

Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production

2027 Application Guidance Notes

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

Welcome, storyteller

This is where you start your journey in the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production.

This document brings together everything you need to know, including what we're looking for and how to present your experience in a way that feels true to you. We know that applying for higher education is a big commitment, and sharing your work can feel vulnerable. We're interested in your potential, ideas and perspective. We value the full range of your lived experience, not just professional or educational experience. There's no single way of showing this, so use this document as a guide, and focus on showing us what matters most to you.

If you'd like support throughout the application process, our [Admissions Team](#) are here to help.

Accessibility

We are committed to providing reasonable adjustments through our admissions process. Requests for reasonable adjustments will be treated confidentially and will not disadvantage your application.

If you require any support or reasonable adjustments during the process, please contact our [Admissions Team](#).

Admission Requirements

Prior Educational Requirements

Our students come from many different educational backgrounds and experiences.

Admission into the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production requires you to meet one of the following criteria:

A) RECENT SECONDARY EDUCATION

Applicants in this category must have completed, or be due to complete, their Higher School Certificate, or an equivalent qualification between 2025 and 2026.

If you left secondary school in 2024 or earlier, you cannot be considered under this category, but you are likely to be eligible under one of the categories below.

B) VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) STUDY

Applicants in this category must have completed, or be due to complete before the start of the course, a VET qualification.

VET qualifications must be recognised in the Australian Qualifications Framework, and at the level of Certificate (excluding Trade Certifications), Diploma or Advanced Diploma.

C) APPLICANTS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY

Applicants in this category must have started or completed a higher education course such as a Bachelor-level degree or undergraduate certificate.

D) WORK AND LIFE EXPERIENCE

Applicants who do not meet the above criteria may apply on the basis of work and life experience.

Experience can include a combination of factors that demonstrate readiness for higher education.

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

- For applicants who have completed a qualification: A certified copy of your testamur, record of achievement, academic transcript or other official document.
- For applicants who are currently enrolled in secondary education: A certified copy of proof of enrolment in a senior secondary qualification (HSC or equivalent) that you are due to complete in the year that you apply.
- For applicants who are currently enrolled in a VET or higher education course: A certified copy of proof of enrolment.
- For applicants applying with work and life experience: A CV outlining your experience. This must include date ranges for your experience and the contact details of one referee who may be contacted to verify any details.

Citizenship/Residency Requirements

Admission into the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production is only available to domestic students.

You are considered a domestic student for application purposes if you are:

- an Australian citizen
- a New Zealand citizen
- an Australian permanent resident
- an Australian permanent humanitarian visa holder.

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

- A certified copy of your birth certificate or passport.

Adjustment Factors

AFTRS is committed to reflecting the full breadth of Australian talent. We know that access to training, industry networks and resources isn't equally distributed.

To help address that imbalance, we apply "Adjustment Factors". These are extra points added automatically based on information you provide in your application. You don't need to do anything extra. If we need anything further, we'll be in touch to talk it through.

A maximum of 10 adjustment factor points applies.

<p>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PERSONS</p> <p>Domestic applicants who identify as being of Aboriginal descent, Torres Strait Islander descent or of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.</p>	10
<p>CULTURALLY AND RACIALLY MARGINALISED PERSONS AND/OR THOSE FOR WHOM ENGLISH IS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT</p> <p>Applicants who have lived experience of cultural and/or racial marginalisation.</p> <p>We use the term culturally and racially marginalised (CARM) to refer to people who are not white. This group includes people who are Black, Brown, Asian, or any other non-white group, or who face marginalisation due to their culture, race or religion (Diversity Council Australia, 2023).</p> <p>AND/OR</p>	2

<p>Applicants whose first language is a language or dialect other than English and who have required additional support to develop proficiency in Standard Australian English.</p>	
<p>PERSONS WITH DISABILITY</p> <p>Applicants who identify as living with disability. We use the definition in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.</p>	2
<p>REMOTENESS</p> <p>Domestic applicants whose Australian residential address is outside NSW and/or identified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as being in Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Regional Australia, Remote Australia or Very Remote Australia.</p>	2
<p>SOCIO ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE</p> <p>Domestic applicants whose Australian residential address is identified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as being in the lowest 25% on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage.</p>	4
<p>WOMEN AND GENDER-DIVERSE PERSONS</p> <p>Applicants who identify as Female or Non-binary.</p>	2

If you have questions about Adjustment Factors or whether you might be eligible, please contact our [Admissions Team](#).

Application Task 1: Your Story

Telling stories is about creating and conveying thoughts, feelings and meaning. It doesn't matter if you've never made a film before. We can teach you how to do that. What's harder to teach is the passion and drive to tell engaging stories.

In no more than three minutes of audio or video recording (or in 1,000 words), tell us your story in two parts:

Part A: About You

Tell us a story about yourself that demonstrates: who you are; what you love to do; and your goals, experiences and values. We are interested in how you see the world and what you want to say as a creative screen storyteller.

In approaching this task, you should think of it as telling a story about yourself. What is your story? What is your dream career in the creative industries? What challenges have you had to overcome? Think of these as the dramatic obstacles your character has faced. We want to know what experiences have shaped the person you are today and why now is the right time for you to study.

We are looking for creativity and imagination rather than a dry personal statement. We want your voice. Give us a strong sense of who you are and why you want to tell stories through screen media. For example, you could structure your piece in the following way:

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. Reflect on what this says about you as a creative individual and why you want to pursue a career in screen production.

Remember that we are looking for your potential as a creative storyteller and you are telling a story that is trying to engage an audience.

Part B: What You Have Achieved

What else have you been making and doing? Let us know about any activities, community work, awards or achievements that demonstrate your abilities or commitment to creating screen content and how you learn and collaborate.

We are also interested to know about any of your previous employment or volunteer work and if it has influenced the way you think about your creative process or career goals. Feel free to also refer to any additional skills or hobbies 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 use Premiere Pro, After Effects, Blender, Da Vinci or create VFX, etc.

This could look like many things – making short films with friends, organising community storytelling events, exhibiting your work, volunteering at a local film festival, running a YouTube channel or writing fan fiction.

AFTRS is committed to supporting students from groups and backgrounds underrepresented in tertiary education and the screen industry and we encourage you to share this as part of your story if you'd like to.

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.

What We're Looking For

- Evidence of your potential as a creative storyteller.
- An idea about what inspires you to want to tell stories and why you're motivated to come into the course.
- Evidence of how your experiences so far have prepared you for study.
- Your individual creative voice and the bravery to share it.

Ask yourself: Does your story give us a strong sense of who you are? Can we hear your voice in how you tell it?

Application Task 2: Creative Work

Your submission should show your best work and demonstrate your ability to conceptualise and tell an engaging and imaginative story, but this does not have to be a finished short film; it can be a short script, a portfolio of photos or drawings or any art form you can make. Be brave and show us the world as you see or hear it.

You will not be judged on the technical proficiency of the work or the equipment you have access to, but on your creative storytelling abilities.

Work must not exceed the specified length limit.

You should not submit a showreel or extra material if your creative work is shorter than specified in these guidelines. Your best piece of work should be good enough to demonstrate your ability – multiple pieces often bring down scores. Read the technical requirements section at the end of this document for details on how to submit.

Submit ONE of the following four categories of creative work:

Script or Short Story

4-5 PAGES MAX

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

Series of Images

3-5 PAGES 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.

Ensure that files submitted are clearly labelled to indicate the sequence in which they should be viewed.

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

Film or Audio-Visual Content

3-5 MINUTES MAX

This should be a completed screen or audio project that demonstrates your visual/audio & narrative storytelling abilities as well as your ability to engage an audience. Your story should demonstrate your aptitude for 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, documentary or animation.

Your application must clearly specify what your role was in making the project. This may be in the form of credits at the end of the piece or submitted as a separate pdf file.

Other

3-5 MINUTES/ 5 PAGES MAX

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

We will accept any creative piece of work if 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

- Visual and/or audio storytelling abilities.
- Your storytelling style and creative point of view.
- The strength, originality or uniqueness of your ideas.
- Your individual creative voice and how bravely you have expressed it.

Ask yourself: How strong is the idea? How boldly have you expressed it? Does the work show us how you see or hear the world?

Selection Criterion Assessed

- Creative thinking in the form of storytelling.

Important Information

Certified Copies

A certified copy is a copy of an original document that has been confirmed as a true and accurate copy by an authorised person.

You'll need to provide certified copies of some documents as part of your application. This includes your highest educational qualification, and proof of identity and citizenship (such as birth certificate or passport).

If you're unsure about any of these requirements, or it's difficult to access an authorised person, please contact us. We're here to help.

HOW TO HAVE A DOCUMENT CERTIFIED

To have a document certified, take the original and a copy to an authorised person.

They will check the original and confirm the copy by writing or stamping on every page of the copy:

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

They will also include their full name, signature, date, registration number (if any) and their designation – for example, "Justice of the Peace" – on every page of the copy.

WHO IS AUTHORISED TO CERTIFY A DOCUMENT?

You can have your documents certified by a range of people, including:

- a Justice of the Peace (with a registration number)
- 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 police officer (rank of sergeant or above)
- a barrister, solicitor or patent attorney.
- an Admissions or Student Services Officer at AFTRS or any Australian university, TAFE or higher education institution
- a principal, deputy principal, assistant principal or delegate of an Australian high school, secondary college or primary school
- a bank or credit union manager
- a post office manager
- a commissioner for declarations
- a pharmacist.

Uploading Media Files

You will be able to upload your media file/s and associated documents when you apply for the course.

You do not have to complete your application in one sitting. Complete the section you're on, then save your application and log back in at any time prior to the closing date to pick up where you left off.

Uploading application tasks that are media/video files can take some time depending on file size and connection, so allow time before the deadline.

If you have problems with uploading your media files you may need to compress them. The following information provides guidance on how to do this.

TRANSCODING YOUR FILE

You'll be able to select the settings below when exporting your file from the video editor of your choice (e.g. Adobe Premiere Pro, Apple Final Cut or iMovie, DaVinci Resolve):

- Video Codec: H.264
- Recommended video format: MP4 or MOV
- Audio Codec: AAC
- Channels: Stereo
- Rate: 48 khz
- Bitrate: 128 kbps
- File size: Maximum 3 GB

You can also transcode your file with free video transcoding software, Handbrake, downloadable here: handbrake.fr/downloads.php

TRANSCODING USING HANDBRAKE

1. Select 'Source' and select your file.
2. Under the 'Summary' tab, set your format to MP4.
3. Under the 'Video' tab:
 - a. set 'Video Encoder' to H.264
 - b. set 'Framerate' to the framerate of your source file
 - c. set Quality to RF 15 – 28.
4. Under the 'Audio' tab, set the 'Samplerate' to 48 and 'Bitrate' to 128.
5. Select 'Start' to begin the transcoding process.

If you run into trouble with uploads, contact the [Admissions Team](#) before the deadline and we'll help you sort it out.

The Use of Generative AI Tools in Your Submission

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools have strong benefits that can enable learning and creativity. They can also be used in ways that make it impossible to assess your own specific creative, craft and communication skills. For this reason, you're not permitted to submit any work that is created in part or in whole by a generative AI tool such as ChatGPT and claim it as your own. If you have concerns or questions about the use of generative AI tools, please don't hesitate to contact our [Admissions Team](#).

We're interested in your voice and your ideas. The application is your chance to show us how you think and create.

Additional Information: Notes on Submission of Materials

A few practical things to help your application come through smoothly:

- Stay within the total run time; maximum word or page counts. Meeting a brief is a value we teach in the program, and additional materials won't be reviewed.
- Submit all recordings in English, or with English subtitles. This makes sure every assessor can engage fully with your work.
- Upload your files directly rather than sharing links to files hosted online. This keeps the process fair for everyone, as linked files can be altered after submission.
- Name your files clearly, using only letters, numbers and underscores (no symbols). This helps us keep track of your valuable work. For example:
 - ✓ 'APerson_BASP2026_Proposal.pdf'
 - ✗ 'mycv#3@application.pdf'
- Don't include your contact details inside any documents. We have those from your application.
- Save your documents as PDFs. We may not be able to view other file formats.
- Keep any text submissions easy to read by using a simple layout and font, e.g. Helvetica, Aptos or Times New Roman in 12 point. If you are submitting a script please use Courier font.

Assessment Rubric

This rubric explains how your application will be assessed. It sets out the criteria we use and what this might look like across a range of applications, so every applicant is considered fairly and consistently.

We use it to focus on your potential, ideas and perspective, not the opportunities or resources you've had access to.

You can use the rubric to understand what we're looking for and to guide how you present your work and experiences in a way that feels true to you.

Application Task/ Selection Criteria	85-100	75-84	65-74	50-64	0-49
<p>A Story About You (50%)</p> <p>A reflective collaborative learner</p> <p>A capacity for study</p> <p>A commitment to a career in the creative industries and what it takes to get there</p>	<p>High potential as a creative storyteller as evidenced through an engaging narrative that gives a strong sense of the applicant's personality and capacity for collaboration.</p> <p>The story conveys a strong sense of the applicant's motivation and inspiration to study the BA.</p> <p>The applicant's story demonstrates sustained and meaningful engagement with creative practice, community or storytelling, relative to their opportunities and circumstances.</p>	<p>Significant potential as a creative storyteller as evidenced through a clear narrative that gives a good sense of the applicant's personality and capacity for collaboration.</p> <p>The story conveys a good sense of the applicant's motivation and inspiration to study the BA.</p> <p>The applicant's story demonstrates meaningful engagement with creative practice, community or storytelling, relative to their opportunities and circumstances.</p>	<p>Some potential as a creative storyteller as evidenced through a clear narrative that gives a good sense of the applicant's personality and capacity for collaboration.</p> <p>The story indicates the applicant's motivation and inspiration to study the BA.</p> <p>The applicant's story demonstrates some engagement with creative practice, community or storytelling, relative to their opportunities and circumstances.</p>	<p>The narrative gives some sense of the applicant's personality and capacity for collaboration but may not be structured to convey the applicant's potential as a storyteller.</p> <p>The story may not clearly indicate the applicant's motivation or inspiration to study the BA.</p> <p>The applicant's story demonstrates a small degree of engagement with creative practice, community or storytelling, relative to their opportunities and circumstances.</p>	<p>The story is lacking in a narrative structure or clear sense of personality or capacity for collaboration and fails to convey the applicant's motivation to study the BA.</p> <p>The applicant's story demonstrates little or no engagement with creative practice, community or storytelling, relative to their opportunities and circumstances.</p>
<p>Creative Work (50%)</p> <p>Creative thinking in the form of storytelling</p>	<p>Conceptualisation of story is interesting and engaging with a strong sense of voice. The piece is clearly and effectively structured, generating and maintaining audience interest. The artefact demonstrates a creative use of the medium and expresses its ideas with economy.</p>	<p>Conceptualisation of story is clear and engaging with a sense of voice. The idea is somewhat challenging to express. The piece is well structured and generates audience interest. The artefact demonstrates an appropriate use of the medium and is concise and focused.</p>	<p>Conceptualisation of story is successful but may contain gaps or inconsistencies and voice is not always clear. The piece is adequately structured. Audience engagement may be inconsistent.</p>	<p>Conceptualisation of story is attempted but contains many gaps. The idea demonstrates limited creative intent or developing engagement with the medium. The piece is adequately structured. Audience engagement may be inconsistent.</p>	<p>Poor conceptualisation of story that expresses itself as a laboured, simplistic artefact. The idea does not demonstrate creative intent or engagement with the medium. The finished project is poorly structured, displays a lack of cohesion, and/or fails to engage an audience.</p>

Learn more

If you haven't found the information you need, or need support with your application, contact our Admissions Team.

applications@aftrs.edu.au

1300 223 877

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