15
	CUL9108 International Case Study	35
TOTAL CREDIT POINTS		180

6.2. Industry placements

An international industry placement is a component of this course. Students undertake the international placement for four weeks at a time approved by the Course Leader.

International industry placements are subject to Host Placement Guidelines and a Student Placement Agreement.

6.3. Course duration

The course is available only as a part time course across a minimum of 30 months delivered through face to face teaching and online learning, barring exceptional circumstances.

6.4. Attendance

Students must attend every timetabled or programmed session (including synchronous online sessions) for every subject, except in cases of certified medical conditions or when leave of absence has been formally approved in writing by the Course Leader. Failure to attend could result in a Fail result for any subject.

6.5. Rules of progression

Students must complete all subjects within a given semester to progress to the next semester. If a student receives a fail result for any subject, the Examination and Progress Committee will:

- determine if the student is able to repeat the subject. To repeat a subject, a student must enrol and pay the prescribed fee for the subject.
- determine whether the student may remain enrolled on non-standard

progression while still completing the prerequisites. Non-standard progression occurs when a student is not enrolled in a full-time load and/or is undertaking a different combination of subjects in a given semester than prescribed in 6.1.

Should a student fail one or more of the following common subjects, they may be allowed to repeat that subject/s when it is next offered (normally in the following year). In such an instance, a student may enroll in all subjects required for the semester other than those for which the previously failed subject is a pre-requisite.

COM9103B Creative Practice Research
COM9103C Practice Based Research 2

Should a student fail one or more of the following discipline-specific subjects, they may be allowed to repeat that subject/s when it is next offered (normally in the following year). However, students must have passed all the required discipline-specific subjects as prescribed in any semester to be permitted to progress to the set of discipline-specific subjects in the subsequent semester. Students may continue to be enrolled in commons subjects without being enrolled in disciplinary specific subjects.

CUL9104 Leadership and Governance

CUL9106 Communication and Advocacy

CUL9103 Cultural Policy and Practice

CUL9101 Cultural Transformation and Sustainability

CUL9107 Evaluation Methodologies for Cultural Leaders

CUL9109 Cultural Futures Lab

CUL9108 International Case Study

Should a student fail any subject twice, they will be required to show cause why their enrolment in the course should not be terminated.

The Director of Learning and Innovation can approve a student be placed on non-standard progression outside of an Examination and Progression Committee where this is not related to student failure of a subject. Any decisions made by the Director of Learning and Innovation for non-standard progression will be reported to the next meeting of the Examination and Progression Committee.

6.6. Extension of time

The maximum period of candidature is 5 years (60 months) in part time mode. Deferrals and extensions beyond the minimum period for completion (30 months) are at the discretion of the CEO on the recommendation of the Course Leader.

Where a student requires a course extension beyond the maximum period of candidature, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy (RPL), the Deferral, Suspension and Cancellation Policy and the Student Support and Academic Intervention Policy.

7. Variations

In exceptional circumstances the Board of Directors or its representative may approve a personal program which does not conform to these regulations.

End of regulations