

Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production

2026 Application Guidance Notes

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

Admission Requirements

Prior Educational Requirements

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 2024 and 2025.

If you left secondary school in 2023 or earlier, you cannot be considered under this category, but you are likely to be eligible under one of the following categories.

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 a bridging course.

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.

EVIDENCE REQUIRED:

- 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 you are applying.
- For applicants who are currently enrolled in a VET or higher education courses: 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 reference 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

EVIDENCE REQUIRED:

- A certified copy of your birth certificate or passport

Adjustment Factors

To ensure AFTRS reflects Australian society, we support the best talent from all backgrounds into our courses and careers in the screen and audio industries.

Admission into the Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production is based on the competitiveness of your final score, which is your assessment score plus any adjustment factors you may be eligible for.

Adjustment factors are applied automatically based on the information you submit in your application. AFTRS may request documentary evidence to verify your eligibility for Adjustment Factors.

A maximum of 10 adjustment factors applies.

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| ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PERSONS Domestic applicants who identify as being of Aboriginal descent, Torres Strait Islander descent or of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent | 10 |
| CULTURALLY AND RACIALLY MARGINALISED PERSONS Applicants who have lived experience of cultural and/or racial marginalisation 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) | 2 |

| | |
|---|---|
| PERSONS WITH DISABILITY Applicants who identify as living with disability (as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992) | 2 |
| REMOTENESS 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 | 2 |
| SOCIO ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE 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 | 4 |
| WOMEN AND GENDER DIVERSE PERSONS Applicants who identify as Female or Intermediate/Intersex/Unspecified | 2 |

Application Task 1: Your Story

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 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 also to 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.

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 into 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.

Application Task 2:

Creative Work

Your submission should show 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 four categories 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. This may be in the form of credits at the end of the piece or submitted as a separate pdf file.

*Creative Work Categories
continued on next page*

Portfolio of Photos or Drawings

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.

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 quality, originality or uniqueness of your ideas.

Selection Criterion Assessed

- Creative thinking in the form of storytelling.

Important Information

Certified Copies

A certified copy of an original document is one that has been verified as a true copy by an authorised person.

AFTRS can only consider certified copies as evidence that you have met the admission requirements of the course. This includes your highest educational qualification and your birth certificate or passport.

HOW TO HAVE A DOCUMENT CERTIFIED

To have a document certified you should take the original and a copy to an authorised person. The person must personally verify 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."

The certifier should provide their full name, signature, date, registration number (if any) and their designation, for example, "Justice of the Peace" on every page of the certified copy.

WHO IS AUTHORISED TO CERTIFY A DOCUMENT?

Authorised persons include:

- 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
- An Admissions or Student Services Officer at AFTRS
- An Admissions or Student Services Officer at 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. 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 have 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 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
 - d. Under the 'Audio' tab, set the 'Samplerate' to 48 and 'Bitrate' to 128
4. Select 'Start' to begin the transcoding process.

The Use of Generative AI Tools In Your Submission

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including platforms such as ChatGPT, Descript, DALL-E, MidJourney and DeepSeek 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, craft and communication skills, which are essential in determining if you are eligible for a program.

Applicants are not permitted to submit any work that is created in part or whole by a generative AI tool such as ChatGPT and claim it as your own.

If you are using any work that is not your own, it must be acknowledged – this is essential in ethical creative practice and academic integrity.

If you have concerns or questions about the use of generative AI tools, please don't hesitate to contact our Admissions Team.

Additional Information - Notes On Submission Of Materials

- Do not exceed the total run time, maximum word or page counts – additional materials will not be reviewed.
- All films should be in English or subtitled in English.
- Links to files hosted online are not permitted – this prevents materials being altered after submission.
- File names should be clear and descriptive and only include alphanumeric characters (not symbols).
- Do not include your contact details in any documents.
- Documents must be in PDF format. Other file formats will not be considered.
- 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. Courier should be used for scripts.

Assessment Rubric

| Application Task/ Selection Criteria | 85-100 | 75-84 | 65-74 | 50-64 | 0-49 |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| A Story About You (50%) Reflective collaborative learner A capacity for study A commitment to a career in the creative industries and what it takes to get there | <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>Highly engaged in numerous activities (5+) with particular attention to creative (art/design) spheres.</p> <p>Engagement with community activities is in addition to academic or other achievements.</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>Significant engagement in several activities (3-4). Some activities are creative, or community based.</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>Standard level of engagement in activities, which may or may not be creative (2-3).</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>Few if any activities or achievements.</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>No activities. Low academic or work-related achievements.</p> |
| Creative Work (50%) Creative thinking in the form of storytelling | <p>Conceptualisation of story is interesting and engaging. The idea is ambitious and/or challenging to realise. 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. The idea is somewhat challenging to realise. 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. The finished product may demonstrate potential which is not always wholly achieved or evidenced. The piece is adequately structured. Audience engagement may be inconsistent.</p> | <p>Conceptualisation of story is attempted but contains many gaps or may be expressed inelegantly. The idea is lacking in ambition or offers little challenge. The finished product may demonstrate potential, but this is never fully achieved or evidenced. The piece is adequately structured. Audience engagement may be inconsistent.</p> | <p>Poor conceptualisation of story that expresses itself as a laboured, simplistic artefact. No risks will be taken, and the finished project may be poorly structured, display a lack of cohesion, and/or fail 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.

afters.edu.au/ask

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Australian Film Television and Radio School

The Entertainment Quarter
Moore Park
Sydney NSW 2021

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12011
CRICOS Provider Code: 03662D



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