

# VFX

Graduate Diploma  
in Visual Effects



**AFTRS**

Australian Film Television  
and Radio School

**INDUSTRIAL  
LIGHT & MAGIC**

A LUCASFILM COMPANY

The Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) is Australia's national screen and broadcast school.

Working hand-in-hand with industry, AFTRS is a global centre of excellence that provides Australians with world-leading creative education and training so that Australian talent and culture may thrive at home and around the world. AFTRS is the only Australian school to be consistently rated among the top international film schools by The Hollywood Reporter. In 2023 AFTRS will celebrate its 50th anniversary.





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# Graduate Diploma in Visual Effects

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The Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) and world-leading visual effects company Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) have partnered to offer world-class training for Australians in the rapidly expanding screen speciality of visual effects. The Graduate Diploma in Visual Effects brings together the vision, craft and technical skills and expertise of ILM, and the educational expertise and creative excellence of AFTRS.

The course prototypes an innovative model of integrated training that combines the best of on-the-job training with formal education: blending real-world learning driven by leading industry experts, with the critical thinking and adaptive creative skillsets vital to thrive in today's digital world.

Students will explore the processes by which images are created, manipulated, and finished in a digital environment, and learn the skills required to create highquality virtual worlds and enhance stories with visual effects, with a focus on the concepts and principles of the VFX pipeline.

The Graduate Diploma in Visual Effects runs full-time over one year, through on-campus classes, coupled with feedback, mentoring, industry guest lectures, project-based learning, and structured around an immersive series of practical classes and workshops.

## About ILM

Industrial Light & Magic, a division of Lucasfilm Ltd., was founded by George Lucas in 1975. The company has become synonymous with ground-breaking visual effects work and continues to be a recognized leader in the field. ILM has operations in San Francisco, Singapore, Vancouver, London, and Sydney.

ILM's studio in Sydney offers a complete slate of visual effect services and leverages the company's award-winning expertise and technological know-how developed over 47 years in the industry. The company has been awarded 15 Academy Awards® for Best Visual Effects and 34 Scientific and Technical Achievement Awards by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Applications for the 2023 intake close  
7 November 2022

DURATION  
One-year, full-time

DELIVERY  
Sydney on-campus

ATTENDANCE PATTERN  
Five days, face-to-face teaching each week

COURSE FEE  
Domestic student annual tuition fee \$32,496 (\$32,496 P.A.)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
FEE-HELP approved + Scholarships available.

\*AFTRS tuition fees are reviewed each year and you are liable for the additional tuition costs if the tuition fees rise during the course of your enrolment.

‘A program between ILM and AFTRS felt like a very natural partnership from the start of our discussions. We’re bringing 45+ years of traditional film craft teaching together with specialised, high-end technical knowledge from ILM and will use real-world production examples, techniques and working environments. I believe this will help accelerate the development of highly skilled and diverse talent, which the Australian screen industry has an abundance of opportunities and needs for.’

Luke Hetherington  
Executive in Charge of ILM’s  
Singapore and Sydney Studios

‘The combined skills of the ILM and AFTRS teams set a new benchmark for world-leading, industry-partnered education. The need for skilled visual effects artists is increasing rapidly and this unique course will have a real impact on the capacity and growth of the Australian VFX sector. This new partnership with ILM is central to the School delivering on its ambition to offer future-facing, sustainable, world-leading training and its remit to support the growth and skills level of the Australian industry.’

Nell Greenwood  
AFTRS CEO





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# Is the Graduate Diploma in Visual Effects right for you?

This is a hands-on program designed to upskill emerging and early career practitioners and digital artists with technical and creative skills to building a career in Visual Effects and become production-ready visual effects artists in the Australian screen sector.

In this program, students will gain core knowledge and skills required to work in the visual effects industry, understand screen language and conventions, and work on fast-paced projects.

Upon completing this course, students will be able to apply a deep understanding of cinematic storytelling to the art of visual effects, evaluate technical and aesthetic elements of visual effects, problem solve and innovate on professional projects in a group environment, and collaborate effectively and ethically across diverse creative projects.

This course is best suited to a candidate that has previous qualifications or has equivalent professional experience in fields including:

- Fine Arts
- Production
- Media
- Games design
- Graphic design
- Computer science
- Built environment

# Career opportunities

The AFTRS x ILM Graduate Diploma in Visual Effects is designed to meet the needs of the growing visual effects industry through practice-based study. This course is structured around visual effects design and development, storytelling principles and professional practice.

Potential employers in Australia and New Zealand include Industrial Light & Magic, Animal Logic, Rising Sun Pictures, Luma Pictures, Weta, Flying Bark Animation, ALT VFX and a growing number of games design studios in Australian and worldwide.

Potential careers include:

- Composer
- Pipeline Technical Director
- Concept Artist/Matte Painter
- 3D Generalist
- Layout
- Texturing
- Surfacing/Look Development
- Rigging/Technical Assistant
- Modelling (props, etc.)
- Data Capture (motion/facial capture)
- Environment Assistant
- Assistant Technical Director
- Stagecraft (virtual production)
- Pipeline/Engineering
- Render Wrangler

# What you will learn

This course is designed by industry professionals to prepare students for production roles within the ever-growing visual effects industry. Focused on contemporary best-practice, and using industry standard tools and techniques, the Graduate Diploma in Visual Effects will equip students with the ability to engage both craft and industry at a high level with a view towards establishing career-long learning and skills development practices.

Through professional-led tutoring and guidance, this course will equip you to be able to:

1. Apply a deep understanding of creative and cinematic storytelling to the craft of visual effects
2. To create audience-engaging visual effects through the application of high-level craft-skills
3. Evaluate technical, aesthetic, and creative elements of visual effects
4. Apply an adaptable skill set to problem-solve and innovate on professional projects in a group environment
5. Collaborate effectively and ethically across diverse creative projects

On the completion of this intensive program, graduates will emerge with the high-level artistic and technical skills required to embark on a professional career as a visual effects artist. Modules are constructed around real world production exercises supervised by highly experienced visual effects staff and bespoke mentorships.

Course outcomes include:

- High-quality 3D modelling and asset production
- Professional 3D lighting and CGI rendering
- 3D Layout and scene setup
- Photoreal compositing for visual effects
- On-set visual effects protocols and practices
- Contemporary visual effects and hybrid production practices
- Production management and team building
- Professional practice and ethical conduct

Upon completion of the course, students will have both a network of industry contacts and a portfolio of works demonstrating professional skills, proficiencies and attitudes.





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# Scholarships

To ensure we reflect Australian society and Australian stories, AFTRS wants to work with students from a diverse range of backgrounds. To support this, the School has a range of scholarships available to assist degree course students with the costs associated with higher education.

For details of how to apply for AFTRS Scholarships, visit [aftrs.edu.au/scholarships](https://aftrs.edu.au/scholarships)

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STUDIO



AFTRS Studio 1



Australian Film Television  
and Radio School

CRICOS PROVIDER CODE 03662D  
TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12011

The Entertainment Quarter  
Moore Park  
Sydney NSW 2021

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aftrs.edu.au

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YouTube	/AFTRSShowcase



Australian Government  

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AFTRS

AFTRS would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Bidjigal people and Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, on whose land we meet, work, study and teach. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from all nations of this land.