NIDA National Institute of Dramatic Art

COURSE REGULATIONS:

Award	Master of Fine Arts (Directing)
Postnominal	MFA (Directing)
Study Level	Postgraduate
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 9
Credit Points	180 credit points
Course Duration	Full time: 1.5 years
NIDA Course Code	DIR9000025
CRICOS Code	113112H

Responsibility for implementation	Director, Learning and Innovation
Approval body	Academic Board
Date originally approved	27 November 2013
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 (Directing)

For students commencing in 2027.

2. Authority to award the qualification

On the recommendation of the NIDA Academic Board, the NIDA Board of Directors may confer the degree of Master of Fine Arts (Directing) 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. Confidently direct live theatre productions with expert embodied knowledge in preparation, structuring, rehearsing, and staging methodologies.
4.2. Transform and extend directing methodologies to engage with diverse artistic mediums that span live performance, screen, and digital media.
4.3. Demonstrate expert-level collaboration skills, built upon clear communication, emotional intelligence, empathetic leadership, and ideation practices.
4.4. Articulate a unique directorial voice and employable brand which showcases a clear sense of cultural context, social responsibility, personal politics, aesthetics, and creative potential.
4.5. Use practice based research skills to apply new insights into directing practice

5. Admission requirements

The following admission requirements apply:

Abbreviated Course Title	**Educational and Other Qualifications Required**
MFA (Directing)	Applicants seeking entry into the Master of Fine Arts (Directing) must: • Have an undergraduate degree or at least five years documented professional experience in an area relevant to Directing. • Demonstrate at interview and through the completion of a short project, the practical ability, potential and motivation necessary to undertake graduate study in Directing. • Undertake an “audition” with actors. • Provide references. Overseas students intending to enrol in the course must be fluent in spoken and proficient in written English language (equivalent to an overall band score of IELTS Academic 7.0 with no band score less than 6.0).

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 (Directing) degree. The Master of Fine Arts (Directing) course comprises eleven (11) subjects, all of which are core. These are:

	Subjects	Credit points
Year 1 Semester 1	DIR9107A Directing For Stage A	30
	DIR9108A Directing For Screen A	15
	DIR9104A The Contemporary Director A	5
	DIR9105A Dramaturgy A	10
Year 1 Semester 2	DIR9107B Directing For Stage B	30
	DIR9108B Directing For Screen B	15
	DIR9104B The Contemporary Director B	5
	COM9103B Creative Practice Research	10
Year 2 Semester 1	DIR9104C The Contemporary Director C	10
	DIR9106C Major Directing Project C	40
	COM9103C Practice Based Research 2	10
TOTAL CREDIT POINTS		180

6.2. Industry placements

Industry placements are an option in this course. Students can undertake industry placements in semester 3.

6.3. Course duration

The Master of Fine Arts (Directing) is of 18 months' duration and is available only as a full-time course delivered face to face, barring exceptional circumstances.

6.4. Attendance

Students must attend every timetabled session 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 (Directing). Failure to meet the attendance requirements 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. There are no pre-requisites for any subject. Should a student receive 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. 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.

DIR9107A Directing For Stage A
DIR9107B Directing For Stage B
DIR9108A Directing For Screen A
DIR9108B Directing For Screen B
DIR9104A The Contemporary Director A
DIR9104B The Contemporary Director B
DIR9104C The Contemporary Director C
DIR9105A Dramaturgy A
DIR9106C Major Directing Project C

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 3 years (36 months). Deferrals and extensions beyond the minimum period for completion (18 months) are at the discretion of the Director of Learning and Innovation on the recommendation of the Course Leader (Directing).

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 and Academic Intervention Policy.

7. Credit

The processes for the granting of credit are governed by the NIDA Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy. An application for credit must be submitted and approved prior to commencement of this course. A student may not be granted credit after the commencement of teaching of the course in which the student enrols.

Credit will be approved by the Head of Academic Development and Research. Any Recognition of

Prior Learning or course credit for international students that impacts their course duration will be advised in advance of a Confirmation of Enrolment being issued. The Confirmation of Enrolment will reflect the shortened duration of the course.

8. Variations

In compassionate or compelling circumstances, the Academic Board or its representative may approve a personal program which does not conform to these regulations.

End of regulations