

# Careers in Performance, Production, Design & Creative Management

Actor  
Arts Manager  
Choreographer  
Composer  
Costume Maker

Dancer  
Designer  
Director  
Lighting Technician  
Musician

Music Teacher  
Performer  
Producer  
Sound Production  
Stage Manager



WAAIPA

Creative  
thinkers  
made here.

2026



# Shape the future

Creative thinking.  
It's essential for tackling challenges.  
Seizing opportunities.  
For today.  
But more importantly, tomorrow.  
Creativity is how we move forward.  
It sparks innovation.  
In every industry.  
And at ECU, it's at the core of  
everything we do.

**Creative thinkers  
made here.**

'Tchaikovsky Suite/Clara's Dream', VERGE Dance season (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.

At ECU, we recognise and respect the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' communities, cultures and histories.

We also acknowledge and respect the Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our campuses are located.



# ECU City opening in 2026



**ECU City represents the future of university education – a place where technology, industry and creativity meet to deliver the creative thinkers the world needs.**

Located at the heart of Perth's commercial, cultural and entertainment districts, ECU City will feature world-leading performance spaces, dance, music and theatre rehearsal spaces, workshops for stage production and design, and more.

ECU City will open to students from semester one, 2026.



Find out more –  
[ecu.edu.au/degrees/ecu-city](https://ecu.edu.au/degrees/ecu-city)

# Why study at ECU?

There are so many good reasons to choose ECU for study.  
Here are some of the better ones.



## Get career ready while you study

During your studies, we'll help you build your personal brand to prepare you for a new career.



## Become a creative thinker

Creative thinking is a skill that's highly valued by employers and we'll help you make it your superpower.



## Travel overseas as part of your studies

In lots of courses, you'll have opportunities like study exchanges with other unis, study tours and more.



## Experience 5-star teaching and student support

Your lecturers and tutors will help you get the best out of yourself and will introduce you to new networks and possible employers.



## Know you'll be supported

We'll help you adjust to your new life as a student, whatever your study or personal challenges.



## Build your own degree

For many courses, you can choose major subjects and electives to tailor your studies to your passions.



## Get practical experience outside the classroom

You'll quickly turn theory into practice with work experience opportunities like internships, practicums and more.



## Apply for a scholarship

Our scholarships are awarded to students from all kinds of backgrounds and for all kinds of reasons. It's not just the academically brilliant ones. This includes people who've had a challenging life without the same opportunities as others. A scholarship can help you realise your ambitions by paying for fees, textbooks and living expenses.



## Industry partnerships open doors to you

Exciting internship or prac placements through our partnerships with IBM, West Coast Eagles, state-wide schools, hospitals and more.



Find out more —  
[ecu.edu.au/scholarships](https://ecu.edu.au/scholarships)

## Top rated university



**World University  
Rankings  
Young  
2024 TOP 100**

Ranked in the world's top 100 universities under 50 years old.



**QILT**

Quality Indicators for  
Learning and Teaching

The top public university in Australia for undergraduate overall experience.



Rated 5 stars for undergraduate teaching quality for 18 straight years in a row.



# Start your career

It's not unusual for uni students to be unsure about careers or what course to study. Here are some ways to help you decide what to study.

## Try our 5-minute Career Finder quiz

This quiz might surprise you with a suggested career direction and courses that take you there.



Take the quiz –  
[ecu.edu.au/study/career-finder](https://ecu.edu.au/study/career-finder)



## Check out our study areas

Our eight study areas cover courses that lead to different careers and industries.



Find out more –  
[ecu.edu.au/degrees/study-areas](https://ecu.edu.au/degrees/study-areas)



## Parents' guide to university study

Whether your child is the first in the family to go to university or you've been here before, this little guide will help you understand some of the mysteries of higher education.



Download the guide –  
[ecu.edu.au/industry/career-counsellor-resources](https://ecu.edu.au/industry/career-counsellor-resources)



# Come to an event

Visit one of our campuses and attend an Open Day or information session.



Find out more –  
[ecu.edu.au/events](https://ecu.edu.au/events)



# Life as a student

**It doesn't matter if you've just left high school or you haven't been a student for a few years, study at uni is a whole new world.**

The good news is, no matter what your study challenges, we're ready to help you succeed.

## Adjusting to study whatever your situation

At ECU, we'll support you through your studies whatever your personal circumstances.

Our Access and Inclusion team will work with you to identify reasonable adjustments to your study and uni life.

This includes if you have a medical condition or disability or have responsibilities for caring for a family member in a similar situation. It might also include ensuring you can continue to observe any cultural or religious practices.

## Adjusting to academic life

Learning at university can be a bit daunting to begin with, but we've got you covered whatever help you need.

That includes help with preparing assignments, help with researching or referencing, help with online study and loads more. You can even get a peer leader in your first semester!

## Free counselling service

If you need to discuss any personal issues that may be affecting your ability to study, we have a free, professional and confidential counselling service.

## Career advice and job skills

You can get support and resources to help you plan your future career, as well as find work or volunteering experience while you're a student.

This includes career-based workshops, industry events, one-to-one career advice and more.

## Student health services

All ECU campuses have health centres with doctors (GPs), nurses and allied health services to assist you if you need them.

## Sport and fitness

Staying active can help sharpen your mind and reduce the stress of assignments and exams.

ECU has fantastic sport and fitness facilities, designed to support your health and wellbeing. You can also join group fitness classes tailored for everyone, or drop into fun social sports and competitive representative events.

## Childcare for parents

If you're a student with children, our campuses provide short term care (Crèche) and long term care (Day Care) at select locations.

## Wellbeing and mental health

The Living Room is a safe and inclusive space where you can drop in to have a relaxed chat with a trained peer who understands the journey you are going on as a student.



## Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

If that's your background and you'd like assistance with choosing a university entry pathway, please let us know.

Our team at the Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research, called Kurongkurl Katitjin, can also help you better understand and adapt to university life.

And we provide services on campus like:

- Nala Karla Student Rooms and facilities
- Tutorial Assistance
- Elder-in-Residence Program



Find out more –  
[ecu.edu.au/indigenous](https://ecu.edu.au/indigenous)



# Travel overseas while you study

**University study is way more than lectures, reading and assignments. As a student, you might also have opportunities to travel overseas as part of your studies, where you can immerse yourself in a new culture and develop lasting friendships.**

Not only will this look good on your résumé, but it's also an excellent opportunity for you to challenge yourself and broaden your horizons.

## Student exchange

This is a program where you apply to study units related to your university course for one or two semesters in another country.

ECU has partnerships with 90 institutions in 35 countries around the world, so there's plenty to choose from.

## Go on a study tour

Overseas study tours are possible during your time at ECU, and they usually run for one to two weeks.

You'll join a group of classmates and learn in another country, while developing your cultural communication skills. And having fun!





## Executive Dean Message

**It's exciting times at WAAPA as we prepare to move into ECU's brand-new city campus, ready for students in semester one, 2026.**

If you'd like to be among them, I invite you to use this guide to find the perfect course to match your passions and aspirations. Applying to study at WAAPA is highly competitive but if you're successful, you'll join us as we embark on a whole new chapter of performing arts training in the heart of Perth.

WAAPA's new home will be one of the most dynamic, innovative and technologically advanced university campuses in the Southern Hemisphere, featuring six world-class venues for WAAPA's 300-plus public performances a year.

Our physical environment might be changing, but WAAPA's exceptional training will remain the same.

You'll be allowed to experiment, learn and grow in a culture that's welcoming and positive. With students from diverse creative disciplines working under one roof, you'll enjoy unparalleled opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration, forging lifelong friendships and artistic partnerships.

When you graduate, you'll be ready to join the thousands of WAAPA alumni who light up the world with their extraordinary gifts and creative ambitions.

So if you're passionate about pursuing a career in the performing arts, find your place at WAAPA, where artistry, creativity, self-expression and collaboration are encouraged and celebrated.

**Professor David Shirley**  
Executive Dean, WAAPA

# A bold new stage for WAAPA

A transformational philanthropic partnership between ECU and Minderoo Foundation will support WAAPA's new home at the state-of-the-art ECU City. The partnership supports the cutting-edge design and technology fit-out for the performance and learning spaces where students will hone their craft.

The partnership also establishes a new Premier Visiting Artists Fund to attract globally renowned artists to WAAPA to deliver an intensive program of teaching and performance excellence for students.

When the flagship new ECU City campus opens in semester one, 2026, students will learn, create and perform in exceptional facilities led by the world's best talent.

The \$853 million ECU City is the centrepiece of the Perth City Deal – a collaboration between the Australian Government, the Western Australian Government, and ECU to deliver Perth's first fully comprehensive, inner-city university campus.



Discover more at –  
[ecu.edu.au/degrees/ecu-city](https://ecu.edu.au/degrees/ecu-city)



Image: Playhouse Theatre at ECU City



# Graduate Highlights

## Grammy nomination for Carmel Dean

For her work as music supervisor/arranger on *The Notebook*, which opened on Broadway in 2024, WAAPA Bachelor of Music graduate Carmel Dean was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album. In addition, the New-York based composer and music director's original musical, *Well-Behaved Women*, was performed last year at Sydney's Belvoir St Theatre.

## Graduates tipped as rising stars

Brilliant news for graduates Grace Chow (Performing Arts) and Megan Wilding (Aboriginal Performance and Acting), who were both named in the 2024 Casting Guild of Australia's (CGA) list of Rising Stars. They were part of a select group of only 10 young actors who CGA chose as having the potential to break out on the world stage.



## A bumper year for Sam Corlett

Widely regarded as one of Australia's most promising young actors, Sam Corlett had a bumper 2024, appearing in the independent Australian film *He Ain't Heavy*, and the major Netflix series *Territory*. The 2018 WAAPA graduate, who made his mark internationally in Netflix's *Vikings: Valhalla* and *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, will next be seen in Kevin Costner's surf thriller, *Headhunters*.

## Conductor inducted into WA Women's Hall of Fame

On International Women's Day 2024, conductor Jessica Gethin was inducted into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame. Jessica, who is Head of Orchestral Studies and Conducting at WAAPA, was recognised for her contributions to music and advocacy for women in the arts.

## WAAPA grads bring Bluey to life

Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA) alumni Henry O'Brien and Julia Landberg are touring internationally as puppeteers in *Bluey's Big Play*, a theatrical adaptation of the beloved Australian cartoon. "The BPA has set me up for success. I'm grateful for the training that has allowed me to seize these opportunities," says O'Brien.



## Musician Gemma Farrell scores top awards

At the 2024 Australian Women in Music Awards, jazz saxophonist and composer Gemma Farrell won the Warner Music Australia Humanitarian Award for her significant contribution in assisting female, non-binary or gender non-conforming artists working in regional communities. Gemma, a Jazz lecturer and PhD candidate at WAAPA, also won the WA State Luminary Award at the 2024 APRA AMCOS Art Music Awards.



# Performing Arts Courses

**See yourself on the stage? Why not build on your creative skills at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, one of the world's leading performing arts academies.**

WAAPA is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of its acting, dance, music theatre and music graduates.

In this part of our guide, you'll find Cert IV courses, diplomas, advanced diplomas and degrees that can lead you into careers in the performing arts.



'Beautiful Burnout' (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.



Course 10908NAT

## Certificate IV in Aboriginal Performance

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

This course prepares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to enter the performing arts industry as a theatre, film and television actor. On successful completion, you will have integrated acting, dance and singing into a rounded performance skill. Graduates will also have knowledge of indigenous culture in relation to contemporary performance and the skills required to audition for roles in theatre, film and television.

### Career Opportunities

You can pursue opportunities in the entertainment industry as an actor, performer or entertainer, or consider further studies in courses like the Diploma of Screen Performance, a Bachelor of Performing Arts or a Bachelor of Arts (Acting).



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C84](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/C84)



'Black Medea' (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.

## Acting Studies

Course 10875NAT

# Diploma of Screen Performance

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

If you aspire to being a TV or film actor, this could be the starting point. This nationally accredited course prepares performers with a range of knowledge and skills to enter the performing arts industry as a screen performance actor for roles in television and film productions. Students train in skills including acting techniques, improvisation, movement, auditioning and self-testing. On successful completion of the course, you will understand the pre-professional skills necessary to successfully audition and perform for the screen.

### Career Opportunities

Graduates may choose to audition for higher level qualifications or audition for roles in industry. Recent alumni have worked in national and international film and drama series.



Course 10995NAT

# Diploma of Acting

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

This course will prepare you 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, you 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.

### Career Opportunities

Graduates from this course may seek ongoing study in Advanced Diploma or higher-degree courses, such as a Bachelor of Performing Arts or Bachelor of Arts (Acting), or move directly into the performing arts industry.



→ See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C75](http://ecu.edu.au/courses/C75)



→ See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C85](http://ecu.edu.au/courses/C85)



Advanced Diploma of Production students.  
Photo by Jay Cullen.





Course 11155NAT

## Advanced Diploma of Performance (Acting)

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

This course prepares you with a range of knowledge and skills to enter the performing arts industry as an actor for roles in theatre and film productions, and television work. On successful completion of the course, you will have further integrated acting, voice, movement, and industry practice into a tangible performance skill. You will develop an embodied understanding of advanced acting technique in both screen and stage performance contexts. Students develop their audition techniques to help them successfully navigate the competitive performing arts industry. Graduates of this course will be able to contribute in productions as both interpretative actors and generators of their own work.

### Career Opportunities

Actor, Entertainer, Performer, Theatre Actor or Film Actor. Graduates from this course may seek ongoing study in Bachelor-level courses or move directly into the performing arts industry. You might also want to consider and audition for further study, such as a Bachelor of Performing Arts or a Bachelor of Arts (Acting).



→ See more course information – [ecu.edu.au/courses/C86](http://ecu.edu.au/courses/C86)



## Bachelor of Arts (Acting)

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 3 years

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

WAAPA's Bachelor of Arts (Acting) degree is a three-year rigorous conservatoire program that will open the mind and ignite the imagination. Centred on the development of the self-determined contemporary actor, we graduate actors who are confident, resilient, and prepared for a career in theatre, television, and film both nationally and internationally.

The program offers a full-time, studio-based, learning environment, where you are encouraged to develop holistically through the integrated practice of acting, voice and movement in theatre and screen. Guided by a philosophy of discovery, application, and embodiment, the program is delivered in an inclusive and diverse environment that celebrates the unique perspective of each student.

In this rigorous skills-based actor training, local, national, and international visiting artists work with staff to simulate real-life industry programs and productions. The Bachelor of Arts (Acting) has an international reputation for excellence evidenced by the success of its graduates for over 40 years.

### Career Opportunities

As a WAAPA acting graduate, you'll find employment across a range of media, including theatre, commercials, main stage, independent, children's theatre, community, comedy festivals, film, television, radio, writing, producing, casting, marketing, and many more.

→ See more course information – [ecu.edu.au/courses/Y93](http://ecu.edu.au/courses/Y93)



"Macbeth" 2024.  
Photo by Stephen Heath



According to actor and producer Emily De Margheriti you need to be versatile and able to do many things. Above all, you need tenacity to make it in such a challenging and constantly changing industry.



Read More



'The murmuration of lost birds' (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath

## Performance Making Studies

# Bachelor of Performing Arts

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 3 years

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time, Part-time

### Overview

You will explore original, self-devised and collaborative approaches to researching, creating, producing and presenting contemporary arts practice. This course will provide you with coherent knowledge of the performing arts, combining theoretical and technical knowledge of performance and seeks to unlock limitations through practical inquiry. It also examines the ever-evolving nature of contemporary practice and new approaches to presentation and production.

You will develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Self-directed projects will develop your confidence in working independently and highly collaborative group work will develop your ability to work as part of a cohesive team. The third year offers you the opportunity to focus on a particular discipline or area of practice.

### Majors you can study in this course:

- Performance Making
- Performance Practice

### Career Opportunities

When you study this course you'll develop core performance, communication and management skills necessary to gain professional employment in the performing arts. That could be as a performer, musician, director, choreographer, designer, composer, sound designer, arranger, dramaturg or playwright.



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/Y97](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/Y97)





## Dance Studies

Course CUA51520

# Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance)

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

WAAPA offers a pathway for classical ballet students to progress their qualifications over three and a half years from Diploma to Advanced Diploma to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

This one-year, full-time course develops students' technical and creative skills in the discipline areas of ballet, pointe, pas de deux and solos, contemporary techniques, choreography, dance history, music for dance, anatomy, nutrition and fitness. The Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance) will provide you with intense technical training and develops artistic expression through practical experience, classes and performance opportunities.

**Note:** On completion of this course, students can continue their training in the CUA60120 - Advanced Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance).

### Career Opportunities

This course will provide you with foundational skills for the demands of work as an emerging young dance artist in Australian and overseas ballet and/or dance companies. It provides intense practical experience, where you'll develop a strong technique and artistry through classes and performance opportunities.



→ See more course information – [ecu.edu.au/courses/C78](http://ecu.edu.au/courses/C78)



Course CUA60120

# Advanced Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance)

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

WAAPA offers a pathway that allows classical ballet students to enhance their qualifications over three years from Diploma to Advanced Diploma to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

This course takes a holistic approach to the needs of the dancer of the future, building the skills required for lifelong sustainability in the dance profession. The course encourages dancers' individuality, confidence, flair and creativity. Students take classes in ballet, pointe, classical repertoire, contemporary techniques, choreography, performance, dance history, music, fitness and kinesiology.

Following completion of this course, it is possible to transfer to the Bachelor of Arts (Dance) for a third year of training that allows students to graduate with a Bachelor's degree.

### Career Opportunities

This course refines foundational skills developed in the Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance) to prepare you with advanced skills demanded of work as a dance artist in mainstream Australian and overseas ballet and/or dance companies. It provides intense practical experience, where you'll develop a strong technique and artistry through classes and performance opportunities.



→ See more course information – [ecu.edu.au/courses/C79](http://ecu.edu.au/courses/C79)



Dancer and choreographer Scott Elstermann, a WAAPA Dance graduate, has presented an original dance work at the prestigious Venice Biennale.

This latest accolade comes five years after Scott became the youngest person and first Australian to win the prestigious Pina Bausch Fellowship for Dance and Choreography.

# Bachelor of Arts (Dance)

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 3 years

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

## Overview

A challenging contemporary dance focused course where regular performance, intensive training and classroom practice are central to the philosophy of the program. The pursuit of physical excellence is paired with the nurturing of creativity, laying the foundations for the performer, choreographer and/or independent practitioner. The course provides an insight into dance as an art form, and as a social and educative experience, offering additional skills in communication, critical thinking, research and analysis.

Sustainability in relation to professional career pathways is emphasised through engagement with industry partners and exposure to diverse performance environments. Industry placement, short study tours and international exchange opportunities provide a local, national and international perspective.

## Work Experience

You will complete the Career Pathways unit as part of this course. It is a professional practice unit consisting of choreography, rehearsal, and performance, which aids in both the training and assessment of students in the dance program. Students are allowed two weeks (preferably one in each semester) to complete one or two placements. Placement hours for the Career Pathways units will usually vary between 10 and 30 hours, depending on how many hours the host organisation is able to offer.

## Career Opportunities

This course encourages you to pursue individual goals as an artist in contemporary dance or ballet, or as a choreographer, dance teacher, dance academic or researcher.



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/T73](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/T73)



'In The Closet' VERGE Dance season (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.



## Music Studies

Course CUA50820

# Diploma of Music

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

This nationally-recognised qualification is designed to prepare you for a wide range of careers in the music industry, giving you the knowledge and skills to become a performer, composer, song-writer, or music producer. As well as gaining essential theoretical knowledge, you will be assessed on your understanding of the specialised, technical and managerial competencies required to work in the music industry. You learn in a multi-disciplinary performing arts academy, and have access to hundreds of outstanding performances over the course of the year.

The course will be delivered at ECU City and is also available in Albany for students in the Great Southern area.

### Study Options:

- Classical
- Contemporary
- Creation and Composition
- Jazz
- Music Artist
- Music Production
- Singing for Music Theatre

### Career Opportunities

This course will suit you if you're looking to become a musician, singer and/or songwriter, or music producer and you're aiming to sustain a career in the music industry as a performance artist, composer, entertainer, sound recordist, sound designer or sound mixer. Or all of these!



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C82](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/C82)



Perceptions of not being able to make a living from music are understandable. But many successful professional musicians sustain portfolio careers that involve a range of activities, like performing, creating, teaching and business management.



Read More



Course CUA60520

# Advanced Diploma of Music

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

This nationally-recognised qualification represents a pathway for further study from the 'music artist' stream of the Diploma of Music. The course is centred on creative original music, songwriting, performance preparation, and collaboration. 'Music Artists' work on individual and group creative projects alongside studio recording and music production techniques.



### Career Opportunities

This course is ideally suited for the original musician, singer, songwriter aiming to sustain a career in the music industry as a performer, composer entertainer or music producer.



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C77](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/C77)



## Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

Secondary teachers are in high demand across Western Australia. This could be your time to shine, especially if you're passionate about music education and are keen to work with high school students.

This nationally accredited degree allows those passionate about music to become school teachers with a major in Music Education and a minor in Instrumental Music Education. The course is offered in partnership between the School of Education and WAAPA. Students may pursue their passion in either Classical, Jazz, or Contemporary Performance, Composition, or Music Studies.



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/Y68](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/Y68)



Jazz In The Theatre with Paul Grabowsky (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.



# Bachelor of Music

**Indicative ATAR:** 70

**Minimum Duration:** 4 years

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time, Part-time

## Overview

This degree provides you with the skills to succeed in the music industry. You can pursue highly specialist training in areas both inside and outside of your chosen major. With a focus on practical skills in classical, contemporary, jazz, composition and sonic arts, the course is taught by world class practitioners whose expertise spans the breadth of the music world today.

## Majors you can study:

- Classical Performance
- Composition and Sonic Arts
- Contemporary Performance
- Jazz Performance

## Performance Experience

This Bachelor of Music degree offers students a wealth of real-world performance opportunities in industry-leading venues. Students participate in large ensembles like symphony orchestras and big bands, as well as smaller bands or chamber ensembles. With access to cutting-edge technology, state of the art facilities, and an array of practical classes, students develop specialist skills while gaining access to a broad spectrum of musical training. The course also affords unique opportunities for students to undertake cross-disciplinary artistic collaboration, cultivate creative leadership, and develop a unique artistic voice.

## Career Opportunities

This course will provide you with lifelong transferable skills, meaning you'll be capable of pursuing employment in a wide range of professional industries. Think performer, musician, classical artist, jazz artist, contemporary artist, pop artist, music artist, composer, music educator, audio engineer, producer, programmer, arts administrator or researcher. You'll have employment opportunities throughout Australia and across the globe.



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/W76](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/W76)



"My time at ECU has been life-changing, both personally and musically. The collaborative environment at ECU has given me the opportunity to explore different styles, helping me develop a deeper understanding of Jazz and contemporary music."

**Miella Mondlane**  
Bachelor of Music graduate

Warana Music Prize (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.



Head Over Heels (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.

## Music Theatre studies

Course CUA50220

# Diploma of Musical Theatre

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

This nationally-recognised qualification reflects the role of performers working or aspiring to work in musical theatre and cabaret productions. You will develop skills in acting, singing and dancing, and the important integration of all three, through highly practical classes and production projects.

### Career Opportunities

By studying at WAAPA, you'll gain practical performance experience in a range of the performing arts, preparing you to work professionally in a wide range of theatre activity. This will provide you with the opportunity to start building a professional portfolio. You might also want to consider and audition for further study, such as a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre).



Australian  
Qualifications  
Framework



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C76](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/C76)



# Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre)

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 3 years

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

### Overview

This course provides you with technical training in singing, music skills, specific dance forms, improvisation, and acting, including acting for the camera. The course also provides the opportunity for student performers to acquire specialist skills such as the creation and production of self-devised material, arts management and musical skills such as accompanying.

### Career Opportunities

This course prepares you to work in the performing arts industry as an elite practitioner with skills and knowledge in music theatre. Your transferrable skills mean you could pursue work as an administrator, producer, director, choreographer, writer, as well as perform in other media including film and television, radio, broadcasting, commercials and promotional work.



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/G44](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/G44)



# Production, Design and Creative Management Courses

**When you watch a performance, it's easy to think that all the creativity is happening on stage. But it takes a lot of creative thinking and skill behind the scenes to make the show come together. In these courses, you'll really use your imagination to bring lots of performances to life.**

## Arts Management studies

### Bachelor of Arts (Arts & Cultural Management)

**Indicative ATAR:** 70

**Minimum Duration:** 3 years

**Anticipated Location:** City, Online

**Study Mode:** Full-time, Part-time

#### Overview

This course prepares you to enter many branches of the arts and creative industries. These could include working in theatre companies, arts venues, dance companies, exhibitions, galleries, concerts, festivals, cultural organisations, as well as technology creation and gaming companies. You will develop professional knowledge and skills in arts and cultural management, marketing, finance and legal compliance, and at every stage of the course apply what you learn to industry practicums. The course has a strong focus on social and cultural sustainability, creativity and innovation, and emerging digital arts experiences. By engaging with corporate and community partners from diverse industry environments and workplaces, the course readies students for employment in a diverse range of positions within large and small companies, institutions and organisations, nationally and internationally.

#### Practicum

All students must complete the WIL units ADM1600 Introduction to the Arts and Creative Industries, ADM1610 Arts and Events Production and Presentation, ADM2600 Arts Organisations Management, ADM2615 Arts and Festivals Marketing, ADM3600 Applied Arts Law, ADM3610 Venue Operations Management and ADM3625 Arts Management Studio. There are attendance requirements for these practicums.

#### Career Opportunities

The course gives you many opportunities to engage with corporate and community partners from diverse industry environments and workplaces, ideal for building your network and possibly paving your way for future employment in a range of roles within large and small companies, institutions and organisations, both nationally and internationally. That might be as a General Manager, Arts Marketing Manager, Arts Finance Manager, Sponsorship Manager, Business Development Manager, Communications Manager, Venue Manager, Audience Development Manager, Program Manager, or Producer.



See more course information – [ecu.edu.au/courses/T74](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/T74)



WAAPA's Arts & Cultural Management training has a strong track record of successful employment outcomes for its graduates. You can find them in senior management and marketing positions at prestigious arts and entertainment organisations throughout the world.



[Read More](#)



Course CUA50420

# Diploma of Live Production and Technical Services

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

## Overview

In this course you'll be learning how to be a part of the entertainment industry in a role where you're not in the spotlight. So, if you're interested in set design, lighting, props, scenery, sound, stage management or another aspect of production, this is the course for you. And you'll develop your skills working on actual WAAPA productions – and there are lots of them each year – until you're ready to be a pro!

## Study Options:

- Production Arts
- Technical and Live Performance

**Note:** If you successfully complete this course, you can consider studying the CUA60220 – Advanced Diploma of Live Production and Management Services.

## Career Opportunities

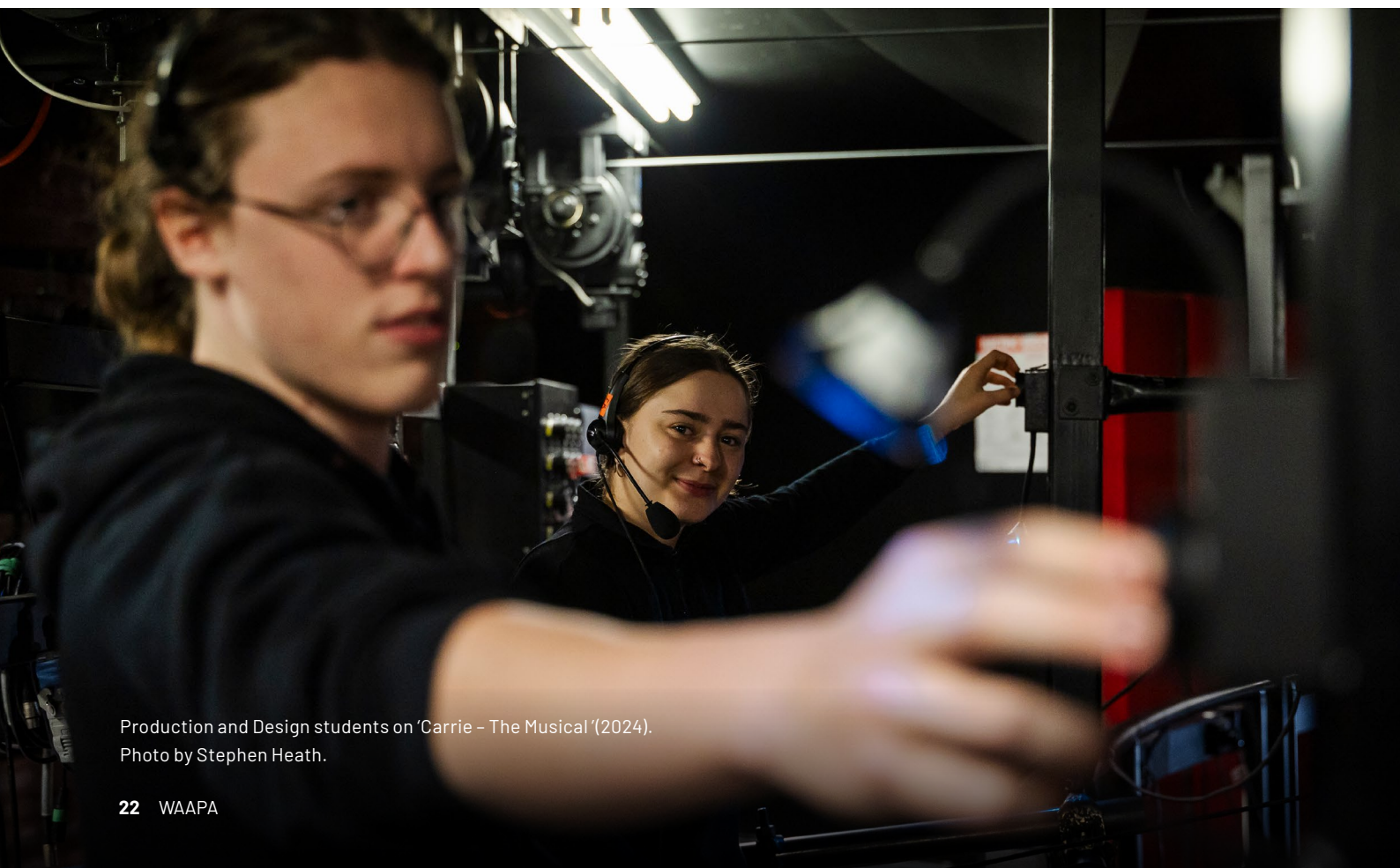
Depending on what you choose to specialise in, you'll have employment opportunities in the film, television, theatre, festival, performing arts and allied entertainment industries. Your possible future job could be as an assistant stage manager, costume/wardrobe designer, production electrician, sound assistant, scenic painter/carpenter, props maker or an assistant designer.



Australian  
Qualifications  
Framework



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C80](https://ecu.edu.au/courses/C80)



Production and Design students on 'Carrie – The Musical' (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.



Course CUA60220

# Advanced Diploma of Live Production and Management Services

**Indicative ATAR:** Not applicable

**Minimum Duration:** 1 year

**Anticipated Location:** City

**Study Mode:** Full-time

## Overview

This course develops the skills and knowledge acquired in the diploma, enhancing proficiency in a chosen technical area. Upon acceptance, you will have the opportunity to further refine your skills through hands-on experience with actual WAAPA productions. Additionally, you will have the option to specialise in one of the following study areas.

## Study Options:

- Costume
- Lighting
- Production Design
- Props and Scenery
- Sound Production
- Stage Management

**Note:** After successful completion of the Advanced Diploma, eligible students can articulate into the second year of the Bachelor of Performing Arts degree (Y97), where they will expand their portfolio by undertaking head of department roles in the design and delivery of WAAPA's public performance seasons.

## Career Opportunities

Depending on what you choose to specialise in, you'll have employment opportunities in the film, television, theatre, festival, performing arts and allied entertainment industries. Your possible future job could be as a scenic designer, costume designer, lighting designer, stage manager, production manager, set designer, wardrobe supervisor, scenic artist, workshop manager or an events coordinator.



See more course information –  
[ecu.edu.au/courses/C81](http://ecu.edu.au/courses/C81)



Workshop.  
Photo by Stephen Heath.

# Worldwide WAAPA Stars

Many WAAPA alumni have found global fame in their chosen disciplines. In fact, there are too many to list here. Every year, our new graduates begin the same journey these people have taken, prepared for some hard work, but also aiming for the stars.



**Jason Arrow**  
Music Theatre Performer



**Shalom Brune-Franklin**  
Actor



**Grace Chow**  
Actor, Writer



**Sam Corlett**  
Actor



**Virginia Gay**  
Actor, Writer, Director



**Jessica Gethin**  
Conductor



**Hugh Jackman**  
Actor, Singer, Producer



**Anna Laverty**  
Sound Engineer



**Amelia Lever-Davidson**  
Lighting Designer



**Tim Minchin**  
Musician, Actor, Writer



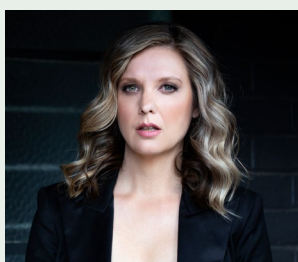
**Dacre Montgomery**  
Actor



**Linda May Han Oh**  
Jazz Bassist, Composer



**Eddie Perfect**  
Actor, Writer, Composer



**Vanessa Perica**  
Composer, Conductor



**Mark Coles Smith**  
Actor



**Hoa Xuande**  
Actor



# How to apply

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

All courses require you to complete an interview and/or audition, or submit a folio of work, as part of the application process.

Admission to programs at WAAPA also requires you to meet ECU's standard university admission requirements.

## **Application fees**

There is also a non-refundable application fee for many of the courses.

For latest information on application fees, visit: [waapa.ecu.edu.au/courses-and-admissions/fees-and-scholarships](http://waapa.ecu.edu.au/courses-and-admissions/fees-and-scholarships)

## **Interviews, auditions and folios**

For more specific information about interviews, auditions and folios, visit: [www.ecu.edu.au/future-students/course-entry/interviews-folios-and-auditions](http://www.ecu.edu.au/future-students/course-entry/interviews-folios-and-auditions)

If you'd rather talk to us about applying for courses, we'd love to hear from you. Call 134 328 or drop into your nearest ECU campus.

To start your application, go here: [ecu.edu.au/future-students/applying](http://ecu.edu.au/future-students/applying)

Note that applications for WAAPA courses (excluding the Bachelor of Music) are not accepted through ECU's Experience Based Entry Scheme.

## **RTO Provider**

RTO Provider 4756

# Honours and Postgraduate Studies

Following on from an undergraduate or Bachelor's qualification, there are many options for further study—enabling students to reach the highest levels of professional, artistic, and conceptual leadership. WAAPA is a leading centre for advanced studies in the performing arts and offers Honours degrees as well as Postgraduate (Masters and Doctorate) qualifications. WAAPA's postgraduate (higher degree by research) offerings have a particular emphasis on practice-led/artistic research, enabling candidates to continue to develop and innovate within their area of artistic practice. Current options for further study at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts include:

## **Honours**

Bachelor of Music Honours — an alternative fourth year in music.

Bachelor of Performing Arts Honours — a one-year course following on from undergraduate degrees, with streams in performance-making and dance.

## **Postgraduate**

Master of Arts (Performing Arts) — a two-year postgraduate degree.

Doctor of Philosophy — the culminating degree.



Head Over Heels' (2024).  
Photo by Stephen Heath.

# It all started with Edith Cowan

The Edith Cowan story holds a special place not just at ECU, but in Australian history.

She influenced the course of education in Australia, paving the way for many people to access education they could previously only dream of.

It's why we didn't just take Edith's name. We embraced everything she stood for.

Before she became the first woman elected to an Australian Parliament, everyone told her it would be a tough nut to crack. So she celebrated by giving her fellow members a gumnut brooch, known today as the 'tough nut'.

We love this story so much, we've included the gum leaf as part of our new logo. It is our pledge to carry on her beliefs and continue to transform the way we learn.



**Creative thinkers  
made here.**





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## 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.



## Disclaimer



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.









# Creative thinkers made here.



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RTO Code 4756

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