The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts is recognised as Australia’s most prestigious and comprehensive of performing arts academies. WAAPA, part of Edith Cowan University, is conveniently located close to Perth’s CBD in Mount Lawley, an established inner city suburb close to restaurants, cafes, bars and cinemas.

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.

What we look for in our students

Besides talent and the commitment to learn and grow you will need courage, self-discipline, maturity, generosity and playfulness. We are deeply committed to your growth as an actor and in return we require a dedication to learning and a respect to fellow students and the art form.

The student experience

You can expect a year-long journey of self-discovery, your strengths, your blocks, your potential. Through the range of interrelated disciplines you will acquire the craft and technical skills, awareness and imagination to tune your instincts as an actor. Self-consciousness will diminish as your powers of observation, concentration and expression grow. Through the year-long training you will form solid working relationships with the diverse Aboriginal Performance ensemble and the wider, vibrant WAAPA community. Your power as a story teller will grow along with your sense of responsibility to our art and arts community. You will discover that the immense potential to create and tell stories together is far greater than you could ever achieve alone.

Pathways

The Certificate IV in Aboriginal Performance prepares the dedicated student 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 other high level acting and dance training courses at WAAPA, NIDA, NAISDA and VCA.

Admissions Information

If you are interested in pursuing a performance based career, have a passion for acting but never had the opportunity to explore this avenue, or simply want some high calibre practical training and experience to add to your skills, then contact the Aboriginal Performance Course Coordinator for further information on (61 8) 9370 6527.

This course is open to anyone of Australian Indigenous descent, 17 years of age and over. Nationwide applications are accepted.

No acting or performance experience is required. However, the course demands thirty hours per week in practical workshops thus a high level of self discipline and maturity is preferred.

Successful applicants may be eligible for Abstudy and Centrelink benefits.

Limited on-campus accommodation is available through ECU Student Housing, Mount Lawley campus.

For application details please visit the WAAPA website waapa.ecu.edu.au or contact the Aboriginal Performance Course Coordinator on (61 8) 9370 6527 or via email r.brayford@ecu.edu.au.

Certificate programs are offered under the Australian Quality Training Framework funded by the Western Australian Department of Education and Training.

waapa.ecu.edu.au