WAAPA

- Aboriginal Performance
- Acting
- Arts Management
- Costume
- Dance
- Design
- Lighting
- Music
- Music Theatre
- Performing Arts
- Props & Scenery
- Screen Performance
- Sound
- Stage Management
THERE IS WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, AND THERE IS WHERE YOU WANT TO GET TO. IN BETWEEN YOU NEED A BRIDGE. ECU IS THAT BRIDGE BETWEEN YOUR WORLD, AND THE WHOLE WORLD.

BECOME WORLD READY AT ECU.

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ECU was named in the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings for 2018. Recognising the world’s 150 best universities less than 50 years of age, the rankings are a global showcase of a new breed of university. ECU is proud to be recognised for its research productivity, research influence, quality of teaching, industry innovation and international focus.

For the fourth year in a row, ECU has been ranked the top public university in Australia for teaching quality in the QILT (Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching) survey released in 2019. We were also the top public university in Australia for skills development and on a two year aggregate the top for overall educational experience.
The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at ECU 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.

WAAPA graduates are in high demand and excel in their chosen professions, leading lives of artistic passion and making a significant contribution to the performing arts and allied industries. Highly celebrated graduates include actors Hugh Jackman, Frances O’Connor, Rachael Maza, Jai Courtney, Dacre Montgomery and Geraldine Hakewill; comedians Jim Jeffries and Tim Minchin; opera singers Emma Matthews, Duncan Rock and Rochelle Durkin; music theatre stars Lisa McCune, Eddie Perfect, Meow Meow, Suzie Mathers and Lucy Durack; musicians Troy Roberts, Linda Oh, Jessica Gethin, Christopher Dragon, Rob Swire (Pendulum/Knife Party), Meg Mac, Kučka and Karl Thomas (ShockOne). WAAPA’s Arts Management and Production and Design professionals can be found working in arts organisations and companies around the world.

WAAPA staff and students are engaging in an ever-increasing amount of internationalisation with opportunities for study and performance overseas. In 2018, the graduating cohort of acting students travelled to Los Angeles for the first time to present their Hollywood Showcase. Dance students travelled to Beijing and Taiwan, while LINK Dance Company performed in Berlin, Amsterdam and Marseille. Bachelor of Performing Arts students travelled to Singapore, jazz students attended the Improvisation Summer School in Paris and the percussion students attended the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis.

Exciting careers on-stage and behind the scenes

With an international reputation for excellence in arts education and training, WAAPA is the perfect place to study for those seeking careers in the performing arts, entertainment, film and television industries. WAAPA offers nationally-recognised training for Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses across a variety of disciplines including Aboriginal Performance, Acting, Dance, Costume, Design, Lighting, Music, Music Theatre, Props and Scenery, Screen Performance, Sound, and Stage Management. No ATAR is required and entry is based on a successful audition and/or interview. VET student loans (VSL) are available for eligible students across these Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses.
GRADUATE SNAPSHOTS

FULBRIGHT FOR DANCE COMPOSER
Azariah Felton, who graduated with Honours in Music Composition last year, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. The Fulbright Program is the flagship foreign exchange scholarship program of the United States of America.

“When I started at WAAPA, I had no idea what contemporary dance was,” Azariah laughs. “I knew there was a dance course here and I figured it was ballet and they’d just be dancing to Mozart.” In his first year of study, Azariah was invited to participate in the dance department’s Unleash season. In this annual project, third year dance students choreograph original dance pieces in collaboration with composition students who create original music.

“I was paired up with a dancer and I absolutely loved working with her,” says Azariah. “I was writing a different style of music to what I normally did and I just fell in love with it. So I started doing more and more.” Since then, Azariah has undertaken 26 dance collaborations. The 21-year-old composer will commence his Masters in Music at the start of the northern hemisphere’s academic year in September.

WAAPA GRADUATES SHINE AT FRINGE WORLD FESTIVAL
Graduates from WAAPA joined artists from Australia and around the world during the 2019 Perth Fringe World Festival. The talented alumni were involved in a range of roles including performance, production and design, music, dance and more. In addition to helping produce outstanding home-grown talent, ECU is also a proud supporter of the Fringe World Festival.

As a major partner, ECU/WAAPA provides its Edith Spiegeltent as a unique performance venue which was hosted at Perth’s Yagan Square in 2019. ECU students had the opportunity to gain industry experience through work placements at the festival across a range of disciplines.

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BROADWAY DEBUT FOR AUSSIE ALADDIN
After wowing audiences in the Australian production of Aladdin the Musical, Ainsley Melham has taken over the title role in the Broadway production, marking his North American theatrical debut. The 2012 WAAPA graduate began his run as Aladdin at the New Amsterdam Theatre in New York in February 2019, just a month before the hit Disney musical celebrated its fifth anniversary on Broadway.

In addition to performing alongside Arielle Jacobs as Jasmine and Michael James Scott as the Genie, his co-stars from the original Australian production, Ainsley is joined on Broadway by fellow WAAPA graduate Heather Makalani Manley. Heather joined the Broadway cast in December 2018 as ensemble member and Jasmine understudy.

Ainsley was nominated for Best Actor in a Musical at the 2017 Helpmann Awards for his role in the Australian production. Prior to touring the major Australian cities with Aladdin, Ainsley was a cast member of the children’s television show, Hi–5, appearing in its Australasian tours, the televised Hi–5 House series (Seasons 1–3) and the documentary film Some Kind of Wonderful.

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SONGWRITER SCORES A HIT

Australian/Chilean singer and songwriter Constanza Herrero was announced as a Grand Prize Winner in the 2018 John Lennon Songwriting Contest. The 2015 Bachelor of Music (Contemporary) graduate took out the top award in the Latin category of this international competition for her song, *Me Voy*.

Founded in 1997, the John Lennon Songwriting Contest is open to amateur and professional songwriters who submit entries in any one of 12 categories. Herrero's prize includes over $8,000 in project studio equipment and a one-year music magazine subscription.

During her time at WAAPA, Herrero enjoyed being able to collaborate with other departments, singing with the percussion ensemble Defying Gravity and becoming the first vocalist to perform with the Latin Jazz Ensemble.

WAAPA GRADUATES PIROUETTE INTO BALLET COMPANY

Two WAAPA graduates are on pointe to become ballet dancers. Sara Ouwendyk and Kirsty Clarke have been offered young artist contracts with WA Ballet starting in 2019. From a young age, Ouwendyk always wanted to dance and when she was about 12 she began to focus on ballet.

When Clarke started at WAAPA, she had no intention of becoming a ballerina. “I always enjoyed ballet, I always knew it was the strength behind all of my technique and that was the predominate reason I kept it up but I had passions elsewhere,” Clarke said. “Then during my time here, I really grew to love it and the stronger I became the more I appreciated it and the more fun I had with it on stage. I couldn’t be happier with where I am.”

It is the first time two graduates from the same year have been accepted into WA Ballet. The duo join former WAAPA students Carina Roberts and Liam Green, who were both promoted to demi-soloist in 2018, and 2017 graduate Kristin Barwick who has been offered a full artist contract.

RIISING ACTOR SCORES A DREAM

RUN OF LEAD ROLES

Since graduating from WAAPA in 2016, actor George Pullar has established himself as a rising star with lead roles in three national television series. Just a few months after completing his Bachelor of Arts (Acting), George joined the cast of *A Place to Call Home* for its fifth season in the role of young mechanic Larry Forbes.

That great start continued a year later when George scored the role of country kid-turned-AFL star recruit Daniel Fletcher in the new Channel 10 drama, *Playing for Keeps*. His onscreen girlfriend, Paige Dunkeley, was played by fellow WAAPA graduate Cece Peters. The show premiered nationally in September 2018 and a month later, George swapped his AFL guernsey for army combat uniform in *Fighting Season*, a Foxtel six-part drama series about Australian soldiers returning from Afghanistan.

From 1950’s period piece to AFL rookie to professional soldier, George describes how these different characters required him to start from scratch with each role.

“I try to work as closely and collaboratively as possible with the director, writer and other actors. It’s a team job, and the more I can merge my ideas with other creatives on the show, the stronger the overall outcome,” says George.

The 22 year old believes that WAAPA gave him the permission to walk on set and feel like he deserved to be there. “Not only does WAAPA have a great reputation among the industry but you don’t quite realise how great the training is until you are able to apply it in a professional context.”
A LOVE OF LIGHTING

In The Australian Ballet’s season of Spartacus, which opened last year at the Arts Centre in Melbourne, Benjamin Cisterne proved yet again why he is one of Australia’s leading lighting designers for theatre and dance. The 2002 WAAPA graduate has worked as a lighting designer for 20 years.

After working as a general technician doing lights and sound for independent theatre companies in Sydney, Cisterne was encouraged by lighting designer and former WAAPA lecturer, Joe Mercurio, to study lighting design at a tertiary level. Cisterne was accepted into WAAPA where he trained under Mark Howett and Efterpi Soropos.

“The WAAPA course was well rounded and I entered the industry with a solid base knowledge of the roles I could fulfill,” he says. “When I graduated, I spent my first five years in the industry as a junior, building on that learning and increasing my knowledge and skill set. Later with my move into the design field I found myself often referring back to those basic principles taught at WAAPA when beginning a project.”

Cisterne now runs his own lighting design and consultancy business, working as a designer and design manager on projects throughout Australia and the world. In addition to his work with performing arts companies, he is renowned for his lighting designs and installations for museums, exhibitions and architectural projects.

AUSTRALIAN ACTOR-TURNED DIRECTOR ENJOYS INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Highly sought-after Australian film and television director Daina Reid scored her first overseas television series in 2018 with the critically acclaimed drama, The Handmaid’s Tale. Reid was invited to direct episodes 11 and 12 in the second season of The Handmaid’s Tale on the strength of her previous work in the ABC’s The Secret River.

Reid, who graduated from WAAPA’s Acting course in 1990, started her career in the film and television industry as a comedy writer and actor. She began directing television shows in 2002 and directed her first feature film, I Love You Too, in 2010, starring Brendan Cowell, Peter Helliar, Peter Dinklage and Yvonne Strahovski.

Eight years later and on the other side of the world, Reid again directed Strahovski, this time in her Emmy-nominated performance as Serena Joy Waterford in The Handmaid’s Tale. In addition to The Secret River, Reid’s other Australian television directing credits include Offspring; The Wrong Girl; Nowhere Boys; The Dr Blake Mysteries; Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries; Satisfaction; Rush and City Homicide, among many others.

Following the success of The Handmaid’s Tale, Reid is now in demand internationally, working on a television project in the UK and in development on a thriller feature for Carver Films (The Snowtown Murders).

FROM DANCE TO DIGITAL MARKETING, IT’S ALL ABOUT ART

A career in the arts often takes its practitioners all around the world. So it’s not surprising to find a WAAPA dance graduate working in a ballet company in Glasgow – except that Tony Currie is not dancing, he’s the Content and Digital Executive at Scottish Ballet.

“Digital platforms allow us to be responsive agile and disruptive in ways that main-stage work sometimes can’t,” says Tony. “By communicating digitally with audiences, we can give them tools to better understand the artform and by doing so, hopefully build our following.”

Tony was one of the creative forces behind Scottish Ballet’s inaugural Digital Season in 2017, which took out the UK Theatre Award for Achievement in Marketing/Audience Development. He is currently producing a digital program, a month-long season of new commissions created exclusively for smart phones, cinemas and ‘everything in between’.

Tony’s transition from dancer to digital executive took five years, with a few lucky breaks and a heap of determination. When asked what he enjoys most about his job, the former dancer is effusive: “Not a single day is the same; I work with a fantastic team and am constantly challenged to learn new skills. I’m in awe of the artists we collaborate with and it takes me to wild and wonderful places all over Scotland and beyond.”
APPLICATIONS & ADMISSIONS

APPLYING FOR WAAPA COURSES
All applicants for courses at WAAPA must complete an online application form which can be accessed via the ECU website at ecuworldready.com.au/waapa
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)

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 Future Students 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

RTO PROVIDER
RTO Provider 4756
Aboriginal Performance

The Aboriginal Performance program prepares students in a range of acting and performance disciplines through teaching methods designed to recognise and refine the skills and potential of each individual.

Over two full-time semesters, students undergo intensive training in acting and improvisation, dance and stage movement, voice and singing, script analysis and the audition process. All areas are performance based where workshops feed into rehearsal, and rehearsal feeds into performance. In addition to the highest calibre of daily tuition from WAAPA’s professionally acclaimed staff, students also have access to visiting and guest directors, actors and practitioners who are brought straight from the industry and into our workshops. Aboriginal Performance boasts a dedicated, fully equipped studio space.

The program prepares students for the demands of professional work in theatre, film and television. Numerous graduates go straight into the industry establishing solid careers as professional actors and performers. Other graduates go on to further study in higher-level acting and dance training courses at WAAPA, NIDA, NAISDA and VCA.

See more course information ——
ecu.edu.au/waapa

“This course gave me the opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a skilled actor and performer.”

I did Drama in high school so I had some idea of what to expect before I began the training but I can tell you that it certainly exceeded my expectations. The bar was raised at every turn but the challenges were the best thing. The teachers, fellow students and entire WAAPA environment is nothing short of exhilarating.

OWEN HASLUCK
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 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 either film or television productions. Subjects include 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 combined 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 —— ecu.edu.au/waapa

NATIONAL AWARD FOR WAAPA ACTING COURSE
WAAPA’s Bachelor of Arts (Acting) program was honoured with a prestigious award in the ‘Programs that Enhance Learning’ category at the 2018 Universities Australia Awards in Canberra. ECU offers one of the leading actor training programs in Australia. Students are coached through a fully scaffolded, immersive experience that supports them to integrate three foundational strands of actor training including voice, movement, and acting. This tailored approach contributes to outstanding student experience outcomes – with graduates performing in international and local movies, theatres, shows, and TV series, as well as creating their own work.

Not only does WAAPA have a great reputation among the industry, but you don’t quite realise how great the training is until you are able to apply it in a professional context.”

Those three years dedicated to honing my skill set gave me a steady confidence and foundation to build on.

GEORGE PULLAR
WAAPA Acting graduate
A Place to Call Home, Playing for Keeps, Fighting Season, Actor
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 résumés 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 — ecu.edu.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
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 —— ecu.edu.au/waapa

WAAPA helped prepare me for my future as a professional dancer.

MIA THOMPSON
WAAPA Dance graduate
Sydney Dance Company, Company Member

“The teachers pushed me further than I believed I could go, they pushed me out of my comfort zone.”
Studying music at WAAPA means embarking on a life that brings joy and fulfilment 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.

WAAPA Music students follow a specialised performance based curriculum in their chosen area, in addition to studying a common core of history and theoretical studies. With over 100 evening concerts per year and 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 part-time staff who are fully engaged in the industry. The music programs are recognised 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
- Music Education

WAAPA Classical Music graduate

“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 – 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. These include the Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, opera orchestra, music theatre orchestra, chamber music ensembles, String Camerata, Brass Ensemble, Plectra Guitar Ensemble, WAAPA ‘Phone Co., 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 solo repertoire, accompaniment, historically-informed performance practices, and vocal coaching.

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 offers 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.

WAAPA taught me all about music and 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
JAZZ PERFORMANCE
Recognised as one of the finest institutions for studying jazz in the southern hemisphere, WAAPA consistently produces internationally renowned jazz musicians. With improvisation as a core skill, these musicians enter the industry as versatile and knowledgeable artists. This is best demonstrated by the careers of our graduates, who tour the globe playing jazz festivals with their own groups and perform with some of the biggest names in not only jazz, but also the pop world, from Pat Metheny and the Yellowjackets, to artists like Adele.

Students study with our highly acclaimed staff and gain a deep understanding of ensemble playing (both large and small), improvisation, composition, theory, music business skills and more. WAAPA also offers the most comprehensive visiting artist program in the country, allowing students to perform and learn from the best of the best, both nationally and internationally. During their study, WAAPA jazz students also have the option to undertake a two-week summer school at New York University and another in Europe.

MUSIC ARTIST
This course provides students with a focused learning pathway through the skills and experience required to engage in a career as a music artist. Students are offered intensive creative and technical training in the areas of composing, arranging and recording culminating in a production of a CD of their original works. Emphasis is placed on developing the student’s individual talent as an artist and the ability to collaborate with others. Students focus on their skills as a music artist centred around composition, performance and music production.

MUSIC EDUCATION
Offered in conjunction with ECU’s School of Education, this course 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 ——
ecu.edu.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 Music 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 ——
ecu.edu.au/waapa

“Being at WAAPA gave me the opportunity to hone my skills and get them industry ready.”

It gave me an understanding of how the industry worked and the work ethic you need to be successful in it.

MAT VEREVIS
WAAPA Music Theatre graduate
Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Music Theatre Star
2018 Helpmann Award winner
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.

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 can 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 twentieth 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 — ecu.edu.au/waapa

The best part of being at WAAPA is having the access and privilege of being taught by some incredible teachers, being surrounded by creativity day in and day out and having the space to fail.”

The arts industry in Australia is benefitting from some very clever, creative young theatre makers. Makers that I am extremely proud to be in the WAAPA alumni pool with.

Charlotte Otton
WAAPA Performing Arts graduate

Charlotte Otton at the 2019 Fringe Awards
Photo by Sean Breadsell
The course gave me a much more holistic sense to making and working in theatre, and showed me a number of avenues I could pursue."

Since graduating, I’ve worked as a producer, publicist, movement director, devisor and performer. I wouldn’t have half those skill sets if it hadn’t been for my training. I don’t feel limited in my career whatsoever and I’m open to trying anything now.

JESSICA RUSSELL
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 each of the following 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.

The real highlight of my experience at WAAPA was working on the shows; they’re all student run, and I think that enables students a level of ‘take it and make it yours’.

That’s crucial for transitioning into work outside of WAAPA, where project management and collaborating with other people and departments is a skill everyone needs. The lecturers were awesome and many of them have become colleagues and great friends. A lot of them work in the industry so their knowledge is current and relative to the work that’s around.

CHRISTIAN PETERSON
WAAPA Sound graduate
Cirque du Soleil, Sound Engineer

Photo by Maxwell Batista
**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, the course 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**

WAAPA’s 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 range of areas within the field. Students develop their skills in the areas of sound production for theatre, concerts, music recording, film/tv and radio with their involvement in WAAPA performances, and also via theoretical and practical information given during classes.

WAAPA Sound graduates may find themselves mixing musical acts, creating sound designs for theatre, recording in sound studios, producing radio shows and adverts, recording dialogue on film sets and setting up sound installations for museums amongst many more opportunities.

**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, 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 — [ecu.edu.au/waapa](http://ecu.edu.au/waapa)
THERE IS WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, AND THERE IS WHERE YOU WANT TO GET TO. IN BETWEEN YOU NEED A BRIDGE. ECU IS THAT BRIDGE BETWEEN YOUR WORLD, AND THE WHOLE WORLD.

BECOME WORLD READY AT ECU.

ECU is committed to reconciliation and recognises and respects the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ communities, cultures and histories. ECU acknowledges and respects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the traditional custodians of the land. ECU acknowledges and respects its continuing association with Nyoongar people, the traditional custodians of the land upon which its campuses stand.

GREENING ECU: Edith Cowan University is committed to reducing the environmental impact associated with its operations by conducting its activities in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. This includes implementing strategies and technologies that minimise waste of resources and demonstrate environmentally sensitive development, innovation and continuous improvement.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of production. The information is subject to change from time to time and the University requests the right to add, vary or discontinue courses and impose limitations on enrolment in any course. The publication constitutes an expression of interest and is not to be taken as a firm offer or understanding. This publication is intended for Australian citizens and permanent residents only. Some information contained in this publication may not be applicable to international students.