

Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production

AFTRS

2021: Application
Guidance Notes

Bachelor of Arts

Screen: Production

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 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, television and web content 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 in screen content.

Application Checklist

- Your story (1000 words or 3 minutes)
- Review of a creative text (300 words or 1 minute)
- Creative work (5 pages, 6-7 minutes or 6 images)
- Certified copies of:
 1. Your Proof of Residency (birth certificate or passport).
 2. If due to complete high school in 2020: 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 home schooling) or work experience. Contact the Student Centre for more information about the documentation required.

Required Application Task 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 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 way to approach this task, however, think of it as telling a story. 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- It may be aspirational, articulating what you would like to achieve or change about the world.

However, which way you decide to approach 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 HAVE 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 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 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 if they wish.

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 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.

SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED

- 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.

Required

Application Task 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, 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 pieces of creative work:

SCRIPT (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.

FILM OR AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT (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, documentary or animation. You must clearly specify what your role was in making the film.

SHORT STORY (2-3 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.

PORTFOLIO OF PHOTOS OR DRAWINGS (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.

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

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

OTHER (6-7 MINUTES/6 PAGES MAX):

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

- Visual and/or narrative storytelling abilities.
- Your storytelling style and creative point of view.

SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED

- 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.

Required Application Task 3: Review of a Creative Piece

LENGTH: 300-500 WORDS OR 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 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 not tend 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

- 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.

SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED

- An ability to produce and communicate thoughts and feelings about a piece of creative work.
- A capacity for study.

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.

Completing the Application and Uploading your Documents and 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. Save your application and log back in at any time prior to the closing date to pick up where you left off.

When uploading application tasks that are media/video files, be patient as this can take some time. If you are having problems with uploading your media files you may need to compress them. The following provides guidance on how to do this.

Compressing Video in Handbrake

Download and install Handbrake (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.

Contact the Admissions team on 1300 223 877 or at applications@aftrs.edu.au if you are having any problems uploading your media file.