NIDA National Institute of Dramatic Art

COURSE REGULATIONS:

Award	Master of Fine Arts (Dramatic Writing)
Postnominal	MFA (Dramatic Writing)
Study Level	Postgraduate
Australian Qualifications Framework Level	Level 9
Credit Points	180 credit points
Course Duration	Full time: 1.5 years
NIDA Course Code	DWR9000025
CRICOS Code	113111J

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 (Dramatic Writing)

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 (Dramatic Writing) 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 Utilise sophisticated dramatic techniques in the creation of form appropriate narrative.
4.2 Critically analyse a range of narrative works across stage and screen, providing a rigorous explanation of their dramatic composition and thematic concerns
4.3 Create work and communicate ideas that demonstrate a distinctive voice.
4.4 Develop safe and inclusive environments and working relationships that facilitate all participants to contribute to challenging creative projects.
4.5 Generate professional opportunities through the application of knowledge and understanding of the creative industries.
4.6 Navigate complex ethical issues that connect the process and outcome of storymaking with its social, cultural and political context.
4.7 Design, implement, document and / or disseminate research relevant to their practice,

5. Admission requirements

The following admission requirements apply:

Abbreviated Course Title	**Educational and Other Qualifications Required**
MFA (Dramatic Writing)	Applicants seeking entry into the Master of Fine Arts (Dramatic Writing) must: • Have an undergraduate degree and a demonstrated commitment to original writing • Demonstrate at interview and through the completion of a writing portfolio the practical ability, potential and motivation necessary to undertake graduate study in Dramatic Writing. 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 (Dramatic Writing) degree. The Master of Fine Arts (Dramatic Writing) course comprises ten (10) subjects, all of which are core. These are:

	Subjects	**Credit points**
Year 1 Semester 1	DWR9101A Principles of Dramatic Writing	30
	DWR9102A Story & Culture	10
	DWR9103A Writing for Stage	20
Year 1 Semester 2	DWR9104B Writing for Screen	20
	DWR9105B Writing for Episodic	20
	DWR9106B Business of Writing	10
	COM9103B Creative Practice Research	10
Year 2 Semester 1	DWR9107C Interactive and Immersive Story Telling	10
	DWR9108C Major Writing Project	40
	COM9103C Practice Based Research 2	10
TOTAL CREDIT POINTS		180

6.2 Industry placements

There is no industry placement requirement associated with this course.

6.3 Course duration

The Master of Fine Arts (Dramatic Writing) 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 (Dramatic Writing). 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 in order 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.

DWR9101A Principles of Dramatic Writing
DWR9102A Story & Culture
DWR9103A Writing for Stage
DWR9104B Writing for Screen
DWR9105B Writing for Episodic
DWR9106B Business of Writing
DWR9107C Interactive and Immersive Story Telling
DWR9108C Major Writing Project

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 (Dramatic Writing).

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

End of regulations