

About NIDA

NIDA acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the sacred lands, from the mountains to the sea, on which we learn and tell stories.

The National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) is Australia's leading performing arts school. Founded in 1958 as Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art, our innovative practice-based learning programs have produced household names across stage, screen and beyond.

NIDA's goal is to empower storytellers of all ages and backgrounds. By offering industry-relevant training across multiple performing arts disciplines, we give our students expert education to develop their craft and move into successful careers.

Location

Our Sydney campus is located on Anzac Parade in Kensington on Bidjigal and Gadigal land and is the home of our Higher Education courses.

The Kensington Campus offers students access to 7 performance spaces, 10 rehearsal rooms, fully equipped set, props and costume workshops, music practice rooms and a library dedicated to the performing arts and cultural leadership.

The UNSW campus across the road provides access to food outlets and sporting facilities including a gym and a swimming pool.

NIDA's higher education campus is located at:

215 Anzac Parade
Kensington NSW 2033

Transport access is easy via light rail or bus.

Open Day

NIDA holds Open Days once year – the next Open Day will be in 2024

Important Admission Dates

Applications for 2024 open: 13 June to 18 September 2023

Bachelor of Fine Arts Acting
Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance
Diploma of Musical Theatre

Applications for 2024 open: 13 June to 3 October 2023

Bachelor of Fine Arts Costume
Bachelor of Fine Arts Design for Performance
Bachelor of Fine Arts Props and Effects
Bachelor of Fine Arts Set Construction Technologies/
Bachelor of Fine Arts Technical Theatre and Stage Management
Master of Fine Arts Directing
Master of Fine Arts Dramatic Writing

Applications for 2024 open: 13 June to 30 October 2023

Master of Fine Arts Cultural Leadership
Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services
Diploma of Screen and Media (Specialist Make-up Services)

Enrolments for 2024: December 2023 to 13 January 2024

MFA 2024 commencement: Monday 5 February 2024

BFA 2024 commencement: Monday 5 February 2024

Contact Details

Website: www.nida.edu.au

Email: applications@nida.edu.au

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Admission Criteria

All applicants for courses are assessed and selected in the same manner regardless of their educational background.

NIDA's general entry requirements for **undergraduate** courses are:

- have completed their Higher School Certificate or equivalent qualification at the end of high school for undergraduate courses
- Minimum age requirements: must be 18 years of age by 31 March in their first year of enrolment for domestic students in undergraduate programs (only in exceptional circumstances can this condition be waived) and 18 years at date of commencement for international students (there is no waiver for international students on age).
- English language proficiency requirements appropriate for vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate courses respectively be proficient in written and spoken English. International students must have an English language proficiency of equivalent to IELTS 7.0 with no band score less than 6.0 (IELTS 8.0 for BFA Acting).
- Skills and knowledge appropriate to the level and discipline the applicant is seeking to gain admission into.
- An evidenced interest in the performing arts

NB: NIDA requires students to have completed Year 12 or its equivalent, but it does not use the ATAR as a selection criterion when reviewing applicants.

NIDA's general entry requirements for **postgraduate** courses are:

- have completed an undergraduate degree or have five years documented relevant work experience as specified in the specific course entry requirements for postgraduate courses
- Minimum age requirements: must be 18 years of age.
- English language proficiency requirements appropriate for vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate courses respectively be proficient in written and spoken English. International students must have an English language proficiency of equivalent to IELTS 7.0 with no band score less than 6.0 (IELTS 8.0 for BFA Acting).
- Skills and knowledge appropriate to the level and discipline the applicant is seeking to gain admission into.
- An evidenced interest in the performing arts

Selection for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses is based on merit and may take into consideration the applicant's suitability for admission, their capacity constraints and the availability of NIDA resources and personnel. Each discipline establishes specific entry requirements and eligibility criteria based on the unique nature of their course. These must be consistent with NIDA's commitment to academic and creative excellence and in line with the academic and creative demands of the program and assessment of these may include, but not be limited to:

- Audition/ recall performance
- Interview
- Model box
- Make project
- Portfolio
- Skills test

We select students who:

- demonstrate commitment, motivation and passion in relation to the arts, entertainment and related industries, to their chosen discipline, and to the course of study
- provide evidence of their capacity to work creatively and imaginatively
- demonstrate an aptitude to collaborate with peers as part of a creative process
- demonstrate a range of knowledge, skills, technical abilities and/or problem-solving techniques relevant to their discipline
- demonstrate cultural and contextual awareness
- articulate and communicate ideas clearly

Credit transfer and recognition of prior learning is undertaken on a case-by-case basis once a student is enrolled. The principles underlying the assessment of credit transfer/recognition of prior Learning (RPL) applications are that the process is:

- Evidence and outcome based
- Consistent, equitable, transparent and accountable
- Based on processes of comparable standard and integrity to those used to assess the relevant subject
- Subject to the same academic quality assurance processes as all assessment practices at NIDA
- Mindful of the collaborative nature of NIDA's conservatoire training model and the value that collaboration brings to the student learning experience

Completed bridging or enabling course

NIDA does not currently have an enabled course or bridging program.

Applicants with work and life experience

(Includes those who left secondary education more than 2 years ago).

NIDA's general entry requirements apply, and selection is based on merit, as outlined above.

NIDA welcomes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.

NIDA's general entry requirements apply, and selection is based on merit, as outlined above.

Domestic applicants with overseas qualifications

Domestic students with overseas qualifications must supply certified translations of their qualifications.

NIDA's general entry requirements apply, and selection is based on merit, as outlined above.

English Language proficiency

It is a requirement of NIDA that international students have an English language proficiency equivalent to an overall band score of 7.0 (Academic) for all Bachelor of Fine Arts courses except the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) which requires an IELTS of 8.0 (Academic) or equivalent.

How to Apply

Prospective applicants need to apply directly to NIDA.

There are four steps to successfully applying for a NIDA course.

Step 1: Create your NIDA account (one-time only). Please note that the account must be created in the applicant's name.

Step 2: Complete the online application form – a separate application is required for each course.

Step 3: Attach all requested documentation including a passport style photo.

Step 4: Select an audition/interview time.

Details for the exact application process are available in the course specific application guides at www.nida.edu.au/study.

Interviews and auditions are held from October – December 2023. Applicants who do not successfully pass through the first round will be notified by email.

Enrolment

Offer and Acceptance

Successful applicants receive their formal offer via email. The time frame to accept this offer is included in the offer letter. Acceptance of the offer is undertaken by enrolling into the course using NIDA's online student management portal.

Deferment

You cannot defer an offer for a NIDA course. If an applicant does not take up an offer within the time frame specified on the offer your place may be offered to another applicant.

Recognition of Prior Learning/Academic Credit

At the time of enrolment, a student can apply for academic credit or recognition of prior learning. Details of current policies relating to academic credit and recognition of prior learning are available at www.nida.edu.au/study/students/policies.

Fees and Charges

Tuition fee schedules are calculated by credit point.

[View Domestic undergraduate fee schedules and equipment / clothing lists.](#)

[View International undergraduate fee schedules and equipment / clothing lists.](#)

[View Domestic postgraduate fee schedules and equipment / clothing lists.](#)

[View International postgraduate fee schedules and equipment / clothing lists.](#)

Student and Campus Services (optional)

Accommodation

NIDA does not have on-campus accommodation for students. NIDA has a relationship with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) which is located opposite NIDA. UNSW offers a range of housing options which NIDA students can access. For more details see UNSW Residential Communities.

Counselling

NIDA students have access to counselling services. A counsellor is on premises Monday – Friday.

Health Services

Health services are available through the UNSW Medical Services on UNSW campus. The University Health Service is a fully accredited general medical practice located on the ground floor of the Quadrangle Building. Male and female doctors are available for consultation.

There are also part-time psychiatrists and a part-time orthopaedic surgeon who see patients on referral. Medical consultations for NIDA students and OHSC card holders are bulk billed.

NIDA Pantry

Several times a year NIDA purchases pantry staples which are made available to students on an honour system.

Sport and Recreation

NIDA students have access to some of the sporting facilities at UNSW. The Fitness and Aquatic Centre, UNSW seeks ways to encourage students and staff to include exercise as an essential part of their daily lives. Recreational programs and facilities are provided for students and staff. The centre provides squash courts, a 50-metre indoor heated swimming pool, basketball court, indoor cycling studio and fitness studio. The program of classes includes different types of aerobics, pump, circuits, pilates, swimming and yoga. NIDA students can join the Fitness and Aquatic Centre at the UNSW student rate. The centre is located on the Lower Campus adjacent to High Street.

Student Organisations

The Student Council of NIDA (SCON) is run by a student committee, elected by the student body. The committee comprises second-year students from each undergraduate course, one MFA student representative and one Vocational student who represent the student body at meetings with the senior staff of NIDA. It is an association representing all NIDA students. In order to receive all the benefits of SCON, students have the option of joining and paying an annual membership fee. A member of SCON has a position on the NIDA Academic Board.

The tasks and aims of SCON are to:

- Allow the student body representatives to participate in any discussions and decisions on behalf of their peers and to keep the student body appropriately informed.
- Give students an arena to discuss, confidentially with their peers, any suggestions, problems, grievances, opportunities or interests which may arise while a student at NIDA.
- Promote a positive relationship between NIDA employees, staff and students of all courses.
- Give students moral and technical support regarding any disciplinary or assessment disputes.
- Promote friendship, respect and support among students at NIDA through organising events that bring the student body together.

Financial Assistance

Scholarships

Through the generosity of donors each year, NIDA offers a range of scholarships to assist with the cost of living. Scholarships are allocated to students based on a range of published criteria, including diversity and inclusion and financial need.

Emergency Loans

In the case of extreme financial emergencies, NIDA can support a student with a small loan of up to \$200. This money incurs no interest but needs to be repaid in full prior to graduation.

Student Profile: Undergraduate Year 1 2023

The table below gives an indication of the educational backgrounds of the 2023 commencing undergraduate peer cohort at NIDA.

It should be noted that as selection and admission to courses at NIDA is based on merit, the statistics below may not be indicative of the educational backgrounds of commencing cohorts on a year-to-year basis.

Applicant Background	Full year intake	
	Number of students	Percentage of all students
(A) Past higher education study	11	17.7%
(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study	22	35.5%
(C) Recent secondary education Admitted on basis of other criteria and ATAR was <i>not</i> a factor	20	32.3%
(D) Work and life experience	8	12.9
International students	L/N	L/N
All students	62	100%

Notes:

L/N – Low numbers - the number of students is less than 5

N/P – Not published: the number is hidden to prevent calculation of numbers in cells with less than 5 students

Student Profile: Postgraduate 2023

The table below gives an indication of the educational backgrounds of the 2023 commencing graduate peer cohort at NIDA.

It should be noted that as selection and admission to courses at NIDA is based on merit the statistics below may not be indicative of the educational backgrounds of commencing cohorts on a year-to-year basis.

Applicant Background	Full year intake	
	Number of students	Percentage of all students
(A) Past higher education study	17	94%
(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study	2	
(C) Work and life experience	0	
International students	1	L/N
All students	20	100%

Notes:

L/N – Low numbers - the number of students is less than 5

N/P – Not published: the number is hidden to prevent calculation of numbers in cells with less than 5 students

Further Information and useful links

[TEQSA National Register](#)

[Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students \(CRICOS\)](#)

[Information on appeals and grievance processes](#)

Email: applications@nida.edu.au