WAAPA

- Aboriginal Performance
- Acting
- Arts Management
- Costume
- Dance
- Design
- Lighting
- Music
- Music Theatre
- Performing Arts
- Props & Scenery
- Screen Performance
- Sound
- Stage Management
Our changing world needs a university to change with it.
A university where courses composed with industry deliver the most relevant knowledge and skills.
Where theory gets put into practice.
A university like ECU.
Where students have the experience to be capable when it counts.
So be the graduate the changing world needs.
And get ready at ECU.

Apply now for 2019.

Contents

Why Choose WAAPA at ECU?  3
Graduate Snapshots 4
Applications and Admissions 7
Aboriginal Performance 8
Acting & Screen Performance 9
Arts Management 10
Dance 11
Music 12
Music Theatre 15
Performing Arts 16
Production & Design 18

ECU was named in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings for 2017. Recognising the world’s 200 best universities less than 50 years of age, the rankings are a global showcase of a new breed of university. They focus on performance indicators such as research, teaching excellence, international outlook and innovation, and highlight universities that are developing at an exceptional rate.

ECU is proud to be recognised for its research productivity, research influence, quality of teaching, industry innovation and international focus. And we’re looking forward to building on this success.
Why Choose WAAPA at ECU?

The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at Edith Cowan University is one of the world’s leading performing arts academies.

WAAPA is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of its graduates. It provides the most comprehensive range of performing arts training in Australia – both on stage and behind the scenes. Entry into each course is competitive, and prospective students undertake an audition and/or an interview as part of the application process.

**Star graduates**

WAAPA graduates are in high demand and excel in their chosen professions. Some are highly celebrated, such as Hugh Jackman, Tim Minchin, Karla Hart, Rachel Durkin, Lisa McCune, William McInnes, Ewan Leslie, Virginia Gay, Meg Mac, Kučka, Meow Meow, Jai Courtney, Dacre Montgomery, and Lucy Durack, whilst many, who may not be quite as well-known, lead lives of artistic passion and make a huge contribution to the performing arts and allied industries.

**Showcasing your talent**

Each year students, staff and critically acclaimed guest artists collaborate to present hundreds of performances across a range of concerts, plays, dance, music theatre, opera and film. Many of these events take place in WAAPA’s own performance venues at ECU’s Mount Lawley Campus. Exciting community partnerships also enable WAAPA students to perform in a diverse range of spaces in the Perth metropolitan area and beyond.

**The Edith Spiegeltent**

ECU is the first university in the world to acquire its very own Spiegeltent. Renamed ‘The Edith’, it provides a unique performance space for WAAPA students to hone their craft. To celebrate this versatile venue having a new home, Jerome Davenport, a graduate of WAAPA’s Props and Scenery course, was commissioned to re-imagine the tent’s façade and the surrounds in which it is situated. Jerome is now an internationally acclaimed aerosol artist and muralist and has created an exciting, theatrical external look for The Edith. The interior retains its handmade architecture of wood, mirrors, canvas and leaded glass, with intricate detailing in velvet and brocade.
Graduate Snapshots

West End Phantom
Since September 2017, WAPA Music Theatre graduate Ben Lewis has been starring in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s The Phantom of the Opera at Her Majesty’s Theatre in London.
He is joined in the long-running West End production by WAPA Classical Music graduate Amy Manford, who plays the alternate role of Christine Daaé.
Ben was cast in the lead role of The Phantom in the London production after playing the same character in the 2011 Australian production of Lloyd Webber’s sequel, Love Never Dies. Since moving to London five years ago, Ben has also starred in Forbidden Broadway and Candide at Menier Chocolate Factory, and Annie Get Your Gun at Sheffield Crucible.
Amy moved to London to complete postgraduate study at the Royal College of Music after graduating from WAPA with the prestigious Barbara MacLeod Scholarship for Most Outstanding Female Classical Student. Her role in Phantom marks Amy’s West End debut.

A first for Australian dancer
As a recipient of the 2018 Pina Bausch Fellowship for Dance and Choreography, WAAPA-trained dancer Scott Elstermann has become the first Australian and youngest-ever artist to receive this prestigious award.
The Pina Bausch Fellowship offers young dancers opportunities for study with renowned artists, residencies at dance institutions, and short-term placements with companies or choreographers. Through the Fellowship, Scott was able to undertake a four-month mentorship program with Spanish director and choreographer Marina Mascarell.
In his final year at WAAPA, Scott won the 2014 Palisade Award for the most outstanding graduate of the Bachelor of Arts (Dance) degree. Since then he has worked for some of Australia’s leading dance artists including Lucy Guerin Inc., Natalie Allen and Shona Erskine. He has also choreographed a range of short works, with his show Awkward Con-nections winning the Overall Dance & Physical Theatre Award at the 2016 Perth Fringe World Festival.

Playwright gets it right
In March, playwright Travis Cotton was announced as the winner of the 2018 Lysicrates Prize for his play, Starfish. Co-presented by Griffin Theatre Company and The Lysicrates Foundation, the prize celebrates the best new Australian writing.
Travis was one of three shortlisted playwrights who were able to see a staged reading of the first act of their new play performed in front of an audience at the Sydney Opera House. As voted by the audience, Travis will now receive a full commission of $15,000 to finish the play.
In his acceptance speech, the 1999 Acting graduate thanked Griffin for its support for what he described as “a very lonely job”.
“To listen to actors speak the words I have written, and to have people discuss my work, makes my heart soar, and strengthens my resolve as I work towards being a great Aussie contemporary playwright,” he said.
Travis’ plays, including Rites of Evil, Robots Vs. Art, and 80 Minutes No Interval, have been performed around Australia at venues such as The Blue Room, The Old Fitz, Red Stitch, La Mama and The Store Room.
Timpani honour

When WAAPA percussion graduate Tegan LeBrun graduated with a Master of Arts degree with Distinction from London’s prestigious Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in 2017, she was also awarded the James Blades Prize for Timpani.

The Blades Timpani Prize is awarded to the graduating student who has demonstrated a highly skilled level of performance and dedication to their instrumental studies.

Tegan’s final concert for RAM was a performance of Gustav Mahler’s epic Second Symphony in London’s Royal Albert Hall.

While completing her Honours degree at WAAPA, the 2014 graduate performed in Defying Gravity and won the position of Principal Timpanist of the Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO). With AYO, she toured Europe, playing in the world’s leading concert halls.

Musical perfection

Following on from the international success of fellow WAAPA graduate Tim Minchin with Matilda: The Musical and Groundhog Day, Eddie Perfect is set to open two blockbuster musicals in the US in 2018.

The 2001 Music Theatre graduate, best known for his role as musician Mick Holland in Network Ten’s drama Offspring, has written the score for the much-anticipated Broadway adaptation of Tim Burton’s Beetlejuice.

Eddie has also reworked songs for the musical King Kong. The musical will mark Perfect’s Broadway debut while Beetlejuice will open in Washington DC.

The 40-year-old actor and musician has previously written the award-winning Shane Warne: The Musical as well as stand-alone shows including Misanthropology.

Sound decisions

Just two years after finishing his WAAPA training, Production and Design graduate Christian Peterson is now touring the world as a sound engineer with Cirque du Soleil.

After graduating, Christian worked full time as a sound technician on festivals, concerts and theatre shows in Perth and around Australia. Then in 2017 he scored a gig on the Perth leg of the Cirque du Soleil show, Kooza. From that he was offered the tour of Australia, New Zealand and Dubai with the Cirque show, Toruk. When that finished early this year, Christian spent several months in Montreal, Canada where Cirque is based designing and building the arena version of Corteo. He is currently touring North America with Corteo, which will take him through until August 2019.

“I really enjoy the mix of creative and technical work that is involved in sound engineering,” says Christian. “Some days I’m behind the console mixing a show and other days I’m rigging the speakers, making cables and loading trucks. Sound is very subjective and we all respond to it differently, so if an audience walks away applauding and happy, then that makes it worth the work… Luckily I am surrounded by a great team at Cirque, with people from all around the world!”
West Australian soprano soars

A graduate of WAAPA’s Classical Voice program, soprano Rachelle Durkin’s recent performance of Haydn’s Armida earned her a Helpmann Nomination for Best Female Performer in an Opera. The Australian wrote: “Rachelle Durkin gave a magnificent performance as Armida. Sustaining focused clarity and excellent dynamic control…her spectacular coloratura display passages and smoothly shaped lyrical sections were equally impressive”.

After winning Australia’s top three vocal competitions (The Herald-Sun Aria, The Marianne Mathy Scholarship and The Metropolitan Opera Award), Rachelle was accepted into the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program from 2001-2004. She became a regular guest artist at New York’s Metropolitan Opera singing Norina in Don Pasquale, Lisa in La Sonnambula, Clorinda in La Cenerentola and Miss Schlesen in Satyagraha – all recorded live for Sirus Radio. Other roles have included Frasquita in Carmen, Masha in Pique Dame, First Flower Maiden in Parsifal (also at Salzburg Festival under James Levine) and Young Girl in Moses und Aron.

A highly adept interpreter of a wide range of repertoire spanning from the Baroque to modern masterpieces, Rachelle’s other successes include Kumudha in John Adams’ A Flowering Tree (Perth’s Festival), Gilda in Rigoletto (Bilbao and Adelaide), Cunegonde in Candide (Bellingham Festival) and Corinna in Il viaggio a Reims (Chicago Opera Theater). She made her Carnegie Hall debut as soprano soloist in Handel’s Messiah.

Dynasty and James Mackay

Actor James Mackay is currently starring in Dynasty, an American prime-time television soap opera reboot based on the 1980s series, which began streaming on Netflix in October 2017. The 2008 WAAPA Acting graduate plays Steven Carrington, the gay son of billionaire Blake Carrington.

This marks the latest in a string of recent high-profile roles for James, following appearances in the films Hacksaw Ridge, directed by Mel Gibson, and Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales. James also appeared as William Beaumont in the 2015 film The Dressmaker, alongside Kate Winslet, Judy Davis, Liam Hemsworth and Hugo Weaving.

Most recently James played tennis star Margaret Court’s husband, Barry, in the 2017 film Battle of the Sexes, starring Emma Stone as Billie Jean King and Steve Carell as Bobby Riggs.

Conducting kudos

Listed by Australian Financial Review as one of ‘100 Most Influential Women’ in Australia for 2015, award winning Australian conductor Jessica Gethin has won praise from audiences and critics alike for her dynamic energy, outstanding musicianship and abounding presence on the podium. Recent reviews describe her performances as ‘simply superb, her conducting is organic; she controlled the ebb and flow of tension with goose-bump inducing artistry; a consummate musician in every respect’. In 2011, Jessica was appointed Chief Conductor of the Perth Symphony and Artistic Director of the Perth Chamber Orchestra in 2013. In 2015, Jessica won the Brian Stacey Emerging Australian Conductor Award and was accepted into the Institute of Women Conductors with The Dallas Opera. Jessica received a Winston Churchill Fellowship for ‘Performance Excellence in Classical Music’ in 2016. Jessica’s international career will see her conduct in Perth, China, Auckland, Singapore, Dallas, New York, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane throughout 2018, crossing genres from symphonic to opera, ballet, film and contemporary. In 2017, Jessica was announced as one of Limelight Magazine’s Top Twenty Australian Artists of the Year and received WA Opera’s 2018 Bendat Scholarship. An advocate for the arts, Jessica is regularly engaged as a guest speaker, clinician, arts presenter, adjudicator and key note speaker on the topics of the arts, leadership and diversity. 2019 will see Jessica make her debut with WA Ballet along with several other national and international performances.
Applications and Admissions

Applying for WAAPA courses
All applicants for courses at WAAPA must complete an online application form which can be accessed via the WAAPA website at ecu.edu.au.
An application fee applies.
Applications for WAAPA courses are not accepted through ECU’s Experience Based Entry Scheme.

WAAPA courses requiring an additional Tertiary Admission Centre application via TISC (for WA school leavers):
- Bachelor of Arts (Arts Management)
- Bachelor of Performing Arts (Performance Making)
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary) – Music Education

WAAPA courses where no TISC application is required:
- All Certificate courses
- All Diploma courses
- All Advanced Diploma courses
- Bachelor of Arts (Acting)
- Bachelor of Arts (Dance)
- Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre)
- Bachelor of Performing Arts (all majors except Performance Making)

RTO Provider
RTO Provider 4756

Admissions information
WAAPA offers a wide range of courses from Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificates, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas, through to Higher Education Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees.

Admission to all WAAPA courses is by audition and/or interview.

Admission to programs at WAAPA also requires applicants to meet ECU’s standard University admission requirements. Students who do not meet University admission requirements should discuss their options with the staff at WAAPA.

Applications for WAAPA courses are open from July to September the year prior to course commencement.

For detailed information on course structures, admission requirements and application details, refer to the WAAPA website at waapa.ecu.edu.au or contact the ECU Student Recruitment Office on 134 328 or at futurestudy@ecu.edu.au

Interviews, auditions and folios
All WAAPA courses require applicants to complete an interview and/or audition, or submit a folio of work, as part of the selection process.

For more specific information about interviews, auditions and folios refer to waapa.ecu.edu.au
Aboriginal Performance

The Aboriginal Performance program is a one year, full-time intensive course in acting, dance and singing training. It prepares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for entry into theatre, film, television and radio work, or to audition for ongoing, high-level training.

On completion of the course students will have acquired a knowledge of Indigenous culture in the context of contemporary performance, and will have integrated acting, dance and singing into practical performance skills. They will be responsive to audition requirements, communication skills and processes necessary to gain meaningful employment and function as a professional artist.

See more course information: ecugetready.com.au/waapa

“I really fell in love with theatre and the process of making it when I was at WAAPA and from pretty early on knew that I wanted to do it for the rest of my life.”

I enjoyed the hard work every day and the shows I saw at WAAPA are still some my favourite pieces of theatre I’ve ever seen. WAAPA really prepared me for the industry in every way possible.

Ian Michael
WAAPA Aboriginal Performance graduate
Acting & Screen Performance

Acting

Studying acting at WAAPA is an inspiring and all-consuming experience. The three year, full-time Bachelor of Arts (Acting) degree is an intensive conservatoire program, and produces graduates who are thoroughly prepared for a career in a wide variety of media, including theatre, television, film and radio, both in Australia and internationally.

WAAPA’s aim is for the actor to be technically adept and have an informed, rigorous outlook that will open the mind and ignite the imagination.

WAAPA provides a studio-based learning environment where students are encouraged to develop holistically as an actor. The course’s philosophy and practice is centred on the development of the self-determined artist possessing a passion for theatre and a desire to contribute meaningfully to the evolution of the art form and to the greater community. All staff and visiting guest artists are dedicated to helping students cultivate an awareness of the traditions behind the skills, to develop an artistic and personal point of view, and to imbue a sense of responsibility to the arts community.

Our Acting course has an international reputation for excellence, built on the success of its graduates.

WAAPA also offers a one year, full-time Acting course that prepares students with a range of knowledge and skills to enter the performing arts industry as an actor for roles in theatre productions.

On successful completion of the course, students will have integrated theatre acting, voice, movement, and industry practice into a tangible performance skill, acquired knowledge of script analysis in the context of acting for theatre, and be cognisant of the communication and pre-professional skills necessary to audition for and perform roles in theatre.

Screen Performance

WAAPA also offers a one year, full-time Screen Performance course which focusses on acting for the screen in film and television productions. Students study a range of performance skills including different acting techniques, improvisation, movement, voice production, auditioning and self-testing.

On successful completion of the course, students will have a basic knowledge of script writing, storytelling and film-editing in the context of screen performance; and understood the pre-professional skills necessary to successfully audition and perform for the screen. Graduates can confidently enter the industry as freelancers while further seeking professional representation or pursue further education at a higher level.

See more course information: ecugetready.com.au/waapa

“WAAPA is so rigorous it prepares its students to handle pretty much anything.”

Being able to study in the safe environment of WAAPA gave me the opportunity to be able to fail miserably and learn from it – plus it was such fun each week getting to see mind-blowing dance performances, glorious musical theatre and the grooviest jazz because it inspires you to pour more into your craft.

Harry Richardson
WAAPA Acting graduate
WAAPA’s Arts Management graduates are versatile employees who are industry ready for exciting and challenging careers in the arts/entertainment industries.

The three year, full-time Bachelor of Arts (Arts Management) degree has strong links with industry and students undertake internships at organisations of their choice as a part of their coursework. Students regularly receive invitations for local work experience from companies such as WA Ballet, Perth Festival, Art Gallery of WA, Perth International Jazz Festival, Perth Comedy Festival and Fringe World, to name a few. The value for students is in building their networks and resumes during the course.

In their final year, students undertake a 10-week internship in an arts organisation of their choice, either local, national or international. Examples include Opera Australia, Sydney Festival, Sydney Theatre Company, Brisbane Powerhouse, Australian Dance Theatre, Melbourne Music Week, Flickerfest International Short Film Festival (Sydney), Austin Film Festival (Texas), San Francisco Ballet, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), Lincoln Center (New York), Druid Theatre Company (Ireland), Gordon Frost Musical Producers, record companies and comedy festivals. Many take on permanent positions with their secondment companies.

WAAPA Arts Management graduates hold senior management and marketing positions at prestigious arts and entertainment organisations and businesses throughout the world including Opera Australia, Bangarra Dance Theatre (Sydney), Belvoir St Theatre (Sydney), Bell Shakespeare (Sydney), Dubai Opera, Mullinars Casting, Sydney Opera House, The TATE UK, WA Opera, West Australia Symphony Orchestra, Black Swan State Theatre Company (Perth) and Perth Theatre Trust.

See more course information: ecugetready.com.au/waapa

“The Arts Management degree gave me the skills and contacts required to form a fantastic career in the arts industry.”

In my role as Head of Media and Client Relations at AKA, my team and I formulate the strategy for and execute large and small scale end-to-end marketing campaigns for commercial theatre, not for profit theatre companies, galleries and museums, major events and a diverse range of other arts and entertainment forms. Having had exposure to all of these, WAAPA set me up to be confident in the industry, no matter what I have ended up working on. The networking opportunities with graduates who are leaders in their field and the intensive secondment program put me in both large and small organisations and allowed me to meet people who are now my close colleagues. Since leaving WAAPA I have worked alongside many Arts Management graduates who are now the top marketers, producers, development professionals and managers of all areas in the arts industry and we always have a strong bond.

James Robertson
WAAPA Arts Management graduate
Dance

WAAPA’s Dance programs train classical and contemporary dance artists by utilising teaching methods designed to develop and refine the skills of each individual. The courses offer a breadth that is unique to WAAPA and prepare students for a seamless transition into a wide range of careers within the profession. WAAPA offers a mix of vocational dance courses and degree programs. All are full-time and range from two to three years in duration. Within each course, students have a degree of flexibility to choose and combine the mix that is best suited to their individual talents and aspirations. Graduates of the Advanced Diploma can articulate into the Bachelor of Arts (Dance) program. WAAPA’s Dance programs are intensive and performance based, with students averaging 35-40 contact hours per week. In addition to daily tuition from professionally credentialed teaching staff, three performance seasons per year give students the opportunity to work with visiting national and international choreographers. Recent guest choreographers include Rafael Bonachela, Jayne Smeulders, Richard Cilli and Nils Christe. Students also regularly participate in national and international tours, further enhancing their skills and enriching their cultural experience.

See more course information:
ecugetready.com.au/waapa

“WAAPA was an invaluable experience and gave me many opportunities.”

The Advanced Diploma course delivered exceptional training for me to develop many skills to become a professional dancer. The course involved choreographic practice, learning critical thinking skills and applying dance knowledge in performance. It definitely contributed to my success in the professional dance industry.

Natalie Allen
WAAPA Dance graduate
Studying music at WAAPA means embarking on a life that brings joy and fulfillment to performers and audiences alike. WAAPA provides an inspirational environment of exceptional teaching, networking possibilities and an unmatched range of performance opportunities— it is where students learn how to turn their love of music into a professional career.

In addition to studying a common core of history and theoretical studies, WAAPA Music students follow a specialized performance-based curriculum in their chosen area. With over 100 evening concerts per year, three busy lunchtime concert series, as well as special events, tours, masterclasses, visiting guest artists, and the opportunity to perform for various musicals and opera seasons, WAAPA is a vibrant place of learning.

WAAPA’s full-time lecturers are internationally renowned in their respective fields and are augmented by a part-time staff who are fully engaged in the industry. The music programs are recognized both nationally and internationally and graduates can be found producing ARIA winning albums, performing in major symphony orchestras, topping the charts, touring the world as solo artists, writing music for film and television or in many of the new and exciting careers open to musicians today.

WAAPA offers the following music disciplines: Classical Performance – Instrumental; Classical Performance – Vocal; Composition and Music Technology; Contemporary Music; Jazz Performance; Music Artist; and Music Education.

Classical Performance – Instrumental

WAAPA Classical Instrumental students receive individual lessons and specialist instrumental performance classes, as well as opportunities to perform in a large range of ensembles including the Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, opera orchestra, music theatre orchestra, chamber music ensembles, String Camerata, Brass Ensemble, Plectra Guitars, Basement Saxx, Defying Gravity, Eneksis Vocal Ensemble, cutting-edge new music and a fully-staged opera.

Each instrumental stream has its own discrete specialist classes, for example, instrumentalists study chamber music, solo and orchestral repertoire, baroque and classical music, and contemporary performance practices, while pianists study in solo repertoire, accompaniment, historically-informed performance practices, and vocal coaching.

“I love the atmosphere at WAAPA; the combination of brilliant staff and passionate students creates an inspiring space alive with possibilities.”

WAAPA pushed me to develop my musical skills, gave me the opportunity to have a wide range of musical experiences, helped me to make essential contacts, and to make wonderful friends. I’m very thankful to have been a student at WAAPA and can’t imagine having my career without it.

Joshua Webster
WAAPA Classical Music graduate
Classical Performance – Vocal

Classical Vocal students receive individual lessons, attend specialist performance classes, work with outstanding guest artists, and participate in a large range of ensembles, fully-staged operas, oratorios, choruses, cabaret and cutting-edge new music. Vocal students also have specialist classes to study acting, languages and movement skills.

Composition and Music Technology

Composition and Music Technology students are offered streams in classical, electronic, film, popular and jazz music, as well as sound art installation.

The ethos of the composition program centres on learning through practical experience, performance and collaboration. At every stage, students collaborate on projects in the dance, film, video, electronic arts, gaming and theatre departments. All students study recording, mixing, mastering and online networking, as well as comprehensive composition approaches for the 21st century.

The Composer in Residence program provides access to a range of visiting artists from the community, and students are provided with opportunities to engage with industry throughout the course. In addition, all students are involved in the performance of electroacoustic music through the ECUatorial and Aletheia student ensembles, and are encouraged to work with music performance majors for the performance of their works.

Contemporary Music

This intensive, performance-based major centres on ensemble studies, where students develop advanced instrumental and performance skills on their chosen instrument (vocal, guitar, bass, keyboard, drum-set). Students receive individual lessons, attend instrumental workshops and are part of repertoire-intensive performing ensembles. Other classes include recording studio (session) skills, arranging, history, theory, rhythm, aural and improvisation.

Performances are undertaken regularly throughout the course and the final year culminates in a professional recital.

“The Bachelor degree at WAAPA taught me all about music and the Graduate Diploma of Music (Voice) taught me what it takes to be a professional singer.”

My undergraduate course at WAAPA gave me fundamental music skills and knowledge. History lectures and invaluable theory classes set me up to recognise musical context and structural understanding. These three years were the years I fell in love with music. The Graduate Diploma taught me that there were more elements to being a singer than I had ever imagined. This was the year I began to discover what opera and art song really could be.

WAAPA helped set me up for my time overseas and prepared me with specific tools for my craft. In particular, role preparation and research, and stage confidence and exploration. It also allowed me to gain efficient learning skills when presented with new music, especially in other languages.

Daniella Sicari
WAAPA Music – Classical Voice graduate

Daniella Sicari as La Fée in Royal Northern College of Music’s Cindrillon 2017. Photo by Robert Workman
Jazz Performance

Recognised as one of the strongest jazz courses in the southern hemisphere, this major produces many nationally and internationally renowned jazz musicians. The strength of the major lies in the focus on performance outcomes, and all educational units are based around developing these skills. Students have the option of specialising in performance or composition and arranging in the final two years, culminating in a professional recital.

All students participate in many varied ensembles, from big bands to jazz trios and everything in between. The major also has a visiting artist program that is second to none, and prides itself on the depth of professional knowledge that is on offer to students year round.

Music Education

This course, offered in conjunction with ECU’s School of Education, focuses on classroom music teaching with students specialising in either Classical, Jazz or Contemporary Music. Students have the option to complete a minor in instrumental music teaching and conducting/ensemble direction, and can also undertake electives in primary and early childhood music teaching. Under certain circumstances, students may undertake crossover units from other streams.

See more course information: ecugetready.com.au/waapa
WAAPA’s acclaimed Music Theatre course provides graduates with the skills and experience required to engage in professional theatre practice. Music Theatre students work closely with WAAPA’s world class teaching staff and specialist tutors who share the knowledge and skills they have gained through professional performance careers.

The three year, full-time Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) degree provides intensive technical training in singing, dancing and acting to develop the professionally acknowledged ‘triple threat’ performer. In addition to these core skills, students are instructed in film, television and radio techniques to train them for a wide range of roles in the performing arts. There is also a strong focus on preparing students for professional audition. Practical training is complemented by the study of dramatic literature, the history of music theatre and arts management. Students integrate their class studies with performance training throughout the course in classroom presentations, workshops, chamber music theatre and full-scale musical productions.

WAAPA also offers a one year, full-time Musical Theatre course that trains students in the areas of song, dance and acting. It focuses on audition techniques and develops the student’s ability and knowledge in the area of music theatre.

See more course information: ecugetready.com.au/waapa

“The WAAPA Musical Theatre course was an unbelievable launching pad for me and my fellow classmates into this crazy industry we call the performing arts.”

One of the many invaluable opportunities we were given, and a personal highlight for me, was working with professional creatives (choreographers, directors and writers). Even at the end of a sweaty fourteen-hour day – that could have possibly included a keyboard spot test, a high stakes scene presentation, a song repertoire performance, show choreography rehearsal, a ballet class and a costume parade – WAAPA was constantly buzzing with passion and was an amazing place to study for three years.

Mackenzie Dunn
WAAPA Music Theatre graduate
Performing Arts

The Bachelor of Performing Arts provides students with a broad, coherent knowledge of the performing arts alongside specialist skills units that explore technical knowledge in more depth. This three year, full-time course is underpinned by core units in creative research and project management skills that are necessary to gain professional employment as a contemporary arts practitioner and to create new employment opportunities.

The course combines theoretical and technical knowledge of performance and seeks to unlock limitations through practical enquiry. It examines the ever-evolving nature of contemporary practice and new approaches to presentation and production. Students will develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Self-directed projects develop confidence in working independently and highly collaborative group work develops the ability to work as part of a cohesive team.

Students choose from the following majors: Performance Making, Practice Transition, Production and Design.

Performance Making (Entry by audition)

This major focuses on the creation of performance from the early stages of creative development through to final performance for an audience. It offers students the opportunity to experience performance making in the contexts of solo work, collaborative ensembles and site-specific locations, and in both text-based and more visual or physical styles of work. There is a particular focus on the 20th century developments in practice, philosophy and theory of performance, and how those developments inform the current landscape of experimental performance.

Practice Transition (Entry by interview)

This focused learning pathway is suitable for students with a grounding in technical skills in their discipline who want to build upon current practice and experience, or to transition to the next phase of their careers through undertaking Bachelor level study. The major provides the opportunity to research a current discipline or area in more depth, or to explore new areas of practice as a means of transitioning to a new or related field of practice. It enables students to gain knowledge and research skills to take their career to the next level. Students are required to undertake a series of independent, practice-based projects with written components including a final exegesis report. It is suitable for those who want to undertake a series of independent study units alongside the core academic units in the Bachelor of Performing Arts course.

Production and Design (Entry by interview)

This major provides graduates with a focused learning pathway through the skills and experience required to work in professional theatre. It offers students intensive creative and technical training through professional production practices. This is achieved by undertaking leadership roles within their stream major on the annual repertoire of WAAPA productions across all mainstream genres inclusive of acting, music theatre, dance, opera, jazz and contemporary music. WAAPA’s professionally staffed and equipped facilities provide students with the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge, and to experience the hands-on approach required by the national and international industry.

See more course information: ecugetready.com.au/waapa

"The Bachelor of Performing Arts has given me the skills to maintain, develop and practice as an independent artist.”

The Bachelor of Performing Arts is the type of course that doesn’t confine you to one specific artistic form. Instead it opens doors, windows, to numerous forms, of performance art and how it exists in the world, broadening your own horizons of how you can be a part of it. It has let me experience what was once unknown practices such as the Suzuki Training Method and Butoh, it has even taken me to Singapore to train with many different cultures from all around the world at ITI, but most importantly, it has taught me what it truly means to be an artist – and that is knowing who you are and what you want to say. I have an uncovered an authenticity in myself and this will forever be the base, or the truth, of all my work for years to come - whether that be performing or creating. Three years later, and I have not only grown as an artist, but also as a person.’

Mariah O’Dea
WAAPA Performing Arts graduate
“The Bachelor of Performing Arts has given me the vigour and drive necessary to be a successful theatre maker.”

Studying Performance Making has inspired and activated a new pathway for me as an artist. I am now equipped with the skills and knowledge to get my projects off the ground and to further refine my artistry and vision. The Bachelor of Performing Arts has given me the vigour and drive necessary to be a successful theatre maker.

Charlotte Otton
WAAPA Performing Arts graduate
Production & Design

WAAPA provides Production and Design students with the greatest diversity of ‘on-the-job’ theatrical experiences. Students have access to simulated industry training in the design, construction and management of the Academy’s annual repertoire of 35-plus productions, utilising WAAPA’s diverse performance venues, as well as numerous external performance spaces.

WAAPA’s professionally staffed and equipped workshop and wardrobe facilities, along with state-of-the-art lighting and sound studios, give students immediate ‘hands-on’ access to all production development, construction and staging processes associated with the most up-to-date industry expectations and practice.

Incorporating an exciting mix of national and international professional directors, teachers and supervisors, WAAPA’s year-long season of theatre, music theatre, opera and dance performances plus jazz, classical and contemporary music concerts gives WAAPA Production and Design graduates the winning edge in preparation for a seamless transition into a wide range of careers within the creative and technical industries both nationally and abroad.

WAAPA offers a two year, full-time course with a three semester articulation to a degree, in a range of disciplines.

Costume

WAAPA’s technical costume courses prepare students for industry employment through teaching methods designed to develop and refine the creative and practical skills of each individual. The program offer a breadth of experience in classroom and live production environments, which are unique to WAAPA, preparing graduates for transition into a wide range of costume-oriented careers within the entertainment industry.

WAAPA Costume students develop skills in costume construction, pattern drafting, art finishing, millinery, drawing, corsetry, period costume, and costume management. As they progress through the course, students also take on more advanced management in a live production environment, experiencing practical team leadership roles in dressing and costume supervision, as well as specialist costume construction for stage productions. Other classes include but are not limited to: academic research and writing, arts management, industry studies and contemporary performance.

Prospective students are required to submit a folio of relevant work and a written essay submission as part of their application process. A formal interview is conducted for all Costume applicants.

“WAAPA sets you up with a solid foundation with which to build your career.”

Covering everything from technical knowledge to crucial people managing skills, when dealing with musicians or fellow workers in other departments. It’s a great learning environment and the connections I have made from WAAPA have proven invaluable to my career thus far.

Jesse Hutchings
WAAPA Sound graduate
Design

WAAPA’s Design courses prepare students for industry employment through theoretical learning experiences paired with opportunities for practical application of skills. Working with industry directors and choreographers on WAAPA performances provides skill development in live production environments, preparing graduates for transition into design-related careers within the entertainment industry.

Design students undertake classes in design studio scenery and costume, technical drafting, CAD, art finishing, drawing, model making, scenic painting, wardrobe technology, props construction and history of theatre. Specialist classes are delivered in the principal studio area to extend design skills and knowledge, in addition to more challenging set and costume design roles in WAAPA’s live productions for theatre, opera, music theatre and dance performance programs.

Prospective students are required to complete a design project and submit a folio of work as part of their application process. A formal interview is conducted for all Design applicants.

Lighting

The Lighting program provides training in lighting design and lighting technology for theatre, film, television, concerts and trade presentations. Students develop skills and knowledge in theatre, film and television lighting, lighting design, and lighting operation.

The course is structured to provide students with the skills and experience consistent with the growing needs of the entertainment industry. Students work on a range of productions mounted by WAAPA and are expected to provide service at a professional level of competence.

Areas of study include electronics, optics, cinematography, documentation and drafting, budgeting, crew management, script analysis and control board operation.

Props and Scenery

Props and Scenery includes aspects of scenery, set and properties construction, scenic painting, metal fabrication and technical and general drawing. Handling scenery, flying and general backstage skills of the mechanist are experienced, and students are closely involved in the practical work of live production on a regular basis.

A wide range of skills are explored, including workshop management, construction, painting and props. Our students are encouraged to develop the initiative and problem-solving abilities needed in the production workshop.

Sound

WAAPA’s Sound program covers a broad spectrum of disciplines in sound production and operation. Students develop skills and knowledge in the areas of theatre, film, television, radio, concerts, festivals, studio work and trade presentations. Specific procedures are studied in stage and concert sound, digital sound and sound for the electronic media. The theory and practice of music recording and the creation of special effects for theatre are also studied. Investigation into the new areas of acoustic sculpture and art is encouraged.

WAAPA Sound graduates are employed as Mix Engineer, Live Sound Engineer (theatre, music), Production Assistant, Producer (radio, film, TV) and Live Recordist (radio, film, TV).

Stage Management

Stage Management provides training in the organisational and management skills required for managing rehearsals and performance. These include the development and use of the prompt copy, production documentation, score reading, movement and voice instruction, safety in the theatre, communication and people/time management skills, production and company management. A range of technical production skills and techniques, as well as an understanding of the staging and performance requirements for drama, dance, music, music theatre and opera will be developed.

See more course information: ecugetready.com.au/waapa

“Going to WAAPA not only gives you a top of the line education in your chosen field, but guarantees you a group of life-long friends.”

The people you meet and work with over your time at WAAPA become your second family and having that support network for the rest of your career is so important. My WAAPA family extends across the world now and constantly continues to grow, presenting all manner of career opportunities.

Hannah Portwine
WAAPA Stage Management graduate
Our changing world needs a university to change with it.

A university where courses composed with industry deliver the most relevant knowledge and skills.

So be the graduate the changing world needs.

And get ready at ECU.