



Student Academic Services

NAS Entry Requirements Policy – 2004

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SOURCES

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)
Higher Education Act
VETAB Policy Statement on English Language Admission Requirements for International Students, 2 February 1996

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Admissions Requirements Policy is to inform academic staff of factors to be considered when determining admission requirements.

SCOPE

The Admission Requirements policy applies to all courses at the National Art School.

DEFINITIONS

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements are the minimum qualifications, knowledge, skills and experience that applicants must have if they are to be considered for entry to a course or program.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria are applied after applicants have met the admission requirements. They are the factors taken into account when deciding which applicants will be offered a place in a course if there are more applicants than places.

(See NAS Student Selection Policy)

GENERAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements should be consistent with the requirements of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

The AQF focuses on outcomes and allowing for flexible pathways and it emphasises the skills and knowledge needed to gain a qualification rather than on the type or length of course or particular entry requirement. For most qualifications the AQF describes possible pathways to them through accredited courses, recognition of prior learning, and/or a combination of these. It also provides specific policies for entry to Postgraduate programs. See section 2.3 below. *(Australian Qualifications Framework: Information Manual)*

FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Fine Art

Admission Requirements for Local Students

The educational qualifications required for admission into the BFA are:

- Successful completion of Year 12 (NSW Higher School Certificate or equivalent)
- TAFE Certificate in Fine Art or equivalent
- Successful completion of previous study at an equivalent institution

All applicants must attend an interview with portfolio and complete a Drawing test to demonstrate their level of proficiency and a range of interests in the arts for admission to the degree.

Advanced Standing

Credit transfer at undergraduate level is recognition of prior study in a university or TAFE. Students admitted with advanced standing are given credit towards the

degree for all appropriate subjects completed at another institution up to a maximum of two thirds of the total credit points required for the degree. Specified credit will be given for subjects closely related to a subject offered within the degree program. Advanced standing is only given for study completed in the last 10 years and subject to places being available.

The educational qualifications required for admission with advanced standing into the BFA for second year are:

- successful completion of first year of a degree in fine art at an equivalent institution, or
- successful completion of a three year Advanced Diploma in Fine Art at TAFE or equivalent institution

The educational qualifications required for admission with advanced standing into the BFA for third year are:

- successful completion of first and second year of a degree in fine art at an equivalent institution
- all applications must include certified copies of academic transcripts and copies of all subject descriptions from a relevant handbook. Advanced Standing is only given to study completed within the last ten years

Applicants will be assessed via interview and portfolio presentation by designated staff, including the relevant Head of Department where applicable.

Specified credit will be given for subjects closely related to a subject offered within the degree program. Normally no individual subject credits are given for first year. Individual subject exemption applications must be made on an *Application for Subject Exemption* form available from NAS Student Academic Services office Building 2 ground floor. The form must include certified copies of academic transcripts and copies of all subject descriptions from a relevant handbook. Students will be notified by mail of the outcome of their application with a list of all subjects given exemptions. Subject exemptions are only given to study completed in the last 10 years.

Bachelor of Fine Art Honours

To be eligible for entry to the Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) program, candidates must have:

- completed all the requirements of the BFA pass degree or equivalent from another institution, and;
- completed a major in the area of study intended for the Honours year, including any prerequisite/s subjects, and;
- maintained a credit average in all subjects in second and third year and, a Distinction or better in third level Studio Major Discipline or have achieved comparable grades from another institution, and;
- completed a Bachelor of Fine Art degree within the last 4 years.

If applying for the Drawing Honours, having previously studied at an institution where drawing was not a major, satisfied all the above criteria in *any* studio major and have a substantial portfolio of drawings which demonstrate suitability for acceptance to the Drawing Honours.

Master of Fine Art

To be eligible for entry to the Master of Fine Art program, candidates must have:

- completed all the requirements of a Bachelor of Fine Art degree with Honours (first or second class Honours Division One) or equivalent from another institution, and;
- completed a major and Honours year in the particular area of study in which they intend to complete the Masters course, including any prerequisite subjects, and;
- maintained a credit average in all subjects in their undergraduate studies with Distinction in the studio major and, a Distinction or better in Honours year or have achieved comparable grades from another institution;

SPECIAL ADMISSION

In exceptional cases a candidate who submits evidence of such other academic and professional qualifications in the field of art practice, research and publications (minimum of 5 years experience for Masters candidates) as may be approved by the Applications Review Panel may be permitted to enrol for the degree.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

Under NSW Anti-Discrimination Legislation it is against the law to discriminate against people because of their age, gender, race, marital status, sexuality, or physical or intellectual disability.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND

Residents with non-English speaking background

Entry requirements should be the same for all Australians and permanent residents. Special entry requirements for people from non-English speaking backgrounds are not permitted.

It is essential that the entry requirements and enrolment procedures used minimise linguistic or cultural bias which might discriminate against people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

English language requirements for international students

An international student is a student who is not a citizen or permanent resident of Australia. All applicants must be able to provide evidence that they have the potential for tertiary study. (See Admission Requirements under Bachelor of Fine Art, Bachelor of Fine Art Honours and Master of Fine Art information)

You are an international student if you:

- are a temporary resident visa holder, or
- are not an Australian citizen, or
- do not have full permanent residency in Australia, or
- are not a New Zealand citizen.

All programs at NAS are taught in English. Applicants who are applying on the basis of qualifications not conducted in the English language must provide proof of their competence in English in addition to the admission requirements for all courses.

This can be done by providing results from an accepted test of English competence (see list below). Test scores are not valid if the test was taken more than 2 years prior to the date of the offer of a place at NAS.

Applicants who are not native English speakers but who have undertaken at least 2 years study at an institution where the sole language of instruction was English will not be required to undertake a language test if they can provide a statement or certificate issued by the Registrar's office of that institution as confirmation. The study must have been undertaken no more than 2 years prior to the date of the offer of a place at NAS

Accepted tests of English competence:

All programs at NAS are taught in English. Applicants who are applying on the basis of qualifications not conducted in the English language must provide proof of their competence in English.

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All courses, both undergraduate and postgraduate, offered by NAS require the same minimum standard of English Language proficiency. Listed below are the minimum requirements for each accepted English Language Test.

International English Language Testing Service (IELTS)

The Academic test modules must have been undertaken. The overall minimum score of 6.5 is required together with a minimum score of 6.0 in each of the sub-tests of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - computer-based test

Applicants must achieve an overall minimum score of 233 with a minimum in Essay rating 5.0.

TOEFL - paper-based test

The paper based test is being phased out and replaced with the computer-based test. The paper-based test is not acceptable without the Test of Written English (TWE). Applicants must achieve an overall minimum score of 577 with a minimum score of 5.0 in the TWE.

Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)

Minimum of a B Grade (8.0) in the Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), validated by the University of Cambridge Examinations Syndicate (UCLES).

Combined Universities Language Test (CULT)

The CULT is the UNSW Institute of Languages English test. An overall minimum score of 70 is required with a minimum score of 17.0 in each of the sub-tests of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Assistance for English Difficulties

Students who are facing difficulties with English and essay writing a program is available to assist students. Information is available from the Department of Art History and Theory, Coordinator Lorraine Kypiotis ☎93398738

RELATED POLICY

- NAS Enrolment and Fee Policy
- Release of Student Information Policy
- NAS Student Selection Policy
- NAS International Students and Temporary Visa Holders Policy

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Higher Education Act
- Australian Qualifications Framework Implementation Handbook
- VETAB Policy Statement on English Language Admission Requirements for International Students, 2 February 1996
- NAS Student Handbook
- NAS Student Guide
- International Student Guide

Inquiries: Amalea Manifis, Registrar, Student Academic Services. Phone: 02 9339 8787, Fax: 02 339 8683.