NIDA OPEN
National Institute of Dramatic Art

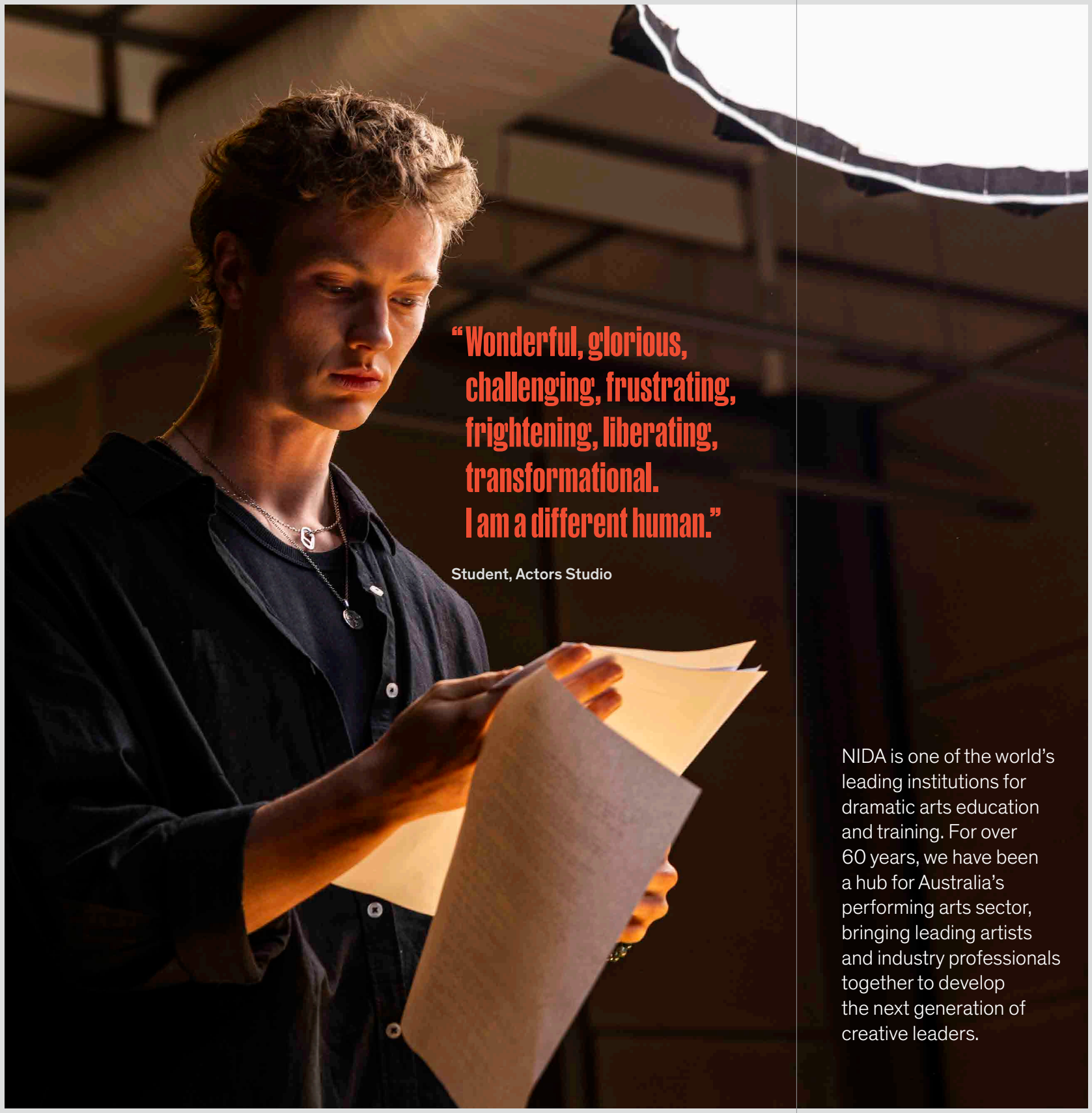
2027 PROGRAM



Studios

Acting
Musical Theatre
Directing
Writing

Sydney | Melbourne | Brisbane



NIDA is one of the world’s leading institutions for dramatic arts education and training. For over 60 years, we have been a hub for Australia’s performing arts sector, bringing leading artists and industry professionals together to develop the next generation of creative leaders.

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Delivered by leading practitioners, NIDA’s Studio program is a rigorous and rewarding experience that supports you in developing new skills, discovering your unique strengths and igniting your creative passions.

Our 6 and 12 month part-time Studio courses are a great way to experience NIDA training in a format that suits your busy lifestyle.

NIDA Open is a place where anyone is welcome to explore their creativity in a safe and supportive environment. Whether it’s your first experience of creative education or you have experience and are returning to further develop your craft, we welcome you and trust you will be creatively rewarded throughout your NIDA Open journey.

ABOUT NIDA STUDIOS

NIDA Studios are for committed and creative individuals seeking an intensive and practical training experience.

Designed to develop skills and techniques in the performing arts, NIDA Studios deliver rigorous, practice-driven training in a supportive and collaborative environment. Classes are delivered on weekends over 6 or 12 months with a twice-yearly intake.

Students complete a NIDA Studio having gained an understanding of their personal creative process and a skill set that prepares them for full-time training. NIDA Studios are a first step towards exploring a career in the performing arts, or simply an opportunity to enhance your personal and professional creative life.

Entry to a Studio course is by audition or interview only and class sizes are kept to a minimum, ensuring a high-quality and focused course delivery as well as a professional working environment.

EXPERT TEACHING ARTISTS

NIDA Open teaching artists are experts in education and performance practice. Selected for their outstanding teaching ability, knowledge, and industry experience, they provide students with feedback, direction and guidance throughout each course. Many of our teaching artists are also teaching staff on the NIDA Vocational and Degree programs and/or are NIDA graduates.

NIDA STUDIO TEACHING ARTISTS INCLUDE:

Pip Edwards (actor, *Home and Away*, *Anzac Girls*, *June Again*, Melbourne Theatre Company)

Andrea Demetriades (actor, *Anatomy of a Suicide*, *Mother and Son*, Ensemble Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company)

Shaun Goss (actor, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*)

Garth Holcombe (actor, *In Our Blood*, Sydney Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare)

Zoe Houghton (actor, director, writer, *All Saints*, *White Collar Blue*, Belvoir St Theatre, Queensland Theatre Company)

Brendon McDonall (actor, director, filmmaker, *Ten Moments*, *Unbending*, *Spoilers* and *Janet King*)

Ngoc Phan (actor, *Schapelle*, *The Black Balloon*, Queensland Theatre Company)

Anthony Gooley (actor, *Joe vs Carole*, Ensemble Theatre, Queensland Theatre Company)

Nick Simpson-Deeks (actor, *Deadloch*, *Utopia*, *Winners and Losers*, Bell Shakespeare)

Nigel Turner-Carroll (actor, director *The Tap Pack*, *The Midnight Gang*, *West Side Story*, *Bootmen*)

Clara Voda (actor, director, *If I Want to Whistle I Whistle*, *The Death of Mister Lazarescu*, L.S. Bulandra Theatre Co, Romania)

Doug Hansell (actor, *Come From Away*, *Malpractice*, Sydney Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare)

Ed Wightman (actor, director, *Moulin Rouge*, *Mamma Mia!*, Sydney Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare)

Platon Theodoris (film director, producer, screenwriter, *The Lonely Spirits Variety Hour*, *Alvin's Harmonious World of Opposites*).

PURPOSE-BUILT FACILITIES

SYDNEY

The NIDA Kensington campus is an award-winning facility tailored to dramatic arts training. The venue includes six professional theatres, rehearsal rooms, a sound stage, a lighting studio, make-up studios, fully equipped production workshops and the latest in audio-visual facilities.

MELBOURNE

Balam Balam Place is a purpose-built creative and community precinct. Located in Brunswick, this venue provides state-of-the-art facilities and spaces for people to explore their creativity through NIDA Open.

BRISBANE

In Brisbane, NIDA Studio courses are held at the contemporary performance facilities of TAFE Queensland, Brisbane, located in the South Bank cultural precinct.

AS A NIDA STUDIO STUDENT, YOU ALSO RECEIVE:

- Access to the NIDA library including Drama Online
- Invitations to NIDA productions and events
- 25% discount on selected full-priced adult short courses for the duration of your Studio program
- Access to NIDA's online learning management system



HOW TO APPLY

Entry to Studio programs is by audition and/or interview. Information about auditions and interviews for all courses is available under each course page on our website at **open.nida.edu.au/studios**.

Please note, there are prerequisite training requirements for Actors Studio: Screen Extension.

AUDITION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

Auditions and interviews provide an opportunity for us to get to know you, for you to ask any questions about the course, and will include opportunities to collaborate with others.

You will receive an information pack to help you prepare when you book your audition or interviews.

AUDITION AND INTERVIEW VENUES

SYDNEY
NIDA Kensington
215 Anzac Parade, Kensington

MELBOURNE
Balam Balam Place
15 Phoenix Street, Brunswick

BRISBANE
TAFE Queensland, Brisbane
66 Ernest Street, South Brisbane

CONTACT US

For more information visit **open.nida.edu.au/studios**

To talk to someone about the best Studio course for you and help decide on your study pathway, please call **(+61) 1300 450 417.**

ACTORS STUDIO

SYDNEY
MELBOURNE

SUNDAYS, 11AM-5PM
JANUARY 2027 INTAKE

Craft a structured, personalised approach to your work as a performer through practical actor training focused on skills development and application.

This course provides the opportunity to explore and apply contemporary acting techniques to a variety of contexts, and develop your vocal, physical and imaginative dexterity. Work with support and direction from experienced tutors and gain insight and inspiration from professional industry guests.

This course is ideal for those wishing to explore their potential as an artist or those preparing for higher education.

TERM 1

SYD	**7 FEB – 4 APR**
MELB	**31 JAN – 21 MAR**

Instrument Work: Extend your vocal range and find physical freedom through fundamental voice and movement training for the actor.

Imagination and Collaboration: Work as an ensemble to develop spontaneity in performance through improvisation and impulse work. Apply vocal, physical and acting technique to develop character and inform work with text.

TERM 2

SYD / MELB	**2 MAY – 20 JUN**

Classical Technique: Extend your performance range by working with iconic classical texts, re-imagined for the 21st century. Engage with the demands of heightened language, bold physicality and challenging stagecraft.

Contemporary Scene Work: Develop performance approaches and techniques to realise a range of challenging contemporary material. Apply rehearsal practices and techniques to produce performances that are truthful and engaging.

TERM 3

SYD / MELB	**25 JUL – 12 SEPT**

Applied Technique: Refine your personal acting process and respond intuitively in a variety of performance contexts for stage and screen.

Audition Technique: Select appropriate audition material. Identify and apply effective audition techniques for a range of industry demands.

TERM 4*

SYD / MELB	**17 OCT - 12 DEC**

Studio Project: Collaborate with a director to rehearse a full-length play. Sustain truthful responses while meeting the staging demands of performance. Present the work in a studio setting to an invited audience.

***Please note this is a 9-week term**

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Employ improvisation as a tool for creating character
- Respond to and perform a variety of classical and contemporary scripts
- Realise a director's vision and writer's intent in performance
- Work as part of an ensemble, applying appropriate etiquette under performance conditions
- Develop authentic characterisation
- Prepare and rehearse audition material
- Apply acting skills to screen performance.

AUDITION DATES

FOR JANUARY INTAKE

SYD
Sat 12 Dec 2026, 10am
Sun 10 Jan 2027, 10am

MELB
Sat 12 Dec 2026, 10am
Sun 10 Jan 2027, 2pm

FEES

$5,475 payable in four instalments or $4,928 (10% discount) for payment upfront.

A separate non-refundable audition fee of $38 applies.



ACTORS STUDIO: SCREEN EXTENSION

SYDNEY

SUNDAYS, 11AM-5PM
JANUARY 2027 INTAKE
MID-YEAR INTAKE

Working closely with industry professionals, this course explores advanced screen acting techniques to further enhance your individual strengths in performance. Expand your technical skill set by adopting the roles of key personnel in the creative team to gain greater understanding of the collaborative nature of bringing work to the screen.

Actors Studio: Screen Extension is ideal if you have completed our Actors Studio, or if you have equivalent industry training or experience.

TERM 1

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD	**7 FEB - 4 APR**

MID-YEAR INTAKE

SYD	**25 JUL - 12 SEPT**

Advanced Screen Craft: Explore challenging contemporary acting processes and learn how to apply these to complex scene work.

Screen Tests and Castings: Develop the skills to confidently navigate casting briefs, audition sides, and cold reads, while responding to contemporary casting practices and industry expectations.

TERM 2*

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD	**2 MAY – 27 JUN**

MID-YEAR INTAKE

SYD	**17 OCT - 12 DEC**

Performance in Practice: Work with a professional director on contemporary Australian scenes. Develop your ability to independently interpret text, respond to direction, and deliver nuanced performances in a studio environment.

On Location: Through collaboration with a professional cinematographer, deepen your understanding of the camera's role in storytelling and strengthen your relationship with the camera. Refine your technical precision through framing, continuity, and movement while performing in on-location screen environments.

***Please note this is a 9-week term**

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Deepen your individual performance practice and personal skill set
- Embrace technical factors in performance across a variety of screen contexts
- Apply in-depth practice of screen tests to current industry standards
- Identify professional opportunities and understand how to position yourself according to industry needs.

PREREQUISITES

We recommend applicants complete Actors Studio or equivalent training before applying to this course. Entry to the Actors Studio: Screen Extension is by application and selective audition only.

AUDITION DATES

FOR JANUARY INTAKE

SYD
Sun 10 Jan 2027, 2pm

FOR MID-YEAR INTAKE

Sun 4 Jul 2027, 2pm

FEES

$3,390 payable in four instalments or $3051 (10% discount) for payment upfront.

A separate non-refundable audition fee of $38 applies.

SYDNEY
MELBOURNE
BRISBANE

SYDNEY & MELBOURNE
SUNDAYS, 11AM-5PM

BRISBANE
SATURDAYS, 11AM -5PM

JANUARY 2027 INTAKE
MID-YEAR INTAKE**



SCREEN ACTORS STUDIO

Craft a structured, personalised approach to your work as a screen performer. Gain experience in casting and insights into industry practice through practical actor training focused on skills development and application.

This one-year Studio Program provides the opportunity to explore and apply acting techniques and develop your vocal, physical and imaginative dexterity for screen. Work with support and direction from experienced tutors as you develop self-assurance in relating to the camera.

This course is ideal for those wishing to explore their potential as a screen artist.

TERM 1

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD	**7 FEB – 4 APR**
MELB	**31 JAN – 21 MAR**
BRIS	**30 JAN – 20 MAR**

Instrument Work: Develop vocal and physical presence specifically for the screen. Extend vocal range and freedom and explore how physical action informs character objectives.

Imagination and Relationship to Camera: Develop spontaneity in performance through impulse work. Apply vocal, physical and acting technique to improvised and scripted scenes performed to camera.

TERM 2

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD / MELB	**2 MAY – 20 JUN**
BRIS	**1 MAY – 19 JUN**

Performance for Visual Storytelling: Explore and apply appropriate acting techniques for screen under the direction of an industry professional.

Characterisation and Screen Presence: Realise a character arc and employ a variety of acting techniques to develop a truthful and engaging performance. Explore ways to connect with audiences through the lens. Rehearse and shoot contemporary scene work.

TERM 3

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD / MELB	**25 JUL – 12 SEP**
BRIS	**24 JUL – 11 SEP**

Applied Instrument Work: Learn and apply an American accent to text. Utilise physical impulses to create spontaneous performance on screen.

Style and Genre: Develop your performance technique and explore the contrasting genres of drama and comedy. Shoot scene work at onsite locations.

TERM 4*

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD / MELB	**17 OCT – 12 DEC**
BRIS	**16 OCT – 11 DEC**

Self-Tape to Set: Develop the skills required to navigate screen industry practices, from self-tapes and screen tests to chemistry reads and on-set performance. Confidently apply technique to meet the technical and creative demands of contemporary screen acting.

***Please note this is a 9-week term**

****Note: Term dates for mid-year intake TBC.**

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Interpret a range of scripts for performance in a variety of screen contexts
- Develop truthful characterisation
- Collaborate effectively with others to create dynamic scene work
- Embrace the technical demands of acting for screen
- Confidently deliver screen test materials
- Form productive relationships with a director and crew.

AUDITION DATES

FOR JANUARY INTAKE

SYD / MELB
Sat 12 Dec 2026, 2pm
Sun 10 Jan 2027, 10am & 2pm

BRIS
Sat 12 Dec 2026, 10am
Sat 16 Jan 2027, 10am

FOR MID-YEAR INTAKE

SYD / MELB
Sat 3 Jul 2027, 2pm
Sun 4 Jul 2027, 10am & 2pm

FEES

$5,475 payable in four instalments or $4,928 (10% discount) for payment upfront.

A separate non-refundable audition fee of $38 applies.

SINGING AND ACTING STUDIO

SYDNEY

SUNDAYS, 11AM-5PM
JANUARY 2027 INTAKE
MID-YEAR INTAKE

This course is designed as a two-term program that focuses on developing a secure approach to acting through song. Gain confidence in your approach to storytelling and enhance your performance technique with consistent, practical application.

Collaborate with a director and musical director in rehearsing solos, duets, and ensemble repertoire.

TERM 1

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD **7 FEB – 4 APR**

MID-YEAR INTAKE

SYD **25 JUL – 12 SEPT**

Instrument Work: Develop your vocal range and physical presence with classes tailored towards acting though song. Explore how physical action and the use of appropriate vocal technique informs character objectives.

Storytelling and Performance: Create engaging characters and learn how to communicate a visual narrative as you apply technique in solo performance contexts, including auditions. Learn effective approaches to transition from scene to song and synthesise your skills within an ensemble.

TERM 2*

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD **2 MAY – 27 JUN**

MID-YEAR INTAKE

SYD **17 OCT – 12 DEC**

Genre and Style: Explore a variety of singing and dance techniques to interpret contemporary and classical repertoire.

Rehearsal and Performance: Create dynamic and truthful performances through the application of singing and acting techniques. Stage and present a selection of material to an invited audience.

***Please note this is a 9-week term**

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Develop truthful characterisation
- Respond to a variety of musical theatre genres
- Perform material in a variety of performance contexts
- Deliver audition material with confidence
- Identify professional opportunities and how to position yourself according to industry needs.

AUDITION DATES

FOR JANUARY INTAKE

SYD
Sat 12 Dec 2026, 10am
Sat 16 Jan 2027, 10am

FOR MID-YEAR INTAKE

Sun 4 Jul 2027, 10am

FEES

$3,390 payable in four instalment or $3051 (10% discount) for payment upfront.

A separate non-refundable audition fee of $38 applies.



WRITERS STUDIO: STAGE & SCREEN

SYDNEY

SATURDAYS, 11AM -5PM
JANUARY 2027 INTAKE
MID-YEAR INTAKE

This course is designed as a two-term program that develops skills for both Live Performance (Term 1) and Screen/Digital Media (Term 2). Examine techniques best used in contemporary story-making. Receive guidance and direction in a supportive studio environment and collaborate with actors to test your ideas for stage and screen.

TERM 1

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD **6 FEB – 3 APR**

MID-YEAR INTAKE

SYD **24 JUL – 11 SEP**

Stage: Explore the principles of effective storytelling for a range of live performance contexts. Activate stories by developing action and dialogue. Hone your craft through redrafting, editing and collaborative peer review.

TERM 2*

JANUARY INTAKE

SYD **1 MAY – 26 JUN**

MID-YEAR INTAKE

SYD **16 OCT – 11 DEC**

Screen: Examine small and large screen formats. Investigate style and genre, understand how to transform your ideas to create an effective plot, premise, protagonist and dramatic problem. Build your story into a narrative structure specific for your chosen format.

***Please note this is a 9-week term**

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Create a strong synopsis
- Consider a range of possible structures and genres
- Develop a dynamic narrative
- Develop engaging scenes for a range of characters
- Work in small and large screen formats
- Use cinematic and visual storytelling methods
- Identify professional opportunities and how to position yourself according to industry needs.

INTERVIEW DATES

FOR JANUARY INTAKE

SYD
Sat 12 Dec 2026, 10am
Sat 16 Jan 2027, 10am

FOR MID-YEAR INTAKE

Sun 4 Jul 2027, 10am

FEES

$2,940 payable in four instalments or $2,646 (10% discount) for payment upfront.

A separate non-refundable interview fee of $38 applies.

DIRECTORS STUDIO: STAGE & SCREEN

SYDNEY

SATURDAYS, 11AM-5PM
JANUARY 2027 INTAKE
MID-YEAR INTAKE

This course is designed as a two-term program that develops skills for both Live Performance (Term 1) and Screen/Digital Media (Term 2).

Consider the director's role and examine the specific directorial demands for stage and screen. Explore the principles of effective storytelling for both media and collaborate with actors to pursue your creative vision and create dynamic performances. Learn how to lead a creative team, motivate a cast and inspire audiences.

TERM 1

JANUARY INTAKE	
SYD	**6 FEB – 3 APR**
MID-YEAR INTAKE	
SYD	**24 JUL – 11 SEP**

Stage: Gain insight into the actor's process and explore ways to realise text and concepts in performance for the stage. Critically analyse the work of other directors and develop an understanding of the language and technical challenges of live performance.

TERM 2*

JANUARY INTAKE	
SYD	**1 MAY – 26 JUN**
MID-YEAR INTAKE	
SYD	**16 OCT – 11 DEC**

Screen: explore the visual, dramatic and technical challenges that directors face when applying their skill to storytelling for the screen. Consider script requirements, shot composition, visual detailing, lighting and sound techniques, continuity and the actor's journey.

***Please note this is a 9-week term**

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Form collaborative working relationships with actors
- Interpret a stage or screen play
- Develop creative concepts
- Apply a structured rehearsal process for stage and screen
- Practise different rehearsal techniques
- Create storyboards and frame shots
- Explore creative possibilities in stage and screen direction.

INTERVIEW DATES

FOR JANUARY INTAKE

SYD
Sat 16 Jan 2027, 10am

FOR MID-YEAR INTAKE

Sat 16 Oct 2027, 10am
Sat 11 Dec 2027, 10am

FEES

$2,940 payable in four instalments or $2,646 (10% discount) for payment upfront.

A separate non-refundable interview fee of $38 applies.

FEES

UPFRONT PAYMENT DISCOUNT

Course fees paid up-front receive a 10% discount. Alternatively, fees can be paid in four or two term instalments as listed in the payment option below. A full fee payment schedule will be sent to you on acceptance into the course.

ACTORS STUDIO

Duration: 12 months

Fee: $5,475

Payment option: $4,928 upfront or $5,475 in instalments ($1,575 and 3 × $1,300)

ACTORS STUDIO: SCREEN EXTENSION

Duration: 6 months

Fee: $3,390

Payment option: $3051 upfront or $3,390 in instalments ($1,860 and $1,530)

SCREEN ACTORS STUDIO

Duration: 12 months

Fee: $5,475

Payment option: $4,928 upfront or $5,475 in instalments ($1,575 and 3 × $1,300)

SINGING AND ACTING STUDIO

Duration: 6 months

Fee: $3,390

Payment option: $3051 upfront or $3,390 in instalments ($1,860 and $1,530)

DIRECTORS STUDIO

Duration: 6 months

Fee: $2,940

Payment option: $2,646 upfront or $2,940 in instalments ($1,575 and $1,365)

WRITERS STUDIO

Duration: 6 months

Fee: $2,940

Payment option: $2,646 upfront or $2,940 in instalments ($1,575 and $1,365)

FAST TRACK YOUR TRAINING WITH THE LAB SERIES

Labs are held twice a year at NIDA's Sydney campus as intensive courses in acting for stage and screen, set and costume design, and staging and technical production.

For more information visit **open.nida.edu.au/lab-series**



NEED HELP?

If you're looking for advice on which course to do, the NIDA Open team can assist you.

Call 1300 450 417 between 9am and 5pm weekdays or email us at open@nida.edu.au

CONCESSIONS

Holders of the following valid concession/membership cards will receive a 5% discount on the full price of their studio course: Department of Veterans Affairs, Pensioner, State Health Care, ArtsHub or MEAA.

NIDA OPEN

National Institute of Dramatic Art



NIDA thanks the following organisations for their ongoing support:

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
Office for the Arts

tafe Brisbane

Balam Balam Place

NIDA Sydney

215 Anzac Parade
Kensington NSW
2033 Australia

Balam Balam Place

15 Phoenix St
Brunswick VIC
3056 Australia

TAFE Brisbane

66 Ernest Street
South Brisbane QLD
4101 Australia

CONTACT

Phone 1300 450 417
Email open@nida.edu.au
Website open.nida.edu.au/studios
ABN 99 000 257 741

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@NIDACommunity

NIDA reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice. Accurate at time of printing.
Images by Brett Boardman.

Thank you to NIDA's BFA, Acting students for volunteering to be a part of the Studios program photoshoot.