

2027 BFA Portfolio Guide

Interview Process

Interviews are conducted on campus at NAS with two academic staff members and last approximately 20 minutes.

In the interview, we may ask about:

- Artists who inspire you and influence your work.
- Recent gallery and exhibition visits.
- Interests in broader culture such as books, film, theatre, and dance.
- Your reasons for wanting to attend NAS and study goals.
- Future aspirations as an artist or creative professional.

Personal Statement: 500 – 1000 words

The Personal Statement should communicate your interest in studying at NAS and desired outcomes from the course, any recent exhibitions you have attended or participated in and your current artistic practice and wider cultural interests. Please include examples where possible.

The Personal Statement must be written by the applicant and demonstrate strong written communication skills. You may mention awards, scholarships, and achievements, or any other information you think is relevant.

Portfolio Requirements: 12 to 15 recent works

The Portfolio should contain 12 to 15 recent artworks demonstrating current artistic practice and interests. Present works on paper in a binder or folio. For photographic documentation of larger works, make sure the images are good quality and please include the artwork title, year, materials and dimensions. Digital works can be presented on a tablet or laptop.

Your Portfolio must include:

- At least two drawings, drawn from direct observation where possible, e.g. life drawing, still life drawings, figurative studies, landscapes.
- HSC body of work (for recent school leavers).
- Resolved and exploratory works.
- Other supporting materials such as sketch books or visual diaries.

When reviewing your portfolio, we consider the following selection criteria:

- Sustained development of ideas and themes.
- Experimentation across different media and materials.
- Artistic potential and independence, rather than perfection.
- Initiative and creative exploration of processes and concepts.

Some useful tips:

- Ensure every work contributes meaningfully to your portfolio.
- Balance resolved works with experimentation and works-in-progress.
- Show the development of ideas into series or larger projects where appropriate.
- Share your creativity, commitment, and artistic growth.
- Draw from direct observation rather than photographs wherever possible.
- Maintain a regular sketchbook practice or visual diary for collecting your ideas.
- Experiment with a range of materials, techniques and processes.