

Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production

AFTRS

2024: Application
Guidance Notes

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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 (3 minutes or 1000 words)
- Creative Work (3-5 minutes OR 5 pages see below for details)

Required Documents: Certified copies of:

Your Proof of Residency (birth certificate or passport)

AND

1. If due to complete high school in 2023: 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 can 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 Admissions team for more information about the documentation required.

Required Application Task 1: A story about

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

In no more than 3-minutes of audio or video recording (or 1000 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; 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.

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.

In approaching this task you should think of it as telling a story about yourself. We are looking for creativity and imagination rather than a dry personal statement. We encourage you to complete this part of the application to demonstrate your creativity while giving 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.

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 Premiere Pro or After Effects etc.

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 tell stories and why you're motivated to come on the course;
- 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 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 pieces of creative work:

SCRIPT (4-5 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 (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.

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 (3-5 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.

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.

OTHER (3-5 MINUTES/5 PAGES MAX):

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

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 quality, originality or uniqueness of your ideas.

SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED

- Creative thinking in the form of storytelling.

THE USE OF GENERATIVE AI TOOLS IN YOUR SUBMISSION

The rapid rise of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in, including platforms such as ChatGPT, Descript, DALL-E and MidJourney, can have strong benefits that can enable learning and creativity. They can also be used in ways that bypass the ability to assess an individual's specific creative and crafts skills essential in determining if you are eligible for a program.

Applicants are not permitted to submit any work that has been generated by ChatGPT or any other generative AI tool and claim it as their own.

If you are using any work that is not yours, you must acknowledge it accordingly – this is part of good ethical creative practice.

If you have concerns or questions about use of generative AI tools, please don't hesitate to contact the recruitment team in the first instance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NOTES ON SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

1. Do not exceed the (total run time) or page length – additional materials will not be reviewed.
2. All films should be in English or subtitled in English.
3. Film links are not permitted – this prevents materials being altered after submission.
4. All documents submitted should have your name, discipline, and 2024 Application , and page number as a header.
5. Documents must be in PDF format. Other file formats will not be considered.
6. Keep any text submissions easy to read by using conventional font (Calibri, Arial, Times New Roman + Courier for scripts), not smaller than size 10, and normal margins.
7. You are not permitted to submit any work that has been generated by ChatGPT or any other AI tool and claim it as your own. If you are using any work that is not yours it must reference it accordingly – this is part of good ethical creative practice as well as a requirement of academic quality. Failure to reference is also considered plagiarism.
8. If you have concerns or questions about use of generative AI tools, please don't hesitate to contact your Program Convenor in the first instance. This is emerging technology for all of us, and we expect it will continue to grow exponentially in the coming months and years. AFTRS is committed to ensuring ethical and appropriate use of these powerful tools.

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:

1. An AFTRS Student Centre staff member
2. A Justice of the Peace with a registration number. Copies verified by Justice of the Peace without a registration number will not be accepted
3. 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
4. A member of the police force with the rank of sergeant or above
5. A barrister, solicitor or patent attorney
6. A principal of an Australian secondary college, high school or primary school
7. A bank or credit union manager
8. A post office manager, or
9. 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.

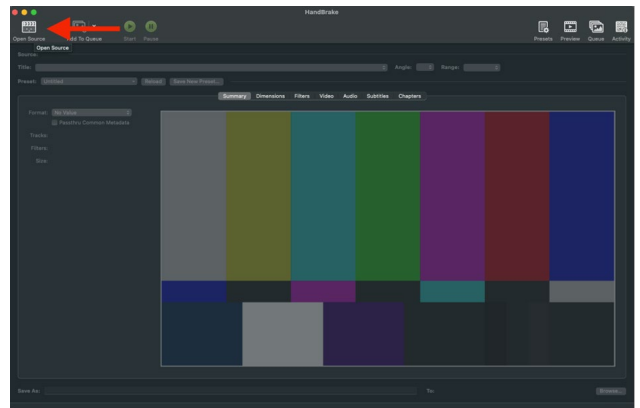
Transcoding your file

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).

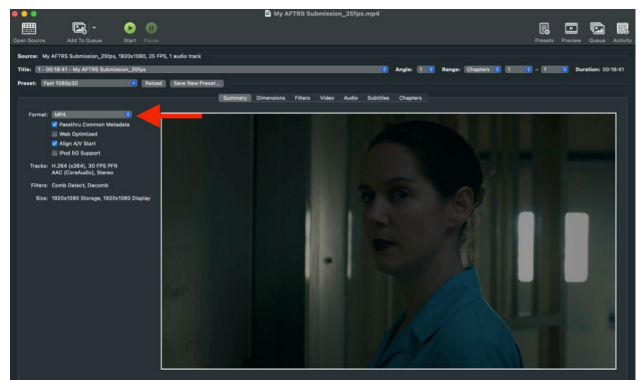
- Video Codec: H.264
- Recommended video format: MP4 or MOV
- Audio Codec: AAC
- Channels: Stereo
- Rate: 48 khz
- Bitrate: 128 kbps
- File size: Maximum 3 GB.

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

1. Select 'Source' and select your file.

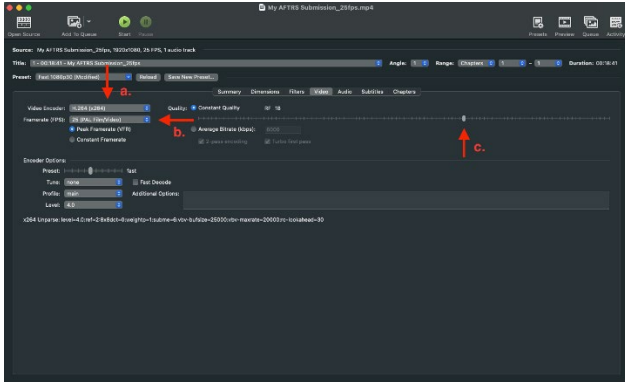


2. Under the 'Summary' tab, set your format to MP4.

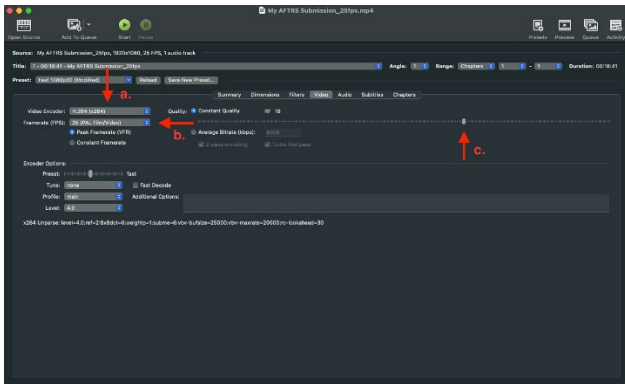


3. Under the 'Video' tab

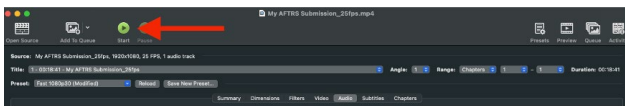
- a. Set 'Video Encoder' to H.264
- b. Set 'Framerate' to the framerate of your source file.
- c. Set Quality to RF 15 – 28



4. Under the 'Audio' tab, set the 'Samplerate' to 48 and 'Bitrate' to 128



5. Select 'Start' to begin the transcoding process.



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