

# Master of Arts Screen

2026 Application Guidance Notes

**AFTRS**

Australian Film Television  
and Radio School

# Admission Requirements

## Prior Educational Requirements

Admission into the Master of Arts Screen requires you to hold a relevant undergraduate degree at bachelor level, or to have completed equivalent work experience and/or training.

### RELEVANT UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

Applicants in this category must have graduated from a recognised undergraduate degree (or higher) from an Australian Higher Education Provider or equivalent overseas institution.

Relevant fields of study may include, but are not limited to:

- Creative Arts
- Society and Culture
- Management and Commerce
- Architecture and Building
- Education

**EVIDENCE REQUIRED:** A certified copy of your testamur, academic transcript or other equivalent official document.

Alternatively, you can share your documentation securely via [My eEquals](#) to [applications@aftrs.edu.au](mailto:applications@aftrs.edu.au).

## EQUIVALENT WORK EXPERIENCE AND/OR TRAINING

Applicants who do not hold a relevant undergraduate degree may be eligible to apply by degree equivalence.

By completing a [Degree Equivalence Form](#), applicants must demonstrate that they have achieved corresponding learning outcomes by completing a similar volume of relevant work experience and/or training.

Examples of equivalent work experience and/or training may include:

- Year 12 completion AND a minimum of 24 months relevant experience
- A relevant Diploma/Advanced Diploma AND a minimum of 12 months relevant experience

Relevant experience may include:

- Equivalent screen credit/s on short films, commercial screen productions, web or audio-visual content creation
- Professional roles in production company, production facility, recording studio, broadcaster or other screen production relation workplace

**EVIDENCE REQUIRED:** A completed Degree Equivalence Form. 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 Master of Arts Screen is available to domestic and international 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

If you do not meet one of these criteria, you will apply as an [international student](#).

**EVIDENCE REQUIRED:** A certified copy of your birth certificate or passport.

## English Language Proficiency

International applicants must also demonstrate English language proficiency.

AFTRS requires international applicants to undertake English language proficiency testing via the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or an equivalent approved testing provider.

The minimum requirement is an overall IELTS score of 7.0 or the equivalent score in an equivalent approved test.

You need to take your English test within the two years before your course starts. If you took your English language proficiency test more than two years ago, you will be required to take another test.

You may be exempt from providing evidence of an English test score if:

- you are a citizen and hold a passport from UK, USA, Canada, NZ or Republic of Ireland
- you have completed at least 5 years' study in English in Australia, UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, or the Republic of Ireland
- in the 2 years before applying for the Student visa you completed the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education in Australia in English while you held a Student visa
- in the 2 years before applying for the Student visa you completed a substantial component of a course that would qualify you under the Australian Qualifications Framework at the Certificate IV or higher level, while you held a Student visa.

# 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 Master of Arts Screen 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.

<b>ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PERSONS</b>  Applicants who identify as being of Aboriginal descent, Torres Strait Islander descent or of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent	10
<b>CULTURALLY AND RACIALLY MARGINALISED PERSONS</b>  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

*Adjustment Factors  
continued on next page*

<p><b>PERSONS WITH DISABILITY</b></p> <p>Applicants who identify as living with disability (as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992)</p>	2
<p><b>REMOTENESS</b></p> <p>Domestic applicants whose 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><b>SOCIO ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE</b></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><b>WOMEN AND GENDER DIVERSE PERSONS</b></p> <p>Applicants who identify as Female or Intermediate/ Intersex/Unspecified</p>	<p>5 (Cinematography, Music, Sound Design)</p> <p>2 (Directing, Editing, Producing)</p>

# Application Task 1:

## Creative Statement

Create a three-minute audio and/or visual work that expresses your approach to audio visual storytelling. The work can take any form of your choice. For example, it may be a piece to camera, podcast, edited footage with voiceover or a combination of multiple and/ or other forms.

Your creative statement may include responses to the following:

- How do you define your creative approach to storytelling within your discipline and what makes it unique?
- What kinds of stories resonate with you and why?
- How do you collaborate with other creative practitioners and what does collaboration mean to you?
- What areas of your creative practice have motivated your interest in advanced academic study and research?

### What We're Looking For

- Evidence of your potential as an audio-visual storyteller.
- An idea about what inspires your storytelling and what motivates your interest in this course of study.
- Evidence of how your experiences so far have prepared you for postgraduate study.

### Selection Criteria Assessed

- Ability to articulate a creative voice with evidence of creative thinking.
- Demonstrates quality in submission materials and response to application requirements.

# Application Task 2:

## Creative Work

Submit a curation of your work as a key creative. Total running time must not exceed 15 minutes and 20 pages across all the submissions. Your creative submission should demonstrate your best work and be tailored to the discipline you are applying for incorporating the following guidance.

Ensure accurate labelling and accreditation of all submissions in a PDF document, including title, year, your role and any other relevant information. Make sure evidence of your discipline skills are clearly identified and documented.

Be selective with your choices. If submitting portions of work, submit entire sequences and summarise the rest of the film or story in the submission description. For some specialisations, you may choose to submit vision statements or preparatory work that showcases evidence of your creative process, from ideation through to completion.

### Discipline Guidance

Your creative work should be tailored to the specific discipline you are applying to.

#### CINEMATOGRAPHY

Applicants to the Cinematography discipline should demonstrate their *humanity*, and their acuity in visual storytelling through a strong sense of composition, colour, lighting, choice of lens, and movement of the camera.

We would like to see three examples of your artistry. The work you love. Be creative with your choice. Three short clips from drama, documentary, music video, commercials or something experimental. Also, a short description of your reflections on each piece: your part in it, what you learned from it. The work you submit should demonstrate an elegance and economy of images, an awareness of your creative practice and identity and even your aspirations for a future in cinematography.

## DIRECTING

Applicants to the Directing discipline should demonstrate a strong interest in humanity and the craft skills, creative tools, and processes used to express stories on screen. We are looking for exceptional collaborators who are capable of being skilled and respectful custodians of stories. The work submitted should include examples of your directing work (completed work or works in progress are both fine) alongside an example/s of your preparation such as a director's statement, mood boards, storyboards, shot lists, blocking diagrams, etc. A statement describing the work in your submission to place it in context is highly recommended. The work submitted should reflect an awareness of your creative intentions, identity and aspirations in directing.

## DOCUMENTARY

Applicants to the Documentary discipline should demonstrate a unique perspective to story, documentary form, and creative intent. Submissions can include completed work, works-in-progress, and ideas at an early-stage of development. Where relevant, preparatory materials should be included alongside the creative work (e.g. director's statement, one-pagers, treatments, mood boards and ethical considerations). The work submitted should reflect an awareness of your own creative voice, understanding of the local, national and international documentary industry and future career aspirations.

## EDITING

Applicants to the Editing discipline need to demonstrate their ability and potential as audio visual story tellers. We are looking for high level creative collaborators who also have a good working knowledge of at least one NLE (Non-Linear Editing software).

We would like to see 2 examples of your best editing work. The selections can take any form – drama and/or documentary short films, music clips or any commercial work. We are looking for narrative progression and emotional impact via your edit decisions. A strong sense of rhythm and understanding of cinematic language as expressed in your sequences is also desirable.

Please make sure you describe your creative input into the work and any challenges you faced in your application. We also want to know what software program(s) you used. A screen shot of the final timelines is desirable.

## MUSIC

Applicants to the Music discipline should demonstrate a deep understanding of musical storytelling. We are looking for exceptional collaborators who possess a Bachelor level or high AMEB level working knowledge of music theory and composition, a working knowledge of a Digital Audio Workstation and a working knowledge of a music notation software program. The work submitted should include existing examples of your music composition. The examples of your music composition may be to picture or not. It is recommended that you include a statement describing each of your works to place them in context, plus at least one accompanying printed music score, more if available. The work submitted should reflect an awareness of your creative practice, creative identity and aspirations in scoring for the screen. Your submissions must be your own work and not collaborations with other music creatives such as other Composers or Orchestrators. This includes arrangements of another Composer's work.

The total page count on submitted scores may exceed 20 pages.



## PRODUCING

Applicants to the Producing discipline should demonstrate aptitude for collaboration and leadership on creative projects. The work submitted should reflect your experience, creative identity, and aspirations in producing. Your experience may lie in the screen industry or in adjacent fields that have strong transferrable skills that complement the multifaceted nature of a producer's role. If you have experience in an industry with transferable skills (i.e. finance, law, theatre, project management etc) please include artefacts in your body of creative work. For example, these could range from excerpts of films/shows you have produced or worked on in a creative capacity, creative pitch documents, script excerpts or logistical and project management documents such as schedules, budgets & call sheets (relevant confidential information redacted). In its essence producing is one of taking ideas and stories to screen, as well as an understanding of development, audience, production, finance, marketing and beyond.

## PRODUCTION DESIGN

Applicants to the Production Design discipline should demonstrate a strong command of visual and spatial storytelling through the submission of original work. Your portfolio should showcase your ability to conceptualise, develop, and communicate design ideas that shape narrative environments. Please include a range of work such as illustrations, concept art, mood boards, technical drawings, model making, mixed media, perspective drawing, photography or on-set stills. Provide a brief statement contextualising your work and articulating your creative approach and aspirations in production design. Your submission should reflect your current practice, and your understanding of how spatial and visual elements can serve storytelling.

## SCREENWRITING

Applicants to the Screenwriting discipline should submit two to three examples of their screenwriting work. For example, this might include a ten-page short form screenplay and a four-page outline of a long form screenplay (feature or series) along with some sample draft pages. Any work submitted as an excerpt should include a synopsis of the whole story. Each work may also include a brief (1-3 sentence) introductory note about what stage of development it's in (e.g. early stage, advanced draft or complete), why you wrote it and your creative and thematic intention. We are looking for original story ideas, and work that achieves narrative progression and emotional impact through your choices of tone, plotting, character and theme.

## SOUND DESIGN

Applicants to the Sound Design discipline should submit creative work that demonstrates skill with recording, editing, creation, processing or mixing of sound elements (other than music). Please describe in detail the aspects of any work for which you are responsible – for example, location dialogue recording, dialogue cleanup, sound effects editing, foley recording, pre-mixing or final mixing. Please also provide details of software or equipment used to create the work. Identify the challenges faced in creating the work, and how you contributed to the success of the final product.

## What We're Looking For

- Demonstration of your creative intent.
- Demonstration of your technical and/or craft skills related to the discipline you are applying for.

## Selection Criteria Assessed

- Ability to articulate a creative voice with evidence of creative thinking.
- Creative work demonstrates high level of potential for excellence in discipline specific creative practice.
- Demonstrates quality in submission materials and response to application requirements.

# Application Task 3:

## Personal Statement & CV

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Submit a personal statement outlining why you want to study at AFTRS in your chosen discipline.

Your personal statement should not exceed 300 words and should be submitted as a PDF.

Please include:

- Your key objectives for studying the MAS at AFTRS.
- Describe why this is the right time for you to undertake study in the MAS.
- Where do you see yourself at the completion of the course?
- Information such as your relevant personal history, goals, ambitions and challenges.

### CV

Submit a CV that highlights your relevant experience, achievements and qualifications. This should include date ranges for your experiences.

Your CV should not exceed three pages and should be submitted as a PDF.

### What We're Looking For

- Evidence of relevant prior education or equivalent experience
- Demonstration of your interest and capacity for full time higher education
- Reflection on personal objectives and motivations

### Selection Criteria Assessed

- Demonstrates potential for critical self-assessment and advanced study of creative practice
- Demonstrates commitment to a career in the creative industries
- Demonstrates quality in submission materials and response to application requirements

# 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

## Documents in Languages Other Than English

All documents written in languages other than English must be accompanied by a complete English translation.

Your application must include certified copies of the original language document and certified copies of the English translation.

AFTRS accepts translations from the following organisations:

- A translator accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators & Interpreters](#) (NAATI)
- [Multicultural New South Wales Language Services](#)
- Interstate office of either the Ethnic Affairs Commission or the Department of Home Affairs
- Australian diplomatic missions

Each page of the translation must include:

- The translator's signature
- The date translated
- The translator's accreditation details and/or the official stamp of the translator's accrediting organisation

# 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 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](http://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 and 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

Selection Criteria	85-100	75-84	65-74	50-64	0-49
<b>Creative Voice (30%)</b>  Ability to articulate a creative voice with evidence of creative thinking.	The applicant articulates a unique perspective and a compelling expression of their creative voice. The creative statement includes a large range of influences/cultural contexts that informed their practice. There is a sophisticated understanding of collaborative practice that works toward a shared vision.	The applicant articulates an engaging perspective and a creative voice. The creative statement includes a range of influences/cultural contexts that have informed their practice. There is a strong understanding of collaboration and/or creative making processes.	The applicant articulates their creative perspective. The creative statement includes a limited number of influences/contexts that have informed their practice. There is reference to collaboration and/or creative making processes.	The applicant is working toward expressing their creative perspective. The creative statement includes a single reference to an influence or context that has informed their practice. There is little reference to collaboration and/or creative making processes.	The applicant has not expressed their creative perspective. The creative statement has no reference to an influence or context that has informed their practice. There is no reference to collaboration and/or creative making processes.
<b>Creative Excellence (30%)</b>  Creative work demonstrates high level of potential for excellence in discipline specific creative practice.	There is a compelling artistic voice in the works presented. The works are conceptually and technically ambitious. There is a strong command of the medium and the creative use of screen media to express ideas. The work is highly engaging and thought provoking.	There is a clear artistic approach in the works presented. The works are conceptually and technically strong. There is competency of the medium and the creative use of screen media to express ideas. There is a depth to the work and engages the audience.	The works are conceptually or technically solid. There is competency of the medium and use of screen media to express ideas. The work plays with interesting ideas and engages the audience.	The works are working towards conceptual coherence and/or technical proficiency. The medium and use of screen media are working towards a coherent expression of ideas. The work has limited engagement and depth.	The work is incoherent and poorly executed. No risks were taken, and the finished project is simplistic and derivative.
<b>Study Potential (20%)</b>  Demonstrates potential for critical self-assessment and advanced study of creative practice	The applicant demonstrates exceptional potential for study through a large range of indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process and strong listening.	The applicant demonstrates readiness for study including a range of indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their creative process, strong listening and communication skills.	The applicant expresses a readiness for study including a limited number of indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process, strong listening and communication skills.	The applicant is developing a readiness for study and can identify one or more indicators including an openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process, strong listening and communication skills.	The applicant cannot demonstrate their readiness for study and is unable to identify any indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process, strong listening and communication skills.

*Assessment Rubric continued on next page*



<b>Career Commitment (10%)</b>  Demonstrates commitment to a career in the creative industries	Applicant has a strong track record in creative arts/creative industries with multiple creative credits/ experience and/ or a high level of achievement in creative arts/industries relative to opportunity (e.g., awards, grants, reviews etc.).	Applicant has a solid track record in creative arts/creative industries with some creative credits/ experience and/or some recognition from creative communities relative to opportunity (e.g., awards, grants, reviews etc.).	Applicant demonstrates engagement in creative arts/ creative industries through work experience or volunteering relative to opportunity.	Applicant has limited experience in the creative arts/creative industries relative to opportunity.	Applicant has no evidence of engagement with the creative arts/ industries relative to opportunity.
<b>Quality of Submission (10%)</b>  Demonstrates quality in submission materials and response to application requirements.	The submitted materials demonstrate a strong response to the application brief, with a high regard for presentation quality and attention to detail.	The submitted materials respond to the application brief, with a mostly high regard for presentation quality and attention to detail.	The submitted materials demonstrate some effort to respond to the application brief, with limited regard for presentation quality and attention to detail.	The submitted materials demonstrate limited response to application brief, with low presentation quality and attention to detail.	The submitted materials do not respond to the application brief and presentation quality is inadequate.

# Interview Rubric

Selection Criteria	85-100	75-84	65-74	50-64	0-49
<b>Creative Voice (30%)</b>  Ability to articulate a creative voice and creative thinking	The applicant articulates a unique perspective and a compelling expression of their creative voice. They speak to a large range of influences/cultural contexts that have informed their practice. There is a sophisticated understanding of collaborative practice that works toward a shared vision.	The applicant articulates an engaging perspective and a creative voice. They speak to a range of influences/ cultural contexts that have informed their practice. There is a strong understanding of collaboration and/or creative making processes.	The applicant articulates their creative perspective. They speak to a limited number of influences/contexts that have informed their practice. There is reference to collaboration and/or creative making processes.	The applicant is working toward expressing their creative perspective. They speak of a single reference to an influence or context that has informed their practice. There is little reference to collaboration and/or creative making processes.	The applicant has not expressed their creative perspective. They fail to speak to an influence or context that has informed their practice. There is no reference to collaboration and/or creative making processes.
<b>Study Potential (30%)</b>  Demonstrates capacity to engage creative practice research and critical self-assessment	The applicant demonstrates exceptional potential for study through a large range of indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process and strong listening.	The applicant demonstrates readiness for study including a range of indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their creative process, strong listening and communication skills.	The applicant expresses a readiness for study including a limited number of indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process, strong listening and communication skills.	The applicant is developing a readiness for study and can identify one or more indicators including an openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process, strong listening and communication skills.	The applicant cannot demonstrate their readiness for study and is unable to identify any indicators including openness to new ideas, insight into their own creative process, strong listening and communication skills.
<b>Career Commitment (20%)</b>  A demonstrated commitment to a career in the creative industries	Applicant speaks to a professional standard track record in creative arts/creative industries with multiple creative credits/ experience and/ or a high level of achievement in creative arts/industries relative to opportunity (e.g. screen credits, awards, grants, reviews etc.)	Applicant speaks to a solid track record in creative arts/creative industries with some creative credits/ experience and/or some recognition from creative communities relative to opportunity (e.g., awards, grants, reviews etc.)	Applicant speaks to some engagement in creative arts/ creative industries through work experience or volunteering relative to opportunity.	Applicant demonstrates limited experience in the creative arts/creative industries relative to opportunity.	Applicant demonstrates no evidence of engagement with the creative arts/ industries relative to opportunity.
<b>Clarity of Interview (20%)</b>  Demonstrates clarity and maturity in expression, reflection and response to application requirements.	The applicant speaks with exceptional clarity, maturity and ability for reflection in response to the interview questions	The applicant speaks with strong clarity, maturity and ability for reflection in response to the interview questions.	The applicant speaks with some clarity, maturity and ability for reflection in response to the interview questions.	The applicant speaks with limited clarity, maturity and ability for reflection in response to the interview questions.	The applicant fails to speak with clarity, maturity and ability to reflect in response to the interview questions.

# 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](https://afters.edu.au/ask)

1300 223 877

## 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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