

MASTER OF FINE ART / GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF FINE ART

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the online application form at the following links:

- Internal NAS students: <https://nas.edu.au/apply-mfa-internal-2025>
- External & International Applicants: <https://nas.edu.au/apply-mfa-external-2025>

As part of the online application, you will be required to submit the following:

All applicants:

- MFA Research Proposal (500 - 1000 words). *See below for guidelines.*
- 10 - 12 images of recent artworks and details in a PDF format. *See below for guidelines.*
- Curriculum Vitae, including relevant professional experience. *See below for guidelines.*

External and International Applicants (only):

- Proof of academic qualifications.
- Contact details for two academic and/or professional referees.
- A piece of academic writing, such as an academic essay, article, annotated bibliography, or literature review.
- Evidence of meeting the English proficiency requirement (International applicants only, where applicable).
- Proof of citizenship status (e.g. Passport ID page or birth certificate).
- Proof of visa status (International applicants only).

FEES AND CHARGES

The fees for 2025 are to be confirmed:

- **Domestic students:** TBC
- **International Students:** TBC

2024 Schedule of Fees can be found at: <https://nas.edu.au/2024-fee-schedule>

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Applicants are considered for admission on the basis of:

- Australian or New Zealand undergraduate degree qualification in Fine Art (AQF Level 7), **or**
- overseas tertiary qualifications in Fine Art considered equivalent to Australian studies,

AND

- completion of a major in the intended Studio Specialisation,

AND

- a Credit grade average (or equivalent) in a fine art degree **or**
- meeting the requirements of an Alternative Entry Scheme - *available for admission to the Master of Fine Art in exceptional cases only, see below.*

In addition to satisfying eligibility requirements, applications for admission are evaluated upon the following criteria:

- Portfolio of work displaying the material and conceptual capacity to undertake study at postgraduate level.
- Communication and literacy skills required for study at postgraduate level. This is evaluated through the submitted application material, during the interview and by past performance in previous study of Art History and Theory and/or related fields of study.
- MFA Research Proposal displaying the quality, coherence, and suitability for study at postgraduate level.

Alternative Entry

In exceptional cases where applicants do not possess the qualifications and/or requirements outlined above, they may apply for admission to the Master of Fine Art with:

- Completion of an undergraduate degree at AQF Level 7 in another discipline, **and**
- Extensive professional experience in the arts.

Professional experience will include an established record of production and presentation of artworks through industry/professional systems as evidenced by:

- Regular presentation of work for solo and group exhibitions in venues of industry standing and professional recognition.
- Inclusion of work in curated exhibition programs/projects and art prizes of industry standing and professional recognition.
- Inclusion of work in public and/or private collections of curatorial significance and professional recognition.
- Inclusion of work in professional publications of industry standing.

NAS also reserves the right to extend professional equivalence to meet the entry requirement without an AQF Level 7 qualification in cases where the applicant holds extraordinary levels of professional practice. The applicant must be able to satisfy NAS of their ability to meet the academic rigours of studying for a degree qualification at this level.

If no, or insufficient evidence is provided for meeting the requirements of extensive professional experience in the arts, you may not be invited to interview.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Admission into the MFA is competitive, with selection based on academic merit, the MFA Research Proposal, portfolio and an interview process. All eligible applicants will be invited to an interview.

If you meet the eligibility requirements for admission and your application meets the standard for study at postgraduate level, NAS Student Services will notify you via email, of the time and date of your interview. Interviews can be held online by request. If your application does not meet the standard for study at postgraduate level, you will be notified that your application has been unsuccessful.

The interview panel will consist of at least two Academic staff from the National Art School from your intended area of studio specialisation. You will be asked to discuss the works in your application portfolio and proposed research proposal. The panel will ask you a range of questions relating to your arts practice, as well as your reasons for wanting to enrol in the course, and how the course will support your career plans or personal goals.

There will also be an opportunity to answer questions and provide further information about MFA study.

THE PROPOSAL, PORTFOLIO, CV & WRITING

Your application materials should consist of:

1. MFA Research Proposal

The MFA Research Proposal will outline your anticipated direction and starting point for research, but we understand that the project will develop, change, and evolve throughout your MFA studies.

Please submit a written proposal (recommended wordcount 500-1000 words) addressing the following points:

Statement of Your Topic: Begin by introducing the general description of your area of fine art practice and research. Outline the specific subject of your proposed MFA studio research.

Aims of the Project: Clarify the objectives of the studio research. Be as specific as you can about what you wish to explore by undertaking this project. You may make reference to other artists, art movements, theories, etc. that have an affinity to your studio practice and research.

Methodology: Describe your methods of investigation in sufficient detail so that there is clarity about:

- what kind of information you will be using in your research, including its source;
- what resources you will require;
- what method of investigation you are using;
- why you have selected this approach;
- what safety and ethical issues you have identified and how you propose to proceed.

Outcomes: Describe the anticipated processes, materials, and outcomes you will explore through studio research. Include how approaches such as scale, quantity, medium, approach, style, content etc. may be considered during your MFA study (e.g. working through a series of large-scale oil paintings investigating the postcolonial landscape; a live performance and photographic documentation based on autobiographical experiences, etc.)

Bibliography & References: List any publications, works and other materials that you cite in your proposal. Also list any other relevant references that have influenced your ideas and that you expect to inform your studio practice.

2. PORTFOLIO

Images of 10 - 12 recent artworks which best represent your current practice and support your intended MFA research. Submit your portfolio in a single PDF file, with full captions for each work including title, size, medium, date, etc.

3. ACADEMIC WRITING SAMPLE (International and External Applicants only)

A sample of academic writing. This may be a written assignment you have completed during previous study, such as an Art History essay, an annotated bibliography, or a literature review. It could also be a published article or formal presentation to industry. The academic writing sample should indicate your ability to communicate ideas through formal academic conventions, and it does not necessarily need to be related to fine arts.

4. CURRICULUM VITAE

A CV including academic history and relevant professional experience. Submit your CV in a single PDF file, including any previous qualifications and fine art background, such as previous exhibitions, publications, awards and residencies.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS ONLY

You are considered to be an international applicant if you are **NOT**:

- an Australian citizen, or
- a New Zealand citizen, or
- a dual citizen of any country with Australia or New Zealand, or
- a permanent resident of Australia.

If you meet any of these criteria, you are considered a domestic applicant.

You are an international student if you hold a permit for temporary entry to Australia. For example, if your status is: overseas student, permanent resident of New Zealand, diplomat, temporary resident holding a work permit, refugee, a dependent of any of the above, etc.

(Please note FEE-HELP is only available to Australian Citizens and certain categories of New Zealand SCV holders. For further information on FEE-HELP eligibility please visit www.studyassist.gov.au).

Applying to study in Australia

For information regarding studying in Australia, travel and visa advice, please visit the following website:

Visit: <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/>

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All programs at NAS are taught in English. Applicants who are applying based on qualifications that were not undertaken and assessed in English must provide evidence of their English language proficiency.

Applicants who have completed one of the following criteria may satisfy the English language requirement:

- tertiary qualification in Australia completed within the last 2 years.
- tertiary studies in a country where studies were conducted in English within the last 2 years, confirmed with a statement or certificate from the Registrar's office (subject also to independent assessment).
- Australian matriculation score C or better (Pre-University Program such as AUSMAT).
- TAFE AQF Certificate IV in English for Academic Purposes, AQF Diploma or Advanced Diploma.

NAS recognises a number of English Language tests and English Preparation Courses which can be undertaken to meet the English language requirements for admission. These are set out in the following table, together with the minimum results required. Test scores are not valid if the test was taken more than two years prior to the date of application.

TEST/PROVIDER	MINIMUM TEST SCORE
IELTS (International English Language Testing System)	6.5 overall, minimum of 6.0 in each band
TOEFL (Paper) – Paper-based Test (PBT)	580 overall paper-based, plus 5.0 in TWE
TOEFL (Internet) – Internet-based Test (iBT)	92 overall internet-based, 24 in writing
Australian Centre for Languages (ACL)	65% overall in EAP Diploma with pass in all sections
UNSW English Entry Course (UEEC)	7.0 overall or C+ with minimum score 20 in Writing
Sydney English Language Centre (SELC)	Advanced Level EAP 1 overall score 75%
National Centre for English Language Training & Research (NCELTR)	Pass (P) in Direct Entry Programs
Australian College of English (ACE)	EAP 3 overall score 65%
University of Western Sydney English Language Centre	EDE overall score 75% and pass in each section
NAVITAS Academic English (Level 3)	Overall pass 65% in Academic English Level 3
Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) – prior to 2015	Pass with a CEFR Level C1 Grade (45+/100)
Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) – prior to 2015	Pass with a C Grade (60+/100)
Cambridge English Scale (CPE) – from 2015	Overall min. scale score of 180 (min. 180 in each subtest)
Cambridge English Scale (CAE) – from 2015	Overall min. scale score of 176 (min. 169 in each subtest)

International applicants are required to submit test scores with applications or as soon as available. An offer of admission may be made pending the receipt of an English Test result if all other entry requirements have been satisfied.

OFFERS

Applicants will be informed of the result of their application in early January. All internal offers are conditional based on successful completion of all requirements for the BFA.

ENQUIRIES

If you have any further enquiries about the interview or application process, please contact our Future Student Advisor at (02) 9339 8741 or email admissions@nas.edu.au.