

## DOCTOR OF FINE ART

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Doctor of Fine Art (DFA) is a Professional Doctorate encompassing 'practice-integrated research' intended to foster excellence in visual arts practice by developing the capacity of individuals to lead the development of new knowledge in their professional field. The National Art School (NAS) DFA is designed for practicing artists who wish to pursue specific research interests that focus on studio production. As such, the DFA provides a platform for integrating professional expertise and scholarly enquiry within the visual arts, whereupon graduates will have acquired an in-depth understanding of the technical and theoretical skills expected of a professional practitioner in the visual arts. The attainment of extended cognitive, research, technical, and creative skills will not only enable graduates to lead the contribution of knowledge within their fields of professional practice, but the exportable currency of such skills will also enhance their marketability within the wider arts-related industry.

The DFA can be undertaken over three years full-time or six years part-time. It will be delivered on the National Art School's historic campus where full-time students are provided with dedicated studio facilities.


### COURSE STRUCTURE

The DFA is a three-year, six semester, full-time program (or part time equivalent) of practice-based studio research supported by individual research supervision and regular research symposia and seminars, structured thus:

#### Full-Time

- First year (Stage 1): DFA Studio Specialisation 6; DFA Studio Seminar 6; DFA Research Methods
- Second year (Stage 2): DFA Studio Specialisation 7; DFA Studio Seminar 7
- Third year (Stage 3): DFA Studio Specialisation 8; DFA Studio Seminar 8

#### Part-Time

- First year (Stage 1): DFA Studio Specialisation 6a; DFA Studio Seminar 6a; DFA Research Methods
  - Second year (Stage 1): DFA Studio Specialisation 6b; DFA Studio Seminar 6b
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- Third year (Stage 2): DFA Studio Specialisation 7a; DFA Studio Seminar 7a
- Fourth year (Stage 2): DFA Studio Specialisation 7b; DFA Studio Seminar 7b
- Fifth year (Stage 3): DFA Studio Specialisation 8a; DFA Studio Seminar 8a
- Sixth year (Stage 3): DFA Studio Specialisation 8b; DFA Studio Seminar 8b

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

A Degree conferring examination is conducted at the conclusion of the DFA. Awarding of the degree of Doctor of Fine Art requires the successful completion of all program components and the presentation for examination by two external experts in the field of:

- A significant body of artwork in the form of a solo exhibition that represents an original contribution to knowledge and professional expertise in the field of visual art studio practice, and;
- An accompanying written text of 20,000 - 40,000 words in the form of an exegesis that critically contextualises the studio work within the project's field of research and knowledge.

Together, these two components form the DFA research outcome or 'thesis'.

## COURSE COMPONENTS

### DFA Studio Specialisation


The DFA Studio Specialisation is nominated from the disciplines of Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photomedia, Printmaking or Sculpture. Students are allocated a studio and access to workshop facilities. Students are assigned a primary and a secondary supervisor who oversee the development of the studio research project as a whole throughout its duration. Under the guidance of supervising academic staff, students propose, plan and execute a sustained project of independent inquiry in their studio specialisation that results in the presentation of a resolved body of artwork of professional standard that makes a significant and original contribution to the field of visual art practice and discourse.

### DFA Studio Seminar

The DFA Research Seminar augments the Studio Specialisation by providing an academic research platform which assists students in the research and development of the exegetical component of the DFA. The DFA Studio Seminar comprises 2 components:

#### 1. *PG Symposium*

Regular student work-in-progress presentations in the form of periodic conference-style



events promote peer learning and engagement amongst the postgraduate cohort, whereby critical feedback from staff and peers assists students in the understanding and articulation of their individual studio research interests. Students will be required to make at least one Symposium presentation of their research-in-progress each year.

## *2. Critical Reading Seminar*

Regular Critical Reading seminars facilitate students' knowledge of the historical and theoretical developments underpinning contemporary art world practice and discourse.

### **DFA Research Methods (Stage 1 only)**

The DFA Research Methods seminar series helps students to design an appropriate research framework for their DFA project and assists in the planning, development and execution of their written exegesis.

### **PROGRESS REVIEWS**

Progression in the DFA course is conditional to undergoing satisfactory Annual Progress Reviews. The Progress Reviews provide a forum for students to formally present their studio work-in-progress and solicit feedback, whereupon academic staff and students together critique and discuss the development of the studio work in relation to the theoretical concerns of the research.

### **SUPERVISION**


Students are assigned two supervisors – a principal supervisor and an associate supervisor – who guide the progression of the DFA research project as a whole (including studio work and exegesis.) Students are allocated a total supervision meeting quota of 6 hours per semester from each supervisor (*half of this for P/T students*), to be utilised at the discretion of the student.

### **STUDIO ACCESS**

Most DFA studios occupy an off-campus annexe with 24-hour access. Please refer to the NAS website to find the current access hours of on-campus studios/workshops.

### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are required to attend all scheduled seminars, Symposia and Progress Reviews and maintain a minimum of 6 hours supervision meetings per semester (FT), while for rest of the time being engaged in self- directed practice-based research.





## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Admission into the DFA is competitive, with selection based on academic merit, the Studio Project Proposal and portfolio assessment, and an interview process. Applicants are considered for admission on the basis of:

- AQF level 9 Master's degree in fine art; **or**
- overseas tertiary qualifications in Fine Art considered equivalent to Australian studies; **or**
- meet the requirements of the Alternative Entry scheme, where in exceptional cases applicants who do not possess the qualifications specified above may apply for admission with completion of an AQF level 9 in another discipline and extensive professional experience in the arts.

For more information regarding eligibility see:

<https://nas.edu.au/doctor-of-fine-art/>

## HOW TO APPLY

Lodge a completed application form with certified copies of proof of residency status, and academic qualifications as evidence of meeting academic entry requirements with NAS Student Services by the due date. Applications must also include:

- A DFA Studio Research Proposal
- 12-15 fully captioned images of recent artworks in PowerPoint format
- Name and contact details of two academic referees.

**Application Forms and Guidelines are available from:**

[www.nas.edu.au](http://www.nas.edu.au)





## **COURSE FEES**

The 2024 fees for domestic students are \$15,472 per year (full time) and \$ 7,736.00 per year (part-time).

## **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

The Commonwealth Government FEE-HELP Student Loan Scheme is available to domestic students. For more information see: [www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans-and-csps/fee-help](http://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans-and-csps/fee-help)

## **DFA ACADEMIC YEAR**

NAS currently offers one DFA intake per year. The DFA academic year begins mid-July each year.

## **CONTACT US**

Our Future Students Advisor is here to help!

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