

NIDA

National Institute of Dramatic Art

**2027
COURSE
GUIDE**



NIDA respectfully acknowledges the Bidjgal and Gadigal Clans as the custodians of the lands where NIDA is located. We respectfully acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present and recognise their eternal connection to country. NIDA staff and students are honoured to work, learn and create on unceded sovereign lands.



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A close-up, profile view of a woman wearing a grey hijab, looking out of a window at night. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the right, possibly a window, creating a bright vertical streak and illuminating the side of her face. The background is dark, suggesting an indoor setting at night.

**STORIES
GROW
HERE**





HELLO AND WELCOME

For nearly 70 years NIDA graduates have been internationally recognised as storytellers of excellence.

You can find our graduates across stage and screen, design and construction, film and television, creative leadership and technology, at gigs and festivals, in writers' rooms, director's chairs, and bio boxes.

They are stage managers, costume makers, lighting designers, and set builders - they are trusted and valued creative leaders. You can find

them around the world in major arts institutions, on film sets, in the theatre, and every space in between.

This Course Guide outlines information about studying with us, the courses we offer, how to apply, various scholarship and support opportunities available and provides insights into life at NIDA.

As Australia's national dramatic arts educator, we offer unrivalled rigour, practice-based learning, connections to industry and a welcoming and innovative culture. We train some of the world's most influential and in-demand practitioners across stage, screen and new digital platforms.

Whether you want to immerse yourself in a three-year undergraduate degree; undertake a vocational diploma or evolve your creative practice with a Master's postgraduate degree, NIDA offers relevant, high-calibre practice-based and future focused education and training pitched to your needs.

From honouring 65,000 years of First Nations storytelling to exploring the next frontiers of technology, NIDA students are immersed in hands-on learning preparing them for dynamic careers.

NIDA graduates challenge and inspire us to see a better world, telling stories beloved by people around the world.

“NIDA is paramount to the entertainment industry, both in Australia and around the world.”

Baz Luhrmann,
NIDA alumnus,
(*Elvis, Moulin Rouge*)



STUDYING AT NIDA IS A TRANSFORMATIVE ACT

NIDA students are trained in the tools, skills and confidence to lead in their chosen field. Students are taught to translate creative concepts into stories and develop their unique voices as makers, performers, writers, directors or designers.

Careers after NIDA can be as wide-ranging as your own ambitions. Our training equips you for the industry as it exists now and with the ability to grow and adapt for the future. We

prepare students to work in all arts and cultural applications, from stage and screen to virtual, immersive, and interactive environments.

Alongside nurturing your craft, you'll be supported to develop your emotional intelligence, analytical ability, entrepreneurship, creativity and collaboration skills. We focus on well-being in our dynamic industry, and self-care is a core part of the curriculum.

We welcome talented individuals from diverse communities to pursue their

artistic aspirations in a rigorous yet supportive environment.

NIDA's scholarship program supports students with financial hardship or from historically excluded communities to find a place here. We seek to break down barriers, so students feel represented, welcomed and supported to share their stories with the world.



VOCATIONAL DIPLOMAS

Our one-year, full-time, intensive diplomas are a fast, practical way to learn essential skills for a range of arts and entertainment roles. They're ideal as a pathway into employment or towards further studies.

- Live Production and Technical Services
- Musical Theatre
- Screen and Media (Specialist Make-up Services)
- Stage and Screen Performance

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)

NIDA's three-year, practice-based bachelor's degrees provide intensive and immersive industry-leading learning as you collaborate with a range of disciplines to create and perform live theatre productions, screen-based projects, events and exhibitions.

- Acting
- Costume
- Design for Performance
- Props and Effects
- Set Construction Technologies
- Technical Production

MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

Designed for active practitioners, a NIDA postgraduate degree prepares students to become exceptional artists and cultural leaders through critical enquiry, practice-based learning, experimentation and innovation.

- Cultural Leadership (30 months, part-time)
- Directing (18 months, full-time)
- Dramatic Writing (18 months, full-time)



GROW YOUR STORIES AT NIDA

NIDA prepares you for the full suite of roles needed to create and deliver performance experiences in Australia and around the world.

NIDA graduates are globally in demand and found in every facet of the creative industries and beyond, including but not limited to:

Arts & Cultural Leadership

Lead and shape creative industries as an artistic director, creative producer, or cultural policy and strategy expert.

Design & Making

Bring creative visions to life as a set and costume designer, set builder, costume maker, lighting designer, make-up and special effects artist, or digital fabricator.

Directing & Writing

Craft compelling stories as a theatre or screen director, playwright, screenwriter, or immersive theatre creator.

Performance

Pursue a career on stage or screen as an actor, voice artist, musical theatre performer, dancer, or motion capture artist.

Technical & Production

Oversee and execute high-quality productions as a stage manager, lighting technician, sound designer, or automation operator.

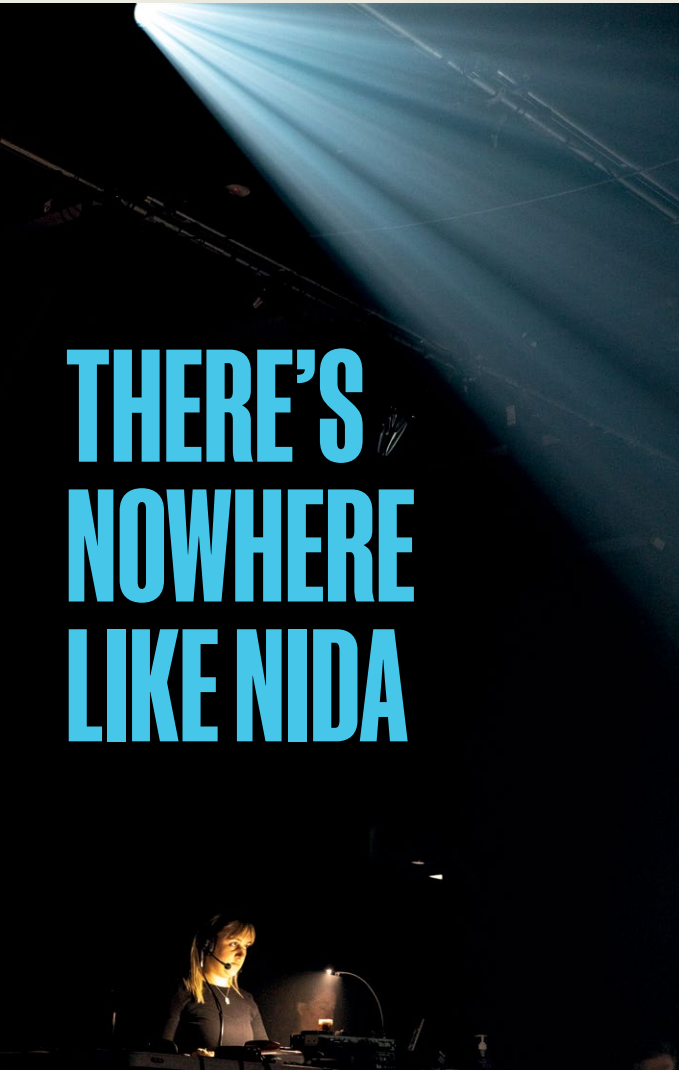
We put students at the centre of a hands-on, collaborative learning experience with leading industry practitioners, expert staff, special guest artists and experienced professionals working across a range of creative industries.

PURPOSEFULLY PRACTICE-BASED

NIDA degrees have deliberately small cohorts and class sizes to foster a collaborative and immersive learning environment. Our teaching approach is practical, cross-disciplinary and hands on. We provide focused feedback and guidance, particularly through our regular production seasons. Our students mount professional-standard productions as part of their learning, providing industry-focused training and fertile ground for collaboration with other disciplines.

INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

We'll introduce you to leading local, national and global practitioners so you can meet and learn from the very best, gaining unparalleled insight and connection into the industry. Selected for their exceptional teaching ability and extensive industry experience, our tutors provide students with individual feedback and guidance, ensuring you get the most out of your training.



**THERE'S
NOWHERE
LIKE NIDA**



INROADS INTO INDUSTRY

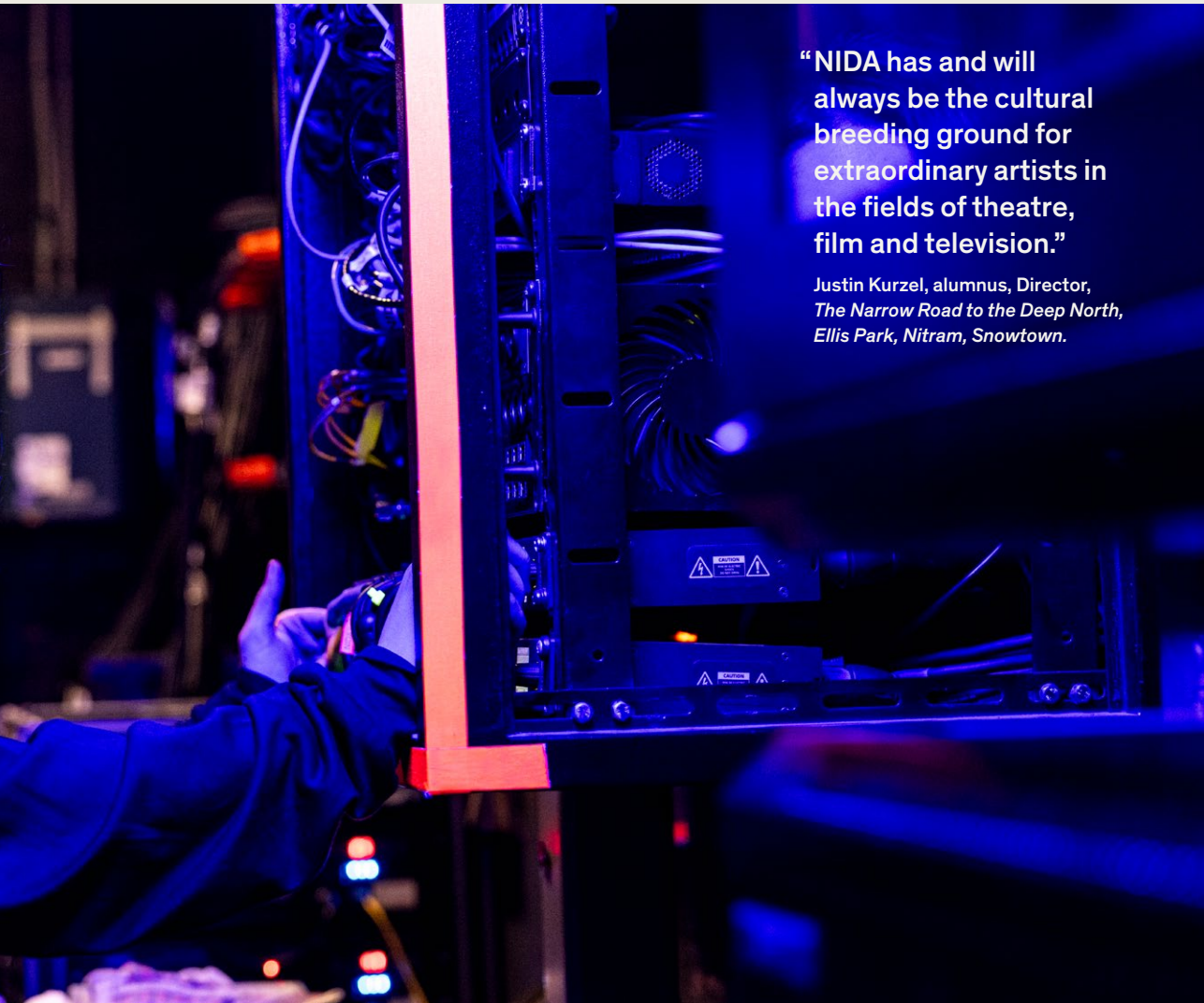
With an unrivalled network into the arts and entertainment industry, your time at NIDA offers invaluable opportunities to meet, learn and train in your chosen area of specialisation. With masterclasses from industry leading professionals and industry placements as a major part of your course, a large proportion of students secure employment upon completing their studies.

FUTURE-FIT LEARNING

NIDA courses teach important life skills across academic, embodied and digital literacies while building a strong understanding of industry standards and sustainable practice. We also train students with tools and strategies in managing their careers into the future. Our commitment to continuous improvement sees individual courses responding to student feedback and the demands of an ever-changing industry including international standards like The Theatre Green Book.

COMMON-GROUND COLLABORATION

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 culturally informed practice.



“NIDA has and will always be the cultural breeding ground for extraordinary artists in the fields of theatre, film and television.”

*Justin Kurzel, alumnus, Director,
The Narrow Road to the Deep North,
Ellis Park, Nitram, Snowtown.*

ALUMNI

Our alumni are some of the world's best-loved storytellers

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

NIDA alumni are recognised globally.

JUST SOME OF OUR ALUMNI INCLUDE:

ACTING

Sarah Snook

(*Succession, All Her Fault*)

Yerin Ha

(*Bridgerton, The Survivors, Dune: Prophecy*)

Miranda Tapsell

(*Top End Bub, The Artful Dodger*)

Jack Patten

(*War Machine, Robin Hood, Greyhound 2*)

COSTUME

Jude Loxley

(*Hamilton, The Picture of Dorian Gray, MJ the Musical*)

Rebecca Ritchie

(*Opera Australia*)

Marnie Perkins

(*The Pursuit of Love, The Dig*)

DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE

Fiona Crombie

(*Hamnet, The Favourite, Cruella, Macbeth*)

Julio Himede

(2026 Super Bowl Half Time Show, The 68th Annual Grammys)

Michael Wilkinson

(*Andor, American Hustle, Justice League*)



DIRECTING

Shannon Murphy

(*Babyteeth, Dying for Sex*)

Kip Williams

(*Dracula, The Picture of Dorian Gray*)

Lee Lewis

(*Art, Prima Facie*)

DRAMATIC WRITING

Suzie Miller

(*Inter Alia, RBG: Of Many, One, Prima Facie*)

Xavier Hazard

(*Bump: A Christmas Film, The Twelve*)

Grace Malouf

(*Extremely Irrevocably Dead, Writers in Love*)

Above: *Elvis* (Warner Bros. 2022), directed by Baz Luhrmann, production design by Catherine Martin, video design by David Bergman. Photo: Hugh Stewart

Right: Sarah Snook in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, directed by Kip Williams. London, 2024. Produced by Michael Cassel Group & Kindred Partners. Photo: Marc Brenner.

Meet our alumni at nida.edu.au/alumni

9 Oscar Academy Awards

17 BAFTA Film Awards

5 Tony Awards

1,700+ Awards

7 Olivier Awards

9 Golden Globe Awards

10 Primetime Emmy Awards

4,000+ Nominations

SET CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Boaz Shemesh

(Sydney Theatre Company)

Eryn Douglas

(& Juliet, Phandom)

Eileen Ortona

(The Fall Guy, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, Thor: Love and Thunder)

SPECIALIST MAKE-UP SERVICES

Kiarna Strauss

(NCIS: Sydney, The Artful Dodger, Netflix's Heartbreak High)

Ruby Russell

(Beast, NCIS; Sydney, Home and Away)

TECHNICAL THEATRE AND STAGE MANAGEMENT

David Bergman

(Video Designer, The Picture of Dorian Gray)

Morgan Moroney (Lighting Designer, August: Osage County, Dido and Aeneas, Ngaiire's Paia)

Anna Reece (Artistic Director, Perth Festival)

STAGE AND SCREEN PERFORMANCE

Sophea Pennington

(The Deb, Home and Away)

Catherine Laga'aia

(Disney's live action Moana)

Oliver Edis

(Netflix's Breakers, Gnomes)

LIVE PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Alex Roche

(Opera Australia, Sydney Opera House)

Lucy Edwards (Annie)

Harry Tanswell (City Recital Hall)

MUSICAL THEATRE

Brittanie Shipway

(Pirates of Penzance, Once on this Island)

Tana Laga'aia

(Rent, Jesus Christ Superstar)

Anusha Thomas

(The Dismissal, Hamilton)

PROPS AND EFFECTS

Katie Williams

(ABC's Knee High Spies, Prehistoric Planet 3)

Luke D'Alessandro

(The Masked Singer Australia & USA, Dancing with the Stars)

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

Merindah Donnelly

(Co-CEO, Executive Producer, BlakDance)

Joel McGuinness

(Experience Director, State Library Victoria)

Melissa Malu

(Head of Pasifika Collections and Engagement, Australian Museum)

UNRIVALLED INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

BUILD YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

NIDA students gain rare access to some of the industry's most respected practitioners through hands-on masterclasses that shape real theatre and screen projects. These experiences allow you to develop your craft, demonstrate your capabilities, and start building professional networks while you're still studying.

The Hollywood Reporter has continued to rank NIDA as

**ONE OF THE
25 BEST
DRAMA SCHOOLS
IN THE WORLD**

and the only school outside the USA and UK to make the list, as well as ranking in the

**TOP TEN
COSTUME DESIGN
SCHOOLS GLOBALLY**

the only Australian institution to do so.

***THE**
Hollywood
REPORTER*

TELLING TOMORROW'S STORIES

Storytelling is one of the world's oldest art forms. NIDA's mission is to deliver transformational education that enables graduates to tell new stories, in new ways, and help lead the evolution of our creative industries.

NIDA GREEN

NIDA Green works with students and teachers to bring environmentally sustainable thinking into creative practice — from smart material choices to embracing Theatre Green Book standards. NIDA is committed to reach Net Zero targets by 2050.

Learn more at nida.edu.au/about-us/initiatives/nida-green/

Together we're shaping a greener industry.

NIDA FUTURE CENTRE

The Future Centre is NIDA's innovation lab, bringing together artists, researchers and industry to experiment with emerging technologies. Students gain access to new tools and ideas, empowering them to shape tomorrow's stories.

Explore the NIDA Future Centre: nida.edu.au/about-us/initiatives/future-centre/

“NIDA — once again — is ahead of the pack. NIDA Green is a pioneer curriculum-based program which aims to have every graduate leave with a comprehensive understanding of the ‘why’ of sustainability and a tool kit to make the ‘how’ possible. With this understanding, sustainability will be business as usual across all practices.”

Cate Blanchett,
NIDA alumna, *Elizabeth*,
Lord of the Rings, *Carol*.

94%+

employment in the arts industry or undertaking further arts-related study, across all NIDA's accredited programs, within 12 months of graduating

96%+

student completion across all Diploma, BFA and MFA programs

IN A YEAR WE OFFERED

300+

productions, showcases, and events held at NIDA

270+

weeks of industry engagement

88

student placements

49

industry hosts

RECENT ARTISTS WORKING WITH NIDA STUDENTS INCLUDE:

DIRECTORS AND CREATIVE LEADERS

Tim Burton

Director, writer and producer, *Wednesday, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Big Fish*

Sheridan Harbridge

Director, writer, and performer, Sydney Festival, Belvoir Street Theatre

Brittanie Shipway

Director, writer, and performer, Ensemble Theatre, Hayes Theatre

David Gardos

Music director, Hayes Theatre

Carissa Licciardello

Director, Belvoir Street Theatre

Guy Simon

Director, and performer, ABC TV, Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company

Nicholas Brown

Performer, writer and director, Netflix, ABC TV, Griffin Theatre

Tasnim Hossain

Resident Director, Melbourne Theatre Company

Dino Dimitriadis

Director, Creative Producer

Tessa Leong

Artistic Director, Contemporary Asian Australian Performance

Jacob Nash

Production Designer, Bangarra, Sydney Festival, Belvoir Street Theatre

Shari Sebbens

Actor and Director, Sydney Theatre Company

Imara Savage

Director, Sydney Chamber Opera

Priya Srinivasan

Co-Artistic Director, Sangam Festival

Vicki Van Hout

Indigenous Independent Artist

Wesley Enoch AM,

Playwright, Artistic Director, Chair of the Australia Council Board, Creative Australia

Kip Williams

Former Artistic Director, Sydney Theatre Company

WRITERS

John Collee

Screenwriting

Michelle Law

Playwright & Screenwriter

Hillary Bell

Playwright

Alexa Wyatt

Screenwriter & Story Producer

Sam Meikle

Writer

Tommy Murphy

Playwright and Screenwriter

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Garry Alcorn

Stage Manager, Opera Australia

Ben Lynch

Stage Manager, Opera Australia

Antony Hateley

Lighting Designer

Toby Sewell

Lighting Designer

Matt Marshall

Lighting Designer

David Grigg

Sound Designer

Jess Dunn

Sound Designer and Composer

Jennifer Irwin

Costume Designer, Bangarra Dance Theatre

Sabina Myers

Costume and Production Designer

Toni Paul

Hair Specialist

Jon Blake

Effects Rigger, Spidermonkey

Virginia Masiti

Production Design, AFTRS

Natalie Beak

Production Design, AFTRS

Adam Mada

Magician

Dr Maleen Jayasuriya

Faculty of Science and Technology | Collaborative Robotics Lab University of Canberra

Dr Wendy Osmond

Wendy Osmond Design

Caroline Olweny

Make-up artist

Cynthia Simango

Hair specialist

Sandra Wograndl

Make-up artist

Nik Lyons

Lighting specialist

SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2027



SUPPORT

FEE-HELP

All students are required to pay tuition fees for their courses at NIDA. Domestic students in the BFA and MFA courses can apply for FEE-HELP, an Australian Government loan scheme that assists eligible students pay all or part of their tuition fees.

Learn more at studyassist.gov.au

Commonwealth Supported Places

NIDA students may be eligible for a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP), which means the Australian Government subsidises part of the cost of their study. Eligibility varies by course and student circumstances. For more information, including eligibility criteria and available places, please visit the NIDA website.

VET Student Loans

NIDA is an approved VET Student Loans provider. Students in 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.

Learn more at dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans

NIDA's scholarships are designed to remove barriers and open doors — so you can focus on your creative journey.

Scholarships help provide support towards living costs and accommodation, particularly for students who may otherwise face significant financial challenges. Some scholarships also provide support towards tuition fees.

Selected scholarships can be awarded prior to arrival at NIDA and may cover one 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).

In 2026, the NIDA Foundation Trust awarded over \$1.43 million in scholarship support to students, ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year. There are also a few larger Major Scholarships for up to \$50,000 a year for 3 years.

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.

Applications for 2027 open in October and will be available to applicants who make it to Round Two of the Application process.

To find out more about scholarships, visit nida.edu.au/scholarships

COURSES

ACTING
COSTUME
DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE
PROPS AND EFFECTS
SET CONSTRUCTION
TECHNICAL PRODUCTION
CULTURAL LEADERSHIP
DIRECTING
DRAMATIC WRITING
LIVE PRODUCTION
MUSICAL THEATRE
MAKE-UP
STAGE AND SCREEN
PERFORMANCE

ACTING

Bachelor of Fine Arts ACTING

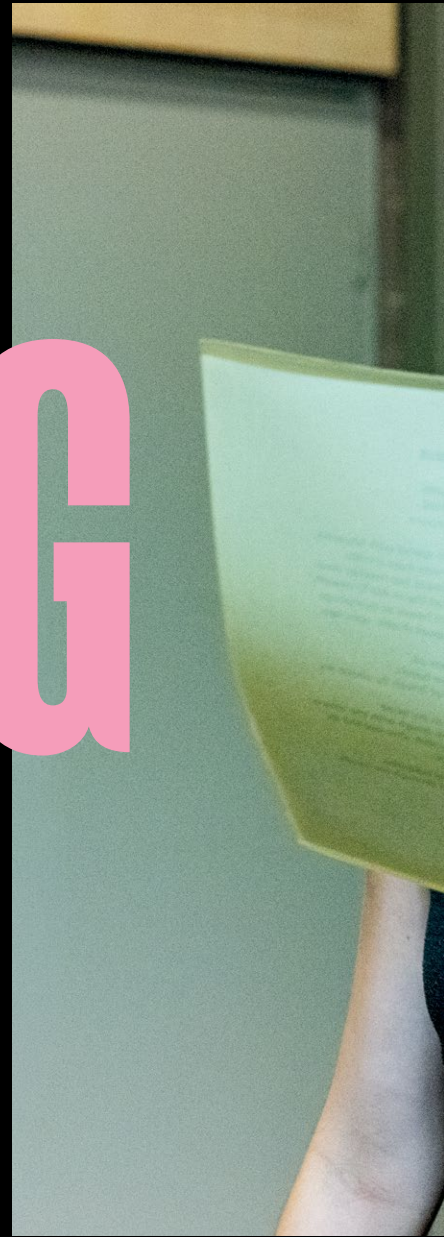
Join an exceptional ensemble of students and teachers and equip yourself with the knowledge, skills and craft to thrive in the arts and entertainment industry now and into the future.

With the option to study as an actor or a singing actor, a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) degree gives you vigorous, varied training across four skill disciplines: Acting, Music, Movement and Voice. These disciplines are designed to give you a deep, holistic understanding of the craft of acting and an exceptional level of technical skill, so you can tell stories clearly, creatively, consistently, and bravely to any audience.

You will engage with scaffolded learning by acquiring technique, and synthesising your skills through performance projects, productions and interdisciplinary tasks with the wider student community. Whilst at NIDA, you will work and collaborate with leading local, national and global practitioners in dedicated performance spaces.

The NIDA BFA (Acting) course is an internationally recognised qualification. By the end of your training, you'll showcase your skills to industry representatives, and enter the workplace as a flexible, adaptive, future-facing artist, ready for a rewarding career.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au





OUR ACTING GRADUATES

NIDA acting alumni include many of the most recognised and awarded actors in the world, including Cate Blanchett, Sam Worthington, Judy Davis, Sarah Snook, Richard Roxburgh, Remy Hii, Hugh Sheridan, Miranda Tapsell, Murray Bartlett, Uli Latukefu, Yerin Ha, Jack Patten and Sophie Wilde.

BFA (Acting) streams:
The Actor
The Singing Actor

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

DURATION

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

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application and audition, see p.44

Applications open Monday, 4th May
Closing Monday, 14 September
Visit apply.nida.edu.au

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

CRICOS CODE

083696J



STAGE & SCREEN PERFORMANCE

**11403NAT 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 will learn how to collaborate with others to create original works for various media.

Training includes classes in acting techniques for both live and screen work, performance styles and production practices.

You'll learn about the multiplicity of roles, technologies and methodologies that exist within the theatre, film, TV and digital industries.

NIDA tutors are working specialists in their field of expertise, and the training provides invaluable masterclasses with leading industry practitioners.

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

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Performer and creator for stage and screen.

DURATION

1 year

Mode: Full-time, on campus

4 days per week, 9am–5pm

Some evenings and weekends

HOW TO APPLY

Online application and audition, see p.44

Applications open Monday, 4 May

Closing Monday, 14 September

Visit apply.nida.edu.au

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

RTO CODE

90349





MUSICAL THEATRE

CUA50220 Diploma of MUSICAL THEATRE

This course is an intensive year of practical study that trains you to become a 'triple threat': singer, dancer and actor. Providing the rigour and skill required to get a foothold in musical theatre, the course is industry driven. You will learn from practicing professionals and leading tutors from the arts and entertainment industry.

You will be trained to respond creatively to scripts and songs, collaborate effectively with other performers and how to make informed decisions about character interpretation. Training is practical, with an even distribution of classes in each of the disciplines of singing, dancing and acting.

You will train in ensemble and solo singing in a range of musical theatre repertoire, acting techniques for both spoken and sung dialogue, and in ensemble and individual dance in a variety of styles.

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

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

DURATION

1 year
Mode: Full-time, on campus
4 days per week, 9am–5pm
Some evenings and weekends

HOW TO APPLY

Online application and audition, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 14 September

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

RTO CODE

90349



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
TRAINING



COSTUME

Bachelor of Fine Arts COSTUME

NIDA Bachelor of Fine Arts (Costume) graduates are in high demand for good reason. Tailored closely to industry needs, this immersive, practice-led course provides students with the in-depth knowledge and skills to pursue a career in costume making and costume supervising for a range of performance contexts, including theatre, film and digital media.

With full access to NIDA's dedicated creative facilities, graduates will gain a solid background in all aspects of costume making, learning from globally recognised tutors and guest practitioners who are specialists in opera, theatre and film costume.

Working in small classes, students develop skills in costume cutting (pattern making), fitting and construction, fabric dyeing, art finishing and fabrication, underpinnings, leatherwork, tailoring and headwear. You will explore cultural and historical factors that have shaped the development of clothing and influence costume making.

Third-year students take responsibility as costume supervisors on student productions, collaborating with actors, stage managers and costume designers. You will also take your skills on an industry placement with a leading theatre, opera, dance company or a major film and television studio.

If you're curious about costume, make it happen with a robust skill set, valuable industry connections and priceless opportunities to collaborate on full-scale productions from brief to execution.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au



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 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 including *Elvis*, and TV programs such as *Dancing with the Stars*.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Costume supervisor, TV costume coordinator, costume maker, costume cutter, dresser, costume assistant or standby, theatrical tailor, buyer, costume art finisher, milliner, and wardrobe managers across the creative industries.

DURATION

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

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application and garment submission, portfolio and interview, see p.44

Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 28 September

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

CRICOS CODE

083698G



DESIGN

Bachelor of Fine Arts DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE

Designers don't just shape the worlds of our stages and screens; they challenge and inspire us to engage more fully with our own world. The Bachelor of Fine Arts (Design for Performance) sets you up with the knowledge, skills, and opportunity to build a creative and versatile career across all parts of the performing arts, entertainment and screen industries.

As a Design for Performance student, you'll create set and costume designs for live productions, short films, music videos, devised works, installations and multidisciplinary projects.

Working in small classes in professionally equipped studios, theatres and workshops, learning is embedded in individual and collaborative design projects.

Students, tutors and industry mentors work collectively to create a rich learning environment that values curiosity, initiative, risk and experimentation, and brings together the best critical thinking and immersive practice with a strong focus on intellectual enquiry and sustainability.



Good questions stretch our imagination and creativity. Design for Performance students are encouraged to question, dared to imagine new ideas and new worlds, and empowered to innovate change from the ground up.

Graduates from NIDA take with them a robust skillset, valuable industry connections and confidence about their future in stage and screen design.

There is more to explore at nida.edu.au

OUR DESIGN GRADUATES

NIDA was recently named one of the top 10 costume design courses in the world. Our award-winning graduates have been recognised with Academy Awards, BAFTAs, AACTAs, APDG Awards, Green Room and Sydney Theatre Awards. They have designed for major theatre companies across the globe including Cirque du Soleil, Bangarra Dance Theatre, and international feature films and television series including *Hamnet*, *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.

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, digital, immersive theatre and events.

DURATION

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

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with portfolio and interview, see p.44
Applications Open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 28 September

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

CRICOS CODE

083699F

PROPS & EFFECTS

Bachelor of Fine Arts PROPS AND EFFECTS

Immersive and practice-based, a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Props and Effects) is an all-encompassing deep-dive into conceptualising, problem-solving and creating props and practical effects for every avenue in the performing arts and entertainment industries.

One of only a handful of institutions in the world to offer this degree, our BFA (Props and Effects) gives you the chance to build a vast, in-demand range of skillsets and become inclusive and sustainable designer-makers of both digital and physical properties and effects for events, entertainment and artistic productions across platforms.

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 realise 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 challenges.

As you progress, you'll be mentored, guided and supported by NIDA's teachers from across disciplines and industry partners, empowering you with the skillset, practical experiences, and valuable industry connections to be confident about your professional future.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au





OUR PROPS AND EFFECTS GRADUATES

NIDA graduates have been employed by Creature Technology Company, Wētā Workshop, Disney Studios, The Masked Singer, Mad Max Films, Lego Masters Australia, Aardman Animations, Sydney Theatre Company, Opera Australia and many others.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Props designer-maker, scenic artist, set decorator, animator, puppet maker, model maker, digital fabricator, special effects artist, draftsman, 3D modeler, project manager, properties workshop manager, freelance artist, set dresser across traditional performance, digital immersive theatre and events.

DURATION

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

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with portfolio and interview, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 28 September

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

CRICOS CODE

083697G

OUR AIM, NO ACCIDENTS



KEEP

SET CONSTRUCTION





Bachelor of Fine Arts SET CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

The only set construction course of its kind in Australia, a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Set Construction Technologies) sets you up to create the environments in which performances take place.

Working in small cohorts, students follow a practice-based, immersive teaching and learning method designed to equip you with the creative, conceptual, practical and technical skills essential for constructing performance environments in the performing arts and entertainment industries.

As you progress, you'll explore various staging approaches from multiple perspectives and creatively interpret briefs related to fabrication, mechanics, and automation. You'll receive hands-on training in timber and steel fabrication, rigging, and structural, mechanical, and electronic concepts, all aimed at providing sustainable staging solutions.

In addition to gaining experience through NIDA student productions, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with industry experts on installations and performances, enhancing your employment prospects.

Your 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 so you're all set from the outset.

To complete the degree, students can utilise their skills through a placement with a leading production company, either in Australia or internationally.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au

OUR SET CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES GRADUATES

NIDA 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.

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, immersive theatre and events.

DURATION

3 years

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

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with portfolio and interview, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 28 September

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

CRICOS CODE

083700G

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Bachelor of Fine Arts TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production) is a distinctive, practice-led degree structured around collaborative, multi-disciplinary practice that develops highly skilled theatre makers and creative leaders. Unique in its approach in bringing together a range of disciplines, including lighting, sound, video, and stage management practices, the BFA (Technical Production) provides a broad and interconnected foundation for contemporary performance making. Each discipline is underpinned by discipline-specific design processes and integrated with the wider dramatic arts across the entirety of the program.

Designed for creative problem solvers and collaborative storytellers, the program prepares students to work fluently across disciplines, genres, platforms, and modes of performance. Students develop deep technical, managerial, interpersonal, and design capabilities while learning to interpret artistic intent, communicate complex ideas, and contribute meaningfully to interdisciplinary creative processes. This breadth of practice enables graduates to adapt confidently to the evolving demands of contemporary performance industries.

Learning is immersive, practice-based, and industry-embedded. Through small class sizes, hands-on training, and close mentorship from experienced educators and industry

practitioners, students gain extensive experience working with professional practices appropriate to a wide range of performance contexts. Across NIDA's production seasons, students take on key roles in technical production, developing leadership skills, ethical professional practice, and confidence in real-world creative environments.

In the final year, students will undertake industry placements with leading organisations and practitioners, further strengthening professional networks and career readiness.

Graduates emerge as adaptable practitioners with a broad and integrated skill set, and as future



leaders of the industry, known for their collaborative approach, ethical professional practice, and highly transferable capabilities. Alumni move into diverse career pathways across theatre, live performance, opera, dance, festivals, screen, events, commercial productions, and interdisciplinary creative practice.

With its emphasis on breadth, integration, leadership, and adaptability, this degree prepares graduates not just for their first role, but for long, sustainable careers shaping the future of performance making and technical production.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au

OUR TECHNICAL PRODUCTION GRADUATES

NIDA graduates are 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.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, video designer, production manager, event manager, technical manager, theatre technician. Graduates of this program can be found in leadership roles including general manager, producer and company manager.

DURATION

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

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

APPLICATIONS

Online application with creative response, project and interview, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 28 September

CRICOS CODE
083701F

LIVE PRODUCTION



CUA50425 Diploma of LIVE PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Our Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services (DLPTS) course provides hands-on training that teaches you to plan, coordinate, carry out, and evaluate technical requirements for productions, events or exhibitions in the creative arts industry.

Over the year, you will learn how to organise lighting, audio and vision resources and take part in their installation and operation processes. You will then apply your skills to live performance and technical projects, collaborating with students from other creative disciplines across NIDA.

With small classes and tutors who are practicing professionals from the arts and entertainment industry, the DLPTS course includes networking opportunities with a range of Sydney theatre venues, including the Sydney Theatre Company, Sydney Opera House and Sydney Lyric Theatre.

As an integral part of the course, you will also undertake an immersive industry placement, enabling you to develop valuable networks. This course rewards creative problem solvers with contemporary industry training, strong collaboration skills and deep connections to the industry they would like to join.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au



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
4 days per week, 9am–5pm
Some evenings and weekends

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with interview, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 26 October

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

RTO CODE

90349



CUA51020 Diploma of SCREEN AND MEDIA (SPECIALIST MAKE-UP SERVICES)

Our Diploma of Screen and Media (Specialist Make-up Services) is a practical and intensive year of study where you'll gain the essential skills and knowledge to work in hair and make-up across a broad range of creative contexts, including theatre, film, fashion, advertising, wig styling, special effects and prosthetics.

With small classes and content delivered by practicing professionals, students benefit from a focus on working with a range of skin tones and hair types, deep industry connections and contemporary expertise from all sectors of arts and entertainment. The course includes visits to working industry venues including film sets, the Opera Centre and City Recital Hall.

Collaboration on NIDA productions allows you to refine your craft, build your professional portfolio and collaborate with current and future industry professionals.

At the end of the year, you will showcase your work as part of a filmed performance in one of NIDA's theatres. Attended by entertainment industry practitioners and producers,

this is an ideal opportunity to display your skills and connect with industry.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au

OUR DIPLOMA OF SCREEN AND MEDIA GRADUATES

NIDA make-up graduates have worked on feature films including *Thor*, and *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, screen productions including *Home & Away* and *Heartbreak High*, and theatre productions with Opera Australia, and musicals such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Frozen*, *Tina: The Musical*, and *The Lion King*.

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
4 days per week, 9am–5pm
Some evenings and weekends

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with interview, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 26 October

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

RTO CODE

90349





MAKE-UP



CULTURAL LEADERSHIP



Master of Fine Arts CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

NIDA's Master of Fine Arts (Cultural Leadership) is designed for those who make art happen. It invites participants to explore and define how positive change is enacted and to graduate as future-focused and effective cultural leaders.

Combining part-time study, online learning and in-person intensives at NIDA's Sydney campus and beyond, this program invites you to connect, exchange ideas and experiment with innovative approaches to creative and professional practice. Topics covered include governance, cultural policy, entrepreneurial thought leadership, communication, advocacy, cultural transformation, sustainability, as well as evaluative and practice-based research methods.

Throughout the 30-month course, 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 experiences that students bring to the course, we encourage and support a unique peer-learning environment.

This MFA also includes the opportunity to undertake a research-driven, international case study and placement to enhance your networks, and a collaborative capstone project to put your knowledge into practice.

Culture shifts happen when cultural leaders are skilled. This program is an invaluable resource for those who are dedicated to making a meaningful and positive impact on the cultural landscape, now and in the future.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au

OUR CULTURAL LEADERSHIP GRADUATES

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

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 and elsewhere as notified.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with written application and interview, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 28 September

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

Master of Fine Arts DIRECTING

For over five decades, NIDA has nurtured talented, versatile and visionary directors. Our directing training is distinguished by its studio-based approach and its commitment to developing each student's unique artistic voice.

The Master of Fine Arts (Directing) is centred on immersive, practice-led projects across classical and contemporary theatre, screen, opera and devised performance. Throughout your training, you will collaborate with actors, designers and production teams, and gain exposure to leading practitioners and companies across Australia and internationally. An industry placement provides invaluable firsthand experience and builds the professional networks essential to launching your career.

Your studies culminate in a graduation project: the creation and direction of a short live performance, presented in a curated season at NIDA Theatres and attended by artistic directors and industry professionals.

Graduates emerge with an advanced collaborative and leadership toolkit, a rigorous and adaptable directorial process, a confident artistic identity, and strong industry connections.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au

DIRECTING



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

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

**DURATION**

18 months

Mode: Full-time, on campus

Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm

Some evenings and weekends

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

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with portfolio, essay and interview, see p.44

Applications open Monday, 4 May

Closing Monday, 28 September

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

CRICOS CODE

113112H

WRITING



Master of Fine Arts DRAMATIC WRITING

The Master of Fine Arts (Dramatic Writing) is an intensive, practice-led course designed to prepare students for life as professional writers. It offers a culturally safe, supportive and stimulating environment where students can be curious, experiment with form and subject matter, and explore their own unique imagination and voice.

Across 18 months, students undergo a rigorous exploration of theatre, film, television, interactive writing, including those industries, audiences and future trends. You'll undertake collaborative projects, workshoping with actors and directors while building a portfolio of industry focused projects, including two full-length works and multiple outlines and pitches.

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

This course is focused on forging versatile and adaptive dramatic writers with sustainable writing careers. Armed with the skills to work across theatre, film and television, graduates leave with strong links within industry and the opportunity to establish a priceless network of professional connections.

There's more to explore at nida.edu.au



OUR WRITING GRADUATES

Our award-winning writing graduates work both nationally and internationally, including on some of Australia's most recognisable stories. They have worked on shows for Amazon Prime, Disney, Stan and ABC as well as across Australia's mainstage, including Sydney Theatre Company and Belvoir.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

DURATION

18 months
Mode: Full-time, on campus
Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm
Some evenings and weekends

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FEES

Visit nida.edu.au/study

HOW TO APPLY

Online application with written work and interview, see p.44
Applications open Monday, 4 May
Closing Monday, 28 September

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Available. See p.14

CRICOS CODE

113111J

NIDA CAREER PATHWAYS

Below you can see just some of the career pathways available to graduates of each course – endless combinations are possible!

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

ACTING

Actor (Stage / Screen)
Voice artist / Voice-over Performer
Presenter / Performer
Motion Capture Performer
Voice & Performance Capture Artist
(Games / Animation)
Content Creator / Digital Performer
Performance Director
(Games / Animation)
Intimacy Coordinator
Theatre Director
Movement Coach
Voice Coach

DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE

Set and Costume Designer
Production Designer
(Film / TV / Streaming)
Creative Director
(Arts / Live Performance)
Experience / Exhibition Designer
Virtual Art Department (VAD) Artist
Creative Technologist
Sustainability Consultant
(Production Design)
Art Director

COSTUME

Costume Designer
Costume Supervisor
Wardrobe Manager
Stylist (Screen / Theatre)
Costume Buyer
On-Set Wardrobe / Continuity
Costume For Film &
High-Definition / Virtual Production
Costume Dresser

PROPS & EFFECTS

Props Designer-Maker
Scenic Artist
Set Decorator
Animator
Puppet Maker
Model Maker
Digital Fabricator
Special Effects Artist
Draftsperson
3D Modeler / Sculptor
Properties Workshop Manager
Freelance Artist
Set Dresser

SET CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Set Builder / Scenic Constructor
Construction Manager
(Live Performance / Screen)
Technical Fabricator
Production Workshop Manager
Exhibition / Installation Fabricator

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Stage Manager
Production Manager
Technical Director
Lighting / Sound / AV Technician
Live Broadcast Technician
Streaming / Digital Event Producer
Systems Integrator
(Video / Live Performance)
Producer (Events / Festivals)
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Video Designer
Assistant Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Head Electrician
Venue Manager
General Manager
Company Manager

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.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

DIRECTING

Theatre Director
Film / TV Director
Assistant Director
Second Unit Director
Showrunner
Creative Producer (Screen)
Virtual Production Director
Content Director (Branded / Digital)

DRAMATIC WRITING

Screenwriter
Playwright
Story Consultant
Script Consultant / Dramaturg
Story Producer (TV / Factual)
Narrative Designer
(Games / Interactive)
Podcast Writer /
Narrative Audio Producer
Transmedia Storyteller
Creative Producer

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

Arts Manager
Creative Producer
Festival Producer / Programmer
Cultural Consultant
Venue Programmer / Curator
Philanthropy /
Development Manager (Arts)
Audience Development Manager
Arts Policy Advisor
Creative Industries Consultant
Creative Entrepreneur / Founder
Executive Director
Festival Director
Festival Producer



LIVE PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Live Events Technician
 Production Coordinator
 AV Specialist
 Technical Operator
 (Lighting / Sound / Vision)
 Live Broadcast Technician
 Streaming / Hybrid Event Producer
 Technical Producer (Events / Festivals)

CAREERS SUPPORTED BY
 MULTIPLE NIDA COURSES

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY & EMERGING PATHWAYS

Creative Producer (cross-platform)
 Immersive Experience Director
 (XR / AR / VR)
 Interactive Story Designer
 Branded Content Creative
 (Agencies / Studios)
 Development Executive
 Content Producer
 (Streaming / Digital Platforms)
 Education & Outreach Practitioner
 (Arts)
 World Builder

VOCATIONAL DIPLOMAS

MUSICAL THEATRE

Musical Theatre Performer
 Cabaret Performer
 Singer-Actor

STAGE AND SCREEN PERFORMANCE

Stage And Screen Actor
 Content Creator
 Voice-Over Performer

SCREEN & MEDIA (SPECIALIST MAKE-UP SERVICES)

Screen Make-up Artist
 Hair and Make-up Designer
 Special Effects (SFX) Make-up Artist
 Prosthetics Designer
 On-Set Grooming /
 Continuity Make-up Artist
 Make-up for HD / Film / Virtual
 Production



READY TO APPLY?

We invite bold storytellers to apply to study with us - creatives who want to make work for the stage, screen and beyond.

NIDA encourages applications from First Nations peoples and from individuals with diverse backgrounds and varied lived experiences.

Before applying for our BFA or MFA or Diploma courses, here's what you need to know:

- For Diploma: students must have reached the age of 18 before the commencement of the course. You must be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or New Zealand citizen. This course does not accept international students.
- For BFA/MFA: domestic students must be 18 years of age by 31 March in your first year of enrolment; international students must be 18 years of age at the date of application.
- For Bachelor of Fine Arts: you must hold a Higher School Certificate or its equivalent from any state or territory in Australia or overseas. ATAR is not required.

- For a Master of Fine Arts: you must have an undergraduate degree or at least five years of professional experience in a relevant field.
- You must be fluent in spoken English and proficient in written English. International students need 7.0 IELTS (Academic) with no band score less than 6.0.
- You must complete the audition or prerequisites for your chosen course.
- We accept applications from international students, for select courses.

The NIDA application process usually takes place over two rounds.



ROUND ONE

Choose a course:

Go to our courses 'Degrees and Diplomas' section online and choose the course you want to study. Make sure to check through the selection criteria.

Submit your application:

You can apply directly through our website. Follow the prompts on the application portal and make sure you include all supporting documentation.

Please note you can apply for more than one course. You will need to submit an application for each individual course.

ROUND TWO

Prepare for your audition or

interview: If your application is successful, you'll be invited for an audition or an interview.

Attend your audition or interview:

Interviews will be held face-to-face or online. Auditions and recalls will be face-to-face unless otherwise advised.

Receive an offer:

If you're successful, you will receive an offer for a place at NIDA. You'll be advised by email or telephone.

AUDITIONS

Audition Process

The audition process varies between courses. All applicants for the Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance, Diploma of Musical Theatre and Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) must audition as part of their application.

See what your audition process looks like at: nida.edu.au/study



LIFE AT NIDA

NIDA's campus is located across the road from the education precinct of UNSW Sydney, in Kensington, with light rail and bus routes stopping right outside the front door. NIDA's award-winning facilities includes dedicated spaces for each discipline, as well as spaces for collaboration, including:

- 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 plus access to online resources

STUDENT LIFE

Life as a NIDA student is like nowhere else. With small cohorts and students coming from diverse backgrounds across Australia and internationally, there are huge opportunities to learn and collaborate with each other while studying, creating a space to develop extensive and long-lasting networks and friendships.

Being a NIDA student means joining a truly unique creative community.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We actively promote the holistic health and wellbeing of our students to help them 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.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

NIDA students can access support for academic skills which may include advice on assessments, workload management, research and academic writing. This approach encourages students to seek support early, fostering confidence, resilience, and success throughout their studies at NIDA.

ON-SITE COUNSELLING SERVICES

NIDA students have access to counselling services on our Sydney campus. Counsellors are available five days per week, and students receive up to 10 counselling sessions per calendar year during their study at NIDA.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

NIDA students can apply for accommodation at various UNSW on-campus residences. Once enrolled, students gain access to online boards and forums where shared accommodation options are often available.

STUDENT COUNCIL OF NIDA (SCON)

SCON is a student-led council that represents and advocates for the NIDA student body. It helps students by organising events, facilitating communication with staff, and ensuring students' voices are heard in key institutional decisions.



LIFE IN SYDNEY

Sydney is a global hub for creativity and culture, and an extraordinary place to begin your artistic journey.

Home to major theatres, film studios, the world famous Opera House and production companies, the city offers constant inspiration and real-world opportunity. At NIDA, you're immersed in this creative landscape, surrounded by iconic cultural institutions and industry at your doorstep.

See more of the neighbourhood at sydney.com

NIDA OPEN

A degree or diploma isn't the only way to take advantage of all that NIDA has to offer. NIDA Open offers creative short courses for adults and young people in Grades 7-12 in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Short courses offer flexible learning, and focused skills-training for unique creative goals at all levels.

NIDA Open Studios are spaces of possibility. Designed for dedicated and imaginative individuals who are ready to embrace an intensive, practical training experience. Studios are delivered on weekends over six or 12 months with a twice-yearly intake.

Learn more about Studios:
open.nida.edu.au/studios

Led by expert teaching artists with a wealth of industry experience, **NIDA Open Labs** are designed to develop and extend your creative skills over an intensive two or three-week period. Labs are held in January and July at NIDA's Sydney campus.

Learn more about the Lab Series:
open.nida.edu.au/lab-series



PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Government Partners



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications, Sport and the Arts**

NIDA is supported by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Principal Partner



Principal Patron First Nations Program



Major Partner



Major Supporter



Industry Partners



Supporters



Foundation

**ANDREW CAMERON
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**GIRGENSOHN
FOUNDATION**



The information contained in the brochure was accurate at the time of publication: May 2026.

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**

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Alphabet Studio

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NIDA

National Institute of Dramatic Art