

# NIDA

National Institute  
of Dramatic Art



**10914NAT Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance**

Application Guide, Fee Schedule & Entry Requirements 2025

## 10914NAT 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 develop and create original works for various media.

Training is practical, with classes in acting techniques for both live and screen work, performance styles and production practices. You will learn about the multiplicity of roles, technologies and methodologies that exist within the theatre, film, TV and the digital industries.

You will be taught by NIDA staff and leading tutors from the entertainment arts industry. 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 entertainment industry practitioners, producers, and agents.

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## Course Overview

### Learning outcomes

This vocational course provides students with knowledge and skills to perform the following functions associated with the entertainment arts:

- Performer, able to interpret scripts; build, present and sustain characters; and collaborate with others to create live performance, screen and media productions.
- Deviser, able to originate and develop characters, situations and stories for live performance, screen and media productions.

### Applicants seeking admission must:

- Must be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or New Zealand citizen. This course does not accept international students.
- Have reached the age of 18 before the commencement of the course (in some circumstances NIDA may select candidates who turn 18 during their course).
- Have completed their Higher School Certificate or equivalent; ATAR is not required.
- Demonstrate a high level of practical ability, potential and motivation at the interview or audition.
- Complete the interview/audition requirements for the course.

## Delivery Dates 2025

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Monday 03 February – Friday 11 April (10 weeks)</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 28 April – Friday 04 July (10 weeks)</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Monday 21 July – Friday 10 October (12 weeks)</b>

Classes are scheduled 4 days per week, 9am–5pm.

## Units of Competency

The course 10914NAT Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance comprises the following units of competency:

The qualification comprises 14 Units of Competency, which are delivered over 3 Terms /Units of Study:

1. CUAIND412 Provide freelance services
2. CUAACT411 Use acting techniques in performance
3. CUAMPF612 Manage stagecraft aspects of performances
4. CUAPPR512 Develop sustainability of own professional practice
5. CUAPRF513 Prepare for and perform in competitive environments
6. CUAWHS511 Maintain a high level of fitness for performance
7. NAT10914001 Apply Storytelling Conventions
8. NAT10914002 Use Performance Practices to Develop a Production
9. NAT10914003 Devise Works for Stage
10. NAT10914004 Devise Works for Screen
11. NAT10914005 Develop Acting Techniques for Screen
12. NAT10914006 Apply Design Elements for Stage

- 13. NAT10914007 Apply Design Elements for Screen
- 14. NAT10914008 Use Technology in Performance



## Application and Audition Guide

All applications must be submitted online via the NIDA website. You will be required to submit a video audition via a YouTube link as part of your application.

NIDA encourages applications from students from diverse backgrounds, with different levels of experience in the entertainment industry.

Applications for the 2025 intake open on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 and close 18<sup>th</sup> September 5:00pm (AEST).

### How to apply

There are five steps to applying:

#### STEP 1

**New Applicants:** Create your application account [here](#). You will be sent an automatic email with your log in details to continue your application.

**Returning Applicants:** If you have previously applied (in 2019-2021) and your email address already exists in the application system you will not be able to create a new account. Please follow the link below to reset your password, use your email address as your User Login ID. Reset your password [here](#).

#### STEP 2

Log in, select the green 'New Application' button and complete the online form.

You will be asked to submit your personal details, examples of previous experience, and reasons for interest in this course.

#### STEP 3

Upload the following documentation to the online form:

- Evidence of your most recent qualification if you have one (e.g. a school report, Higher School Certificate, university transcript, statement of attainment)
- Proof of identification and citizenship (e.g. Australian passport, Australian driver's licence, birth certificate. The scanned document needs to show your date of birth).
- A recent photograph (head and shoulders, in colour, well lit, plain background).
- **One** introduction/ Audition video as a link to an unlisted YouTube video.

#### STEP 4

Agree to the Terms and Conditions of application and click submit. You will receive a confirmation email when your submission is completed in full.

#### STEP 5

You will be contacted in early October regarding the outcome of your application and whether we are able to meet with you at a call-back session. You will be provided with an opportunity to notify us of the best available date and time for your interview/ call back, either face to face or via zoom. To assist with your planning, we will publish suggested dates and times on the course pages on our website.

If we have invited you, please attend your call-back session. Not everyone who submits a video will be invited to a call back.

### Audition Requirements

As part of your application, you are required to provide a link to a pre-recorded video audition. The following information should act as guide for how to select your monologues and how to set up and film your auditions.

#### Selecting your monologues:

- Your material can be from stage, screen or self-devised.
- Choose characters who are in circumstances you can identify with and that you will enjoy exploring.
- Pick monologues that will showcase you and your acting choices.
- Choose contrasting material, for example, serious versus comic or internal versus external.
- Think about who you are talking to and what you want from them – understand the piece and who you are talking to.
- Relax and enjoy yourself – we find that most applicants manage to relax and enjoy the experience and we hope that you will too!

#### Filming your audition

Your video submission needs to consist of the following:

- A short, 1 minute introduction to camera (introduce yourself and explain your experience)
- **2 contrasting monologues** of your choice both 1 minute in length.
- Present **1 monologue in mid-shot** (where we see you from the waist up), and present the **other monologue in long-shot** (where we can see you from head-to-toe)
- The audition video should be approximately three minutes in length, longer videos may not be watched in full.
- You are welcome to present your modern/contemporary piece in the language of your cultural background if you so choose. However, you must be prepared to present it in English as well.

Your video audition/interview should be submitted as an unlisted YouTube video link, in the appropriate field of your application. **You will only be able to upload one audition video. Please ensure that all components are in the one video, and under the one link.**

Click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to upload an unlisted YouTube video.

Please make sure you review the guidance below and prepare what is required for your interview/audition submission before you start to record anything.

### 1. Set up

You can use a stand or surface or have someone hold the camera/ phone for you. Do not look directly into the camera for your monologues, but just to one side; to the left or right or alternatively ask a friend to stand to one side of the camera so that you have an eyeline and someone to deliver the monologues to.

### 2. Background – you must be seen clearly.

Try to record against a plain, light background, with no harsh shadows behind you. Avoid busy, distracting images, and 'hard' colours like green and red. Ideally, the background should be plain. Grey can work well for a wide range of skin tones on screen.

### 3. Lighting – you must be seen clearly.

Try to light yourself so that there are minimal shadows across your face. This can be done with free standing lights or using natural light sources. Whatever you chose make sure that we can see you.

**4. Sound – you must be heard clearly.** Check the space/room you have chosen to record in for sound disturbances. i.e. close any windows, turn off any devices playing music in the background, air-conditioning, noise/talking/cooking sounds etc.

### Callback process

- All applicants will be notified regarding their outcome of their application status.
- Successful applicants will be contacted to arrange a suitable call back session.
- Call backs may be conducted face to face or via zoom between October- November.
- More information will be available on the website when applications close.

At the callback, you will:

- Present your prepared monologue.
- Participate in collaborative tasks, including group improvisation.
- Discuss your previous training and performance experience.

### Outcome

If we are able to offer you a place on the course, we will contact you in December 2024 via phone and email to advise you of your course offer. You will be given a time period in which to accept or reject the course offer for the 2025 intake.

### Terms and conditions of application

- There are no application fees for the 2025 applicants.
- Applications for NIDA's Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance close on 18<sup>th</sup> September at 5:00pm (AEST) 2024. NIDA may not be able to accept applications after this date.
- There are a limited number of places available in each of our diploma courses. Selection is based on merit; not all applicants who meet the published entry requirements will receive a study offer.
- All applicants are required to review the course information, including the schedule of tuition fees, published on the course page on our website.
- It is not possible to provide applicants with individual written or oral feedback on their audition.
- Applicants who receive a study offer for 2025 must accept the offer within the time frame indicated. It is not possible to defer a study offer at NIDA.
- NIDA encourages applications from people from diverse backgrounds, with different levels of experience in their chosen area of interest.



## Fee Schedule

### 10914NAT Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance

**Delivery location(s):** Sydney, NIDA Kensington campus

**Duration:** 1 year

#### Tuition fees

The Tuition Fees below apply to full time enrolment per year. Any changes in fees will be communicated to you prior to any formal offer of enrolment. All fees are in AUD and exempt of GST.

Term /Unit of Study	Term Commence date	Census Date/Payment Due Date	Term Completion date	VET Student Loan Amount*	Gap Amount	Total Term Fee
1	03/02/2025	19/02/2025	11/04/2025	\$5,940	\$0	\$5,940
2	28/04/2025	14/05/2025	04/07/2025	\$5,940	\$0	\$5,940
3	21/07/2025	06/08/2025	10/10/2025	\$5,940	\$0	\$5,940
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$17,820</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17,820</b>

\* VET Student Loans incur a 20% government loan fee; this equates to an additional VETSL Debt of approximately \$1,148.00 per term. Total VETSL Debt amounts will be confirmed on the Commonwealth Assistance Note issued after each census date.

## Administration Fees

These fees are payable at the time the service is provided or item purchased.

Administration and Other Fees 2025		
Item/Service	Detail	Cost 2025
Application Fee	There is no fee to apply for the 2024 Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance	\$0
Late Application Fee	Applications submitted after the 18 <sup>th</sup> of September may be subsequent to a non-refundable late fee	\$75
Graduation	Academic Dress Hire: gown, hood and cap	\$38
Graduation	Additional tickets for guests (2 guests no charge)	\$20

## Additional costs

### Clothing

Students are required to undertake classes in black attire that is suitable active wear (e.g. black t-shirts, black dance pants, black karate pants).

### Information Technology Recommendations

To access NIDA wireless (NConnect) network, students are required to have access to a laptop, tablet or mobile device. For file transfers and data backup, a 500GB hard drive or higher and an 8GB USB stick are also recommended.

## Delivery

### Term 1 / Unit of Study 1

Term Commence date	Census Date/Payment Due Date	Term Completion date	VET Student Loan Amount	Gap Amount	Total Term Fee
03/02/2025	19/02/2025	11/04/2025	\$5,940	\$0	\$5,940
<b>Units of Competency commenced:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CUAIND412 Provide freelance services</li> <li>CUAACT411 Use acting techniques in performance</li> <li>CUAMPF612 Manage stagecraft aspects of performances</li> <li>CUAPPR512 Develop sustainability of own professional practice</li> <li>CUAWHS511 Maintain a high level of fitness for performance</li> <li>NAT10914002 Use Performance Practices to Develop a Production</li> <li>NAT10914005 Develop Acting Techniques for Screen</li> <li>NAT10914008 Use Technology in Performance</li> </ul>					
<b>Units of Competency completed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CUAACT411 Use acting techniques in performance</li> <li>CUAMPF612 Manage stagecraft aspects of performances</li> </ul>					



**Term 2 / Unit of Study 2**

Term Commence date	Census Date/ Payment Due Date	Term Completion date	VET Student Loan Amount	Gap Amount	Total Term Fee
28/04/2025	14/05/2025	04/07/2025	\$5,940	\$0	\$5,940
<b>Units of Competency <u>continued</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CUAIND412 Provide freelance services</li> <li>CUAPPR512 Develop sustainability of own professional practice</li> <li>CUAWHS511 Maintain a high level of fitness for performance</li> <li>NAT10914002 Use Performance Practices to Develop a Production</li> <li>NAT10914005 Develop Acting Techniques for Screen</li> <li>NAT10914008 Use Technology in Performance</li> </ul>					
<b>Units of Competency <u>commenced</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CUAPRF513 Prepare for and perform in competitive environments</li> <li>NAT10914001 Apply Storytelling Conventions</li> <li>NAT10914003 Devise Works for Stage</li> <li>NAT10914004 Devise Works for Screen</li> <li>NAT10914006 Apply Design Elements for Stage</li> <li>NAT10914007 Apply Design Elements for Screen</li> </ul>					
<b>Units of Competency <u>completed</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAT10914003 Devise Works for Stage</li> <li>NAT10914004 Devise Works for Screen</li> <li>CUAWHS511 Maintain a high level of fitness for performance</li> </ul>					

**Term 3 / Unit of Study 3**

Term Commence date	Census Date/Payment Due Date	Term Completion date	VET Student Loan Amount	Gap Amount	Total Term Fee
21/07/2025	06/08/2025	10/10/2025	\$5,940	\$0	\$5,940
<b>Units of Competency <u>continued and completed</u>:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CUAIND412 Provide freelance services</li> <li>CUAPPR512 Develop sustainability of own professional practice</li> <li>NAT10914002 Use Performance Practices to Develop a Production</li> <li>NAT10914005 Develop Acting Techniques for Screen</li> <li>NAT10914008 Use Technology in Performance</li> <li>CUAPRF513 Prepare for and perform in competitive environments</li> <li>NAT10914001 Apply Storytelling Conventions</li> <li>NAT10914006 Apply Design Elements for Stage</li> <li>NAT10914007 Apply Design Elements for Screen</li> </ul>					

**Graduation Ceremony**

NIDA will hold its graduation ceremony in March following the year of study. Students who have successfully completed a vocational diploma will be invited to attend the ceremony. Graduation is usually held on a Sunday to enable all students with work commitments to attend. Those unable to attend the Graduation Ceremony will graduate in absentia. Their diploma and transcript will be sent via post. NIDA will send all correspondence to the most recent postal address provided by graduating students.





### Fees and Further Information

The following is a summary of the current tuition fees and payment options and administration fees for 2025. This information is provided as a guide to assist your understanding of the fees for vocational courses at NIDA. Fees are subject to annual review and may increase each year.

- Any changes to fees are implemented at the beginning of an academic year and apply to all eligible students for the remainder of their course.
- Fees are invoiced on a termly basis.
- All fees are in Australian dollars.
- Vocational courses are only available to Australian citizens, permanent resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens.

### Fee Payment Options

Students can pay their full fee costs upfront each term or can apply to access a VET Student Loan.

<p><b>Upfront Payments</b></p>	<p>Students can select to pay for their term fees upfront. An invoice will be sent via email at the start of each term and payments can be made using electronic transfer, BPAY, credit card or cheque. <b>Tuition fees are due by the census date each term.</b></p> <p>Electing to pay tuition fees up front does not prevent a student from accessing VET Student Loans for the following term. Students must notify the Vocational Studies Department of their intention to change their tuition payment method before the commencement of the next term so the correct invoice can be issued. Students will also be required to complete an electronic Commonwealth Assistance form (eCAF) is lodged before the next census date.</p>
<p><b>VET Student Loan</b></p>	<p><b>VET Student Loans are available to Australian Citizens and permanent residents only.</b></p> <p>The National Institute of Dramatic Art has approval from the Commonwealth Government to offer VET Student Loans to eligible students for all diploma courses. They assist eligible students to defer part of their tuition fees to a government assisted loan. The loan cannot be used for any additional</p>

	<p>expenses such as course materials or living expenses. Students can request a VET Student Loan at enrolment.</p> <p>If the VET Student Loan amount does not cover the full cost of the fees, students will be required to cover the gap amount upfront, see further details below.</p>
<p><b>VET Student Loans Course Entry Requirement</b></p>	<p><b>To be an eligible student, you must meet ALL of the criteria below. VET Student Loans will not be approved for students who do not meet eligibility requirements.</b></p> <p>You must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an Australian citizen, or</li> <li>• a qualifying New Zealand citizen [1], or</li> <li>• a permanent humanitarian visa holder, who is usually resident in Australia.</li> <li>• Your FEE-HELP balance (the amount of your FEE-HELP limit you have left) will sufficiently cover the required course costs.</li> <li>• You are enrolled with an approved course provider in an approved course and have enrolled in accordance with the application requirements.</li> <li>• You are studying the approved course primarily at a campus in Australia.</li> <li>• You have been assessed by your approved course provider as academically suited to undertake the approved course on the basis of either:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing your Australian Year 12 Certificate; OR</li> <li>• providing evidence of successful completion of an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate IV or higher qualification (where the language of instruction is English); OR</li> <li>• displaying competence at Exit Level 3 in the Australian Core Skills Framework in both reading and numeracy through an approved Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) test.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Students will complete this test before commencing at NIDA. NIDA uses the approved LLN assessment tool, Core Skills Profile for Adults (CSPA), published by the Australian Council for Educational Research Limited, July 2013.</b></p> <p><b>The results of this assessment will be reported to the student as soon as practicable after the assessment, and if requested, will be shared with the Secretary, as evidence of academic suitability for a VET Student Loan (Section 81 VSL Rules). NIDA requires the process be conducted with honesty and integrity.</b></p> <p>In addition, your approved course provider must reasonably believe you show competence in completing the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You meet the Tax File Number (TFN) requirements.</li> <li>• You have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) or are otherwise exempt.</li> </ul>

**Census dates**

Census dates occur each study period, they are the date in which a student's enrolment is confirmed for that period. Census dates occur at least 20% of the way through each term. All invoiced tuition



fees are due by the census date. This is also the last date in a term that a student can withdraw without financial penalty.

Students must be aware of the census date for each study period and are responsible for confirming all enrolment details and tuition payment preferences before this date. The census date is the deadline for submitting a request for VET Student Loans assistance and/or submission of a Tax File Number (TFN). If a student misses the census date, they will not be eligible to access VET Student Loans for that study period and may be required to pay their tuition fees upfront that term.

The census date is also the deadline for withdrawing from study without incurring further course costs or a VETSL Debt. If a student withdraws from their course before midnight on the census date, they will not be financially liable for fees due for that term. If a student withdraws from a course after the census date, they will still be liable for fees due for that term.

### VET Student Loan, Gap Amount and Loan Fee

The Australian Government releases course caps annually for the amount of tuition fee which can be covered by the VET Student Loan, in 2024 the course cap amount is;

Diploma of Stage and Screen Performance	\$18,097
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\*VSL Course Caps Indexed Amounts released Aug 2023

### Gap Amount

Enrolled students are required to **pay the remainder of the course fee not covered by the VET Student loan each term**; this amount is referred to as the Gap Amount. Students will receive an invoice for the upfront amount of their term fees via email, and payments can be made using electronic transfer, BPAY, credit card or cheque. **Tuition fees are due by the census date each term.**

### Loan Fee

A 20% loan fee applies to all VET Student Loans. This fee is added on a termly basis and is itemised on the Commonwealth Assistance Notice (CAN) issued via email after the census date each term. The loan fee is added to the VET Student Loan, it does not need to be paid upfront. Further information regarding VET Student Loans can be found here;

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students>

### VETSL Debt

Students who chose to access the VET Student Loan will acquire a VETSL Debt. This debt will be to the Australian Government through the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business. A VETSL Debt includes the amount of loan used to cover tuition fees and the 20% loan fee. VETSL debts are managed through the Australian Tax Office and can be reviewed online using a myGov account <https://my.gov.au>

VETSL Debts must be paid back at the relevant repayment rate when an individual's income is above the compulsory repayment threshold. Repayment amounts are taken out of their pay by the Australian tax system. It is possible to make voluntary repayments towards VETSL Debts at any time to reduce their balance; payments are made directly to the Australian Tax Office. More information about paying back VETSL Debts can be found here;

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Study-and-training-support-loans/When-must-you-repay-your-loan/>

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Study-and-training-support-loans/Voluntary-repayments/>



### Tuition Fee Policy

NIDA does not refund course fees unless in regard to exceptional circumstances or if students have submitted the proper requests before the census date. For more information regarding NIDA's Fee Policy please click [here](#).

For further information regarding debt complaints please refer to the following websites;

- Administrative Appeals Tribunal <https://www.aat.gov.au/apply-for-a-review>
- VET Student Loan or VET FEE-HELP debt complaints <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/vet-students/vet-student-loan-or-vet-fee-help-debt-complaints>
- VET Student Loans Ombudsman <https://vet.ombudsman.gov.au>

NIDA may withhold assessment results, prohibit re-enrolment or refuse graduation to any student who is in debt to NIDA and/or UNSW. Indebtedness includes failure to pay any fee, fine, loan or other charge and failure to return all library books and other equipment. Under special circumstances, the Director/CEO may waive or defer these matters.

### Study assistance

It is the responsibility of students to organise study assistance. Eligible students, who are Australian residents, can apply to Centrelink for financial assistance through Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY. The Australian Department of Human Services provides a wealth of information for students to find out more information regarding their eligibility, such as;

- Payment and Service Finder [https://www.centrelink.gov.au/custsite\\_pfe/pymtfinderest/paymentFinderEstimatorPage.jsf?wec-appid=pymtfinderest&wec-locale=en\\_US#stay](https://www.centrelink.gov.au/custsite_pfe/pymtfinderest/paymentFinderEstimatorPage.jsf?wec-appid=pymtfinderest&wec-locale=en_US#stay)
- Payments for students and trainees <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/payments-students-and-trainees>
- Visit Centrelink <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/centrelink> or call 132 490 for more information.

### Travel Concessions

Australian students are eligible to apply for a NSW Tertiary Student Concession Card and/or concession Opal card. To be eligible students:

- Must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia.
- Reside in New South Wales.
- Be enrolled in an accredited higher education or vocational education and training course, at a tertiary institution authorised by Transport for NSW to issue tertiary student concession cards.
- Be a full-time student enrolled on an internal basis

All students requesting a travel concession must fill in an application form which will be provided at enrolment. FAQs for concession Opal cards: <https://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-concessions/faqs-concession-tertiary>