

# **BACHELOR OF ARTS SCREEN PRODUCTION**

## **APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES 2019**

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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 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.

## REQUIRED APPLICATION TASKS

### 1. YOUR STORY

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

In no more than 1000 words, or a 3 minute audio or video recording, tell us your story in two parts:

#### **PART A: ABOUT YOU**

Tell us your story: who you are; what you love to do; your goals, experiences, and values. We are interested in how your background and experiences have shaped who you are and what you want to say as a creative screen storyteller.

We are also 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.

There is no one correct way to approach this task. We encourage you to complete this part of the application in whatever way you feel will allow you to demonstrate your creativity, while giving us a strong sense of who you are and why you want to tell stories through screen media.

As examples, you could structure your piece in the following ways:

- i. Give a dramatic narration of your life up to the point of applying for the course, concentrating on some of the challenges you've overcome.
- ii. 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.
- iii. It may be aspirational, articulating what you would like to achieve or change about the world.

However, whichever way you decide to approach this task, remember that we are looking for your potential as a creative storyteller and you are writing a story that is trying to engage a reader.

#### **PART B: WHAT YOU'VE ACHIEVED**

Let us know a bit about what you have accomplished so far: include details of any activities, awards or achievements that demonstrate your abilities or commitment to creating screen content.

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 Final Cut Pro.

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.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:	SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• evidence of your potential as a creative storyteller;</li><li>• an idea about what inspires you to want to make films and why you're motivated to come on the course;</li><li>• examples of the challenges you've overcome to get to where you are; and/or,</li><li>• evidence of how your experiences so far have prepared you for study.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a commitment to a career in the creative industries and what it takes to get there.</li><li>• creative thinking in the form of storytelling.</li><li>• a capacity for study.</li></ul>

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.

## 2. CREATIVE WORK

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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, but on your creative storytelling abilities.

Please submit your single best piece of work - submissions must not exceed the specified length limit and you should not submit multiple films, a showreel or extra material if your creative work is shorter than specified in these guidelines. Please 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**

LENGTH: 5-6 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.

OR

### **FILM**

LENGTH: 6-7 MINUTES (MAX)

This should be a completed film or video project that demonstrates your visual & narrative storytelling abilities as well as your ability to engage an audience. Your film should demonstrate your aptitude for visual 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, experimental, documentary or animation. You must clearly specify what your role was in making the film.

### **SHORT STORY**

LENGTH: 4-5 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.

OR

### **PORTFOLIO OF PHOTOS OR DRAWINGS**

LENGTH: 4-6 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.

Please ensure that files submitted are clearly labeled to indicate the sequence in which they should be viewed.

Images that do not tell a clear narrative usually receive low scores.

OR

**OTHER**

LENGTH: 6-7 MINUTES/6 PAGES

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

We will accept any creative piece of work as long as 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:	SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visual and/or narrative storytelling abilities</li><li>• Your storytelling style and creative point of view</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creative thinking in the form of storytelling.</li><li>• An ability to produce and communicate thoughts and feelings about a piece of creative work.</li><li>• A capacity for study.</li></ul>

### 3. REVIEW OF A CREATIVE PIECE

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LENGTH: 300-500 WORDS / 1 MINUTE

Choose an Australian film, play, book, television series, painting, music or other significant work of art that has strongly resonated with you in a positive or negative way and, to some extent, tells us something about you.

You could discuss the text's execution and its delivery of themes or messages, or you could analyse specific features of its production such as image, sound, editing, production design, scriptwriting, or storytelling, and effectiveness of that feature. Whatever your focus, we are looking for passion.

We ask that you write or film/record something specifically for this task: reviews repurposed from past assignments do tend not to be successful in communicating a strong sense of how you engage with culture creatively.

NB: This is a review, which is different to a critical essay. Please write or speak clearly, but you do not need to use academic language. We are more interested in your thoughts and feelings (and what that tells us about you) than your ability to prove or disprove an argument.

See the technical requirements section at the end of this document for details on how to submit.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:	SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an ability to communicate your thoughts and feelings about stories</li><li>• curiosity and passion about culture and art</li><li>• a specific, personal and clearly-expressed argument</li><li>• An engagement with Australian culture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An ability to produce and communicate thoughts and feelings about a piece of creative work.</li><li>• A capacity for study.</li></ul>