

# BACHELOR OF FINE ART (BFA) APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2026

NATIONAL  
ART  
SCHOOL

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact our **Future Student Advisor** via email [admissions@nas.edu.au](mailto:admissions@nas.edu.au) or phone +61 (0)2 9339 8741.

## HOW TO APPLY

We accept all **domestic** applications through the University Admission Centre (UAC) at [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au).

If you have completed any of these Australian qualifications, you should apply through UAC:

- an Australian Year 12 (e.g. NSW Higher School Certificate or equivalent) in or outside Australia, **or**
- an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, **or**
- a New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 3, **or**
- a Diploma of Visual Arts or Certificate IV in Fine art (or equivalent).

**International** applications are accepted via an online Application Form: <https://nas.edu.au/apply-bfa-international-2026>.

Upon submitting your completed application to UAC or directly to NAS, and provided that you meet the eligibility requirements for admission, you will be contacted via email by NAS Student Services with an invitation to interview (See Selection Process details below).

**KEY DATES:** <https://futurestudents.nas.edu.au/key-dates/>

## FEES AND CHARGES

The fees for 2026 are yet to be confirmed. The domestic student fees for **2025** were **\$16,246 per year (full time)**. The international student fees for 2025 were **\$42,891 per year (full time)**.

The latest information about domestic and international fees are available on the NAS website: <https://futurestudents.nas.edu.au/fees/>. Fees are subject to change year-on-year.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the BFA, applicants must have successfully completed one of the following:

- an Australian Year 12 (e.g. NSW Higher School Certificate or equivalent) in or outside Australia, **or**
- an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, **or**
- a New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 3, **or**
- Diploma of Visual Arts (with the option to apply for advanced standing, see below) or TAFE CERT IV in Fine Art or equivalent **or**
- minimum of one year's tertiary study at an equivalent tertiary institution, **or**
- successful completion of the STAT test – *for applicants who are not current school leavers and do not have suitable qualifications for entry to the National Art School as outlined above.*

## ADVANCED STANDING

Applicants can apply for admission into the Bachelor of Fine Art with advanced standing (also known as “credit” or “recognition of prior learning”) as acknowledgement of prior study at 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.

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

- successful completion of the first year of a degree in fine art at an equivalent institution, or
- successful completion of a Diploma of Visual Arts at TAFE or an equivalent institution, or
- successful completion of an Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts at TAFE or an equivalent institution.

### How do I apply for advanced standing?

**Direct NAS applicants:** If you would like to apply to the BFA with advanced standing, you will need to complete the Advanced Standing Application form at: <https://nas.edu.au/apply-advanced-standing-2026>. NAS Student Services will assess your previous study for eligibility and make the necessary arrangements. You will need to provide evidence of previous study (in English).

**UAC applicants:** If you would like to apply to the BFA with advanced standing, you will need to submit your initial application through UAC. Upon receiving your invitation to interview, you will then need to advise Student Services that you wish to be assessed as an Advanced Standing applicant and inform them of your preferred studio specialisation (Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photomedia, Printmaking, or Sculpture).

Please note: Priority for enrolment is given to National Art School continuing students and therefore entry into Second and Third Year on the basis of advanced standing is competitive and subject to availability of spaces in studio areas. All advanced standing applicants are assessed via interview and portfolio presentation by designated staff, including the relevant Head of Department where applicable.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

Admission into the Bachelor of Fine Art is competitive, with selection based on the applicant’s **portfolio, interview, and personal statement**. All eligible applicants will be invited to an interview. Note: Selection is not based on ATAR.

Upon submitting your completed application to UAC or directly to NAS, and provided that you meet the eligibility requirements for admission, you will be contacted via email by NAS Student Services indicating the time and date of your interview. Whilst in-person interviews are preferred, there are options to undertake an interview online, particularly for those applicants living overseas or interstate.

The interview panel will consist of academic staff from the National Art School. The panel will ask you a range of questions relating to your interest in the arts, your portfolio, observational drawing and your reasons for wishing to study at the National Art School. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask course-related questions of the panel.

### BFA Application Materials

The application materials should consist of:

- **Personal Statement** (500-1000 words)
- **Portfolio**, consisting of a minimum of 12 recently completed works, including at least two drawings

- **Relevant support materials** such as drawings, maquettes, sketchbooks and visual diaries
- **Evidence of Meeting English Proficiency** (if applicable)

## Portfolio

**A minimum of 12 recently completed artworks, including at least two drawings.** Guidance can be found at <https://nas.edu.au/bfa-portfolio>

All applicants will be required to submit their portfolio electronically. Your portfolio should be submitted in PowerPoint, or PDF format only and must be readable by both Mac and PC.

## Personal Statement

The admissions panel will read your written personal statement prior to your interview. The personal statement must address the following points:

- Why you are interested in studying at the National Art School
- What you hope to achieve from your study at the National Art School
- Exhibitions have you seen or participated in during the last 12 months
- Other cultural interests do you have, e.g., films, theatre, music, literature
- An outline of your current art interests

The statement must be written by you and should be clearly written, with specific examples. It should demonstrate English language competence and good written communication skills. It must be typed and 500-1000 words in length and submitted in either a Word Document or PDF format.

## Evidence of meeting the English Proficiency requirement (if applicable)

Applicants who do not have an assessable qualification undertaken and assessed in English, are required to provide evidence of meeting English Proficiency and supply English test scores with your application (see approved test scores below).

UAC applicants must submit evidence directly to UAC upon application.

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

You are considered to be an international student 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 student.

You are an international student if you hold a permit for temporary entry to Australia. This includes if you are an overseas student, a permanent resident of New Zealand, a diplomat, a temporary resident holding a work permit, a refugee, or a dependent of any of the above.

## Applying to study in Australia

For information regarding studying in Australia, travel, and visa advice, please visit the following website: <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/>

To study in Australia, you'll need to apply for both admission to an institution and also for a student visa from the Australian Government.

There are a number of steps you must go through including:

- Deciding on your preferred course and institution
- Submitting your application to the institution
- Receiving and accepting a Letter of Offer
- Receiving your electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)
- Applying for your student visa

Education agents in your home country can also help you with applying to study in Australia.

## General visa information

For general information, see: <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/>

There are several classes of student visas for Australia - the one you need depends on the type of study (eg: English language course, graduate degree, vocational training, higher education, etc.) you are planning to undertake.

## Student visa options

There are various visas that you can apply for to study in Australia which depend on the type of study you choose to undertake. If you would like to study in Australia at a university or tertiary level, then you may be eligible for the Student Visa (subclass 500).

For more information, please visit the Department of Home Affairs website:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>

## Evidence of meeting the English Proficiency requirements

All programs at NAS are taught in English. Applicants who are applying on the basis of 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 several 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 table below, 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.

International applicants are required to submit their test scores with their application 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.

If you are applying direct to NAS, you will need to supply English test scores with your application (see approved test scores below). **UAC applicants must submit evidence directly to UAC upon 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)
PTE Academic (Pearson)	Minimum score of between 51-60

## OFFERS

To accept an offer, applicants must complete online acceptance with UAC by the deadline specified in their offer notification. These can be accessed from your profile on the UAC website ([www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au)). You will need to follow the online instructions. Ensure you have your UAC application and UAC PIN ready.

Offers for domestic applicants will be released as per your Interview Round.

International applicants will normally be informed of the result of their application via email in early January.

## ENQUIRIES

If you have any further enquiries about the interview or application process, please contact:

**Future Student Advisor:** [admissions@nas.edu.au](mailto:admissions@nas.edu.au), +61 (0)2 9339 8741

**Student Services:** [student.services@nas.edu.au](mailto:student.services@nas.edu.au), +61 (0)2 9339 8613 or +61 (0)2 9339 8651