

APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES

AFTRS students are creative, Australian storytellers who innovate and take risks. They collaborate with others and develop their skills while contributing to the Australian screen industries. Strong candidates come from a variety of different backgrounds and demonstrate these attributes through their previous work, study, and extracurricular achievements.

When completing your application, bear in mind that we assume that all candidates for the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production are passionate about films and filmmaking, so while you should feel free to make reference to films that have inspired you or talk about what you have learned on set, we encourage you to use your application to give us a sense of your personality and broader interests.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Your Story (1000 words OR 3 minutes)
- Review of a Creative Text (300 words OR 1 minute)
- Creative Work (5 pages OR 7 minutes OR 6 images)
- Letter of Recommendation (1 page)
- Certified copies of:
 1. Your Proof of Residency (birth certificate or passport)
AND
 2. If due to complete high school in 2017: proof of enrolment on official school letterhead, such as a recent report card or enrolment confirmation letter
OR
If you have completed high school: your Higher School Certificate (or International Baccalaureate Diploma, or equivalent secondary qualification) or post-secondary qualification (if applicable)
OR
In some circumstances applicants are able to demonstrate they have achieved equivalent learning outcomes to a senior secondary certificate of education through other study (such as vocational education or homeschooling) or work experience. Contact the Student Centre for more information about the documentation required.

REQUIRED APPLICATION TASKS

1. YOUR STORY

Telling stories is about creating and conveying messages, thoughts, feelings and emotions. It doesn't matter if you have never made a film before: we can teach you how to do that. What we can't teach is an innate passion and ability to tell engaging stories.

In no more than 1000 words, or a 3 minute audio or video recording, tell us your story in two parts:

PART A: ABOUT YOU

Tell us your story: who you are; what you love to do; your goals, experiences, and values. We are interested in how your background and experiences have shaped who you are and what you want to say as a creative screen storyteller.

We are also looking for evidence of your commitment to pursuing a career in the creative industries. We are also looking for examples of the challenges that you've overcome to get to where you are and evidence of how your experiences have so far prepared you for study.

There is no one correct approach: we encourage you to complete this part of the application in whatever way you feel will allow you to demonstrate your creativity while giving us a strong sense of who you are and why you want to tell stories through screen media.

As examples, you could structure your piece in the following ways:

- i. Give a dramatic narration of your life up to the point of applying for the course, concentrating on some of the challenges you've overcome.
- ii. Describe an event in your life and how it changed you or someone close to you. This event can be dramatic and/or comedic, major or minor.
- iii. It may be aspirational, articulating what you would like to achieve or change about the world.

However, whichever way you decide to complete this task, remember that we are looking for your potential as a creative storyteller and you are writing a story that is trying to engage a reader.

PART B: WHAT YOU'VE ACHIEVED

Let us know a bit about what you have accomplished so far: include details of any activities, awards or achievements that demonstrate your abilities or commitment to creating screen content.

We are also interested to know about any of your previous employment or volunteer work if it has influenced the way you think about your creative process or career goals. Feel free also to make reference to any additional skills or hobbies

BA SCREEN: PRODUCTION 2018

that might demonstrate your ability to meet the application criteria: for example, do you speak another language, have any interesting hobbies, or know how to Final Cut Pro.

AFTRS is committed to supporting students from groups and backgrounds underrepresented in tertiary education and the screen industry and we encourage applicants to identify their membership in these communities.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:	SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• evidence of your potential as a creative storyteller;• an idea about what inspires you to want to make films and why you're motivated to come on the course;• examples of the challenges you've overcome to get to where you are; and/or,• evidence of how your experiences so far have prepared you for study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a commitment to a career in the creative industries and what it takes to get there.• creative thinking in the form of storytelling.• a capacity for study.

This task can be submitted as a video or audio recording or as a text file. Technical requirements are listed at the end of this document.

2. CREATIVE WORK

Your submission should showcase your best work and demonstrate your ability to tell an engaging and imaginative story. You will not be judged on the technical proficiency of the work or the quality of the equipment you have used, but on your creative storytelling abilities.

Please submit your single best piece of work – submissions must not exceed the specified length limit and you should not submit multiple films, a showreel or extra material if your creative work is shorter than specified in these guidelines. Please read the technical requirements section at the end of this document for details on how to submit.

Submit **ONE** of the following pieces of creative work:

SCRIPT

LENGTH: 5-6 PAGES (MAX)

This can be a complete short screenplay or play, or the first five pages of a longer play or screenplay. It must be original, not an adaptation, unless of your own work in another form.

OR

FILM

LENGTH: 6-7 MINUTES (MAX)

This should be a completed film or video project that demonstrates your visual & narrative storytelling abilities as well as your ability to engage an audience. Your film should demonstrate your aptitude for visual storytelling and creativity rather than technical abilities. Good ideas stay good ideas whether they are shot on a mobile phone or an Arri Alexa.

It can be live action, fiction, experimental, documentary or animation. You must clearly specify what your role was in making the film.

OR

SHORT STORY

LENGTH: 4-5 PAGES (MAX)

We are interested in your ability to initiate and tell a story and are looking for creativity, an ability to engage an audience, and your understanding of character. The story can be told in any genre or voice. It should make sense and have a narrative resolution.

OR

PORTFOLIO OF PHOTOS OR DRAWINGS

LENGTH: 4-6 PAGES/IMAGES (MAX)

Submit a series of images that you have created which, when viewed in a specific sequence, portray clearly developed ideas and themes. They may be photographs or drawings in the form of a storyboard that tell a simple narrative story or portray an original character, or a short graphic novel or comic book. The images may be in colour or black-and-white.

BA SCREEN: PRODUCTION 2018

Please ensure that files submitted are clearly labeled to indicate the sequence in which they should be viewed.

Images that do not tell a clear narrative usually receive low scores.

OR

OTHER

LENGTH: 6-7 MINUTES/6 PAGES

There are a huge number of art forms not covered in this list.

We will accept any creative piece of work as long as you can demonstrate how this work illustrates your ability for creative storytelling: this could be a piece of music, set or costume design, interactive work, or a visual effects treatment.

If submitting work in this category, we require you to also provide a short written statement, audio file or video explaining how your piece helps tell a story.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:	SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual and/or narrative storytelling abilities• Your storytelling style and creative point of view	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative thinking in the form of storytelling.• An ability to produce and communicate thoughts and feelings about a piece of creative work.• A capacity for study.

3. REVIEW OF A CREATIVE PIECE

LENGTH: 300-500 WORDS / 1 MINUTE

Choose an Australian film, play, book, television series, painting, music or other significant work of art that has strongly resonated with you in a positive or negative way and, to some extent, tells us something about you.

You could discuss the text's execution and its delivery of themes or messages, or you could analyse specific features of its production such as image, sound, editing, production design, scriptwriting, or storytelling, and the effectiveness of that feature. Whatever your focus, we are looking for passion.

We ask that you write or film/record something specifically for this task: reviews repurposed from past assignments do tend not to be successful in communicating a strong sense of how you engage with culture creatively.

NB: This is a review, which is different to a critical essay. Please write or speak clearly, but you do not need to use academic language. We are more interested in your thoughts and feelings (and what that tells us about you) than your ability to prove or disprove an argument.

See the technical requirements section at the end of this document for details on how to submit.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:	SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an ability to communicate your thoughts and feelings about stories• curiosity and passion about culture and art• a specific, personal and clearly-expressed argument• An engagement with Australian culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An ability to produce and communicate thoughts and feelings about a piece of creative work.• A capacity for study.

4. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

LENGTH: 1 PAGE

Recommendations give selection panel members a sense of your unique capabilities, attributes, and accomplishments, and provide an opportunity for someone to advocate on your behalf. Your referee's name and contact details (email & phone number) should be clearly visible. This person should not be a member of your immediate family.

Your letter should help you demonstrate:

1. The commitment required for career in the creative industries
2. Your capacity for collaboration and teamwork
3. Your ability to communicate thoughts and feelings
4. Your capacity for study

This letter can be written by anyone who can speak to your capacity for further study: it could be from a teacher or guidance counselor, group leader, or someone who has supervised you on a project.

We are not looking for recommendations from people who work in the screen media industry (unless they also happen to know you very well): the best letters tend to come from people who know your strengths and can make a persuasive argument about why you would be a good student at AFTRS.

The person providing your reference can give the reference to you directly, or they can choose to provide a confidential reference to the School directly, but applicants are responsible for requesting letters of recommendation and confirming that they have been received prior to the application closing date.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:	SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An outside perspective on why you are a strong candidate• Evidence of your ability to collaborate with others and work in a team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A commitment to a career in the creative industries and what it takes to get there.• A capacity for study.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CERTIFIED COPIES

How to have a document certified

To have a document certified you should take the original to an authorised person. The person must then write on every page of the copy document:

"I have sighted the original document and certify this to be a true copy of the original."

The person should sign beneath each statement and provide their designation, for example, "Justice of the Peace".

Who is authorised to certify a document?

Authorised persons include:

- An AFTRS Student Centre staff member
- A Justice of the Peace with a registration number. Copies verified by Justice of the Peace without a registration number will not be accepted
- An accountant - members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, or the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, or the National Institute of Accountants, or the Association of Taxation and Management Accountants or Registered Tax Agents
- A member of the police force with the rank of sergeant or above
- A barrister, solicitor or patent attorney
- A principal of an Australian secondary college, high school or primary school
- A bank or credit union manager
- A post office manager, or
- A commissioner for declarations.

UPLOADING YOUR DOCUMENTS AND MEDIA FILES

You will be able to upload your media file/s as part of the application process. Please ensure you conform to the required file type and size specified as follows.

Each document has a maximum of 10MB in size, and 50MB for media file.

If you intend to submit a media file and you are ready to upload all application tasks to the application portal you will need to ensure that the finished media file conforms to the following:

- H264 codec;
- 720 x 576 dimensions; and,
- the data rate should not exceed 3.5 megabits/s. Please see below on how to Compress Video in Handbrake.

BA SCREEN: PRODUCTION 2018

Compressing Video in Handbrake

Download and install the program Handbrake <http://handbrake.fr> and follow the steps below to convert your file to a compressed MP4.

- Select your video file by clicking “Source”
- Set the destination of the converted video file in the “Destination” field
- In the Output Settings make sure MP4 is set as the Format
- Click on “Picture Settings” (the TV icon) in the top right hand corner. Set the width to 720 and ensure the “keep aspect ratio” box is checked. The program will auto set the height.
- In the Video tab set the Video Codec to H.264
- Select “Constant Quality” in Video Quality
- The RF setting will default to a value of 20. To compress the video and make a smaller file you need to make this number higher (you will need to experiment a bit – see note below). Start by increasing it to 25.
- Press “Start” to begin the conversion/compression.

N.B: Once the video has been converted/compressed, you will have to check how large the file is. If you need to compress it to a smaller file, start with the original file again (not the compressed one) and make the RF number a bit higher. Repeat until you have the correct size.

Please contact the Student Centre on (02) 9805 6444 if you are having any problems uploading your media file.

