Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music

The Faculty of VCA and MCM is one of Australia’s leading institutions for education and training in the visual and performing arts, where creative people from a diverse range of cultures gain the skills, inspiration and confidence to thrive in a competitive environment.

The Faculty’s Southbank campus combines on one campus all of the facilities of seven disciplines and two centres dedicated to educating and training artists in the following art forms: visual art, dance, film and television, music, music theatre, production and theatre practice.

The Faculty enjoys wide recognition among the international arts community. It is a member of the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA); the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD); the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT); the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS) and is an international affiliate of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD).

Production

Production is characterised by agility, creative responses and thoroughness – the very skills and aptitudes its students need in creating the world of performance. Our graduates have careers in theatre, drama, dance, musical theatre and music, puppetry and in film and television. They are respected as creative and reliable event, company and production managers, and the designers, makers and technicians for sets, costumes, lighting and sound.

The courses fulfil the demanding needs of several changing industries. It is studio-based training, taught by practising artists and technicians who use their excellent professional connections and reputation to help graduates.

Course

Bachelor of Production (exchange)

The Bachelor of Production is a professionally orientated vocational course for those intending to work in a range of technical and creative areas in the performing arts. The course is practice-based and emphasises an understanding of contemporary performance and the creative processes involved.

Specialisations

Successful applicants can specialise in two of the following areas – stage management, lighting, sound, costume making/design and set props making/design. The core subject of second semester is production placement. Successful applicants are usually assigned to two placements on productions mounted within the Faculty. These are undertaken in collaboration with the disciplines of Dance, Music, Film and Television and Theatre Practice.

Subjects

Successful applicants normally enter into second year. However, this is determined upon examination of the applicant’s folio and academic record. It is recommended that exchange students enrol in the second semester of the academic year as the studio-based training is greatly enhanced by the larger number of projects conducted in that semester.

The normal enrolment in the first semester is worth 31.25 credit points (50 credit points is a full-time load) therefore exchange students who attend in first semester need to enrol in additional subjects to a value of 18.75 credit points. These subjects can be chosen from the Centre for Ideas program or from other University of Melbourne faculties.

Further information is available at https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au
Below is an example of a typical second year course:

**First semester**
- THTR20014 Production Placement 2A
- THTR 20017 Performance Project
- THTR20015 Production Skills 2A (students elect 2 from:)
  - Stage Management
  - Lighting
  - Sound
  - Design (Costume and Set)
  - Workshop (Set and Props)
  - Costume
- MULT20004 The World in the Artist 2A

**Second semester**
- THTR20018 Production Placement 2B
- THTR20016 Production Skills 2B (students choose 1 from:)
  - Stage Management
  - Lighting
  - Sound
  - Design (Costume and Set)
  - Workshop (Set and Props)
  - Costume
- MULT20005 The World in the Artist 2B

Contact hours per week
The Production Exchange course has an average of 14 contact hours and 26 self-directed study hours per week.

Course Duration
12 weeks per semester

Tuition Fees
Tuition fees are covered under the Exchange agreement between the University of Melbourne and your home institution.

Material Costs
Successful applicants are expected to meet the costs of a personal toolkit, design/drawing equipment, appropriate clothing and other personal items necessary for the course. It is recommended that at least AUD$500 be added to the successful applicant’s budget for these and other materials.

Course Enquiries
Email: vcam-international@unimelb.edu.au
Telephone: 61 3 9035 9469 (Monday-Friday 9.00am –4.00pm EST)
Fax: 61 3 9035 9358
Web: www.vcam.unimelb.edu.au/international

Application Instructions
1. Complete the online application process at:

2. Prepare a curriculum vitae that should include a brief history of your involvement in any performance activity (school plays, drama groups, music performance, etc.).

3. Obtain two letters of recommendation from teachers, directors etc.

4. Prepare a listing of any production skills or theatrical skills, however limited, that you feel you possess. This might include skills such as musical ability, drawing, acting, sewing, wood/metalwork, etc.

5. Prepare a handwritten statement (one A4 page single spaced, 500 words) describing: a) your reasons for wishing to follow a career in production within your selected major and b) your short and long term career goals

6. Send your curriculum vitae, letters of recommendation, list of skills and handwritten statement to:
7. The selection process includes an interview for selected applicants. Once we have assessed your initial application, we may wish to interview you. Applicants must nominate a major area of study and will be interviewed by a panel of staff from that major. They will determine whether you will progress to the workshop stage of the selection process. (Refer below)

As part of the interview, applicants are required to familiarise themselves with one of the following plays/musicals:

- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- Chicago by John Kander, Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse
- Ruby Moon by Matt Cameron
- Swan Lake (no author nominated)

Applicants will be invited to address the following tasks, in preparation for, and during the interview:

**Lighting and/or Sound elective**
- Find all references to lighting/audio and projection in the script of your chosen play/musical/dance
- Be prepared to discuss your personal description of any lighting/audio and projection ideas to support and enhance the play/musical/dance
- Create a cue synopsis for 2 scenes including all lighting/audio and projection cues. When, why and what effects you would like to create
- You can support the above with relevant images and technical drawings such as a rough plot

**Stage Management elective**
- Create an extraction list of all the items required in the play/musical/dance from reading the script. i.e. props, main set items (e.g. piano or stairs), lighting effects, sound effects, costume details
- Identify 5 items that would require discussing with the designer and director and why (looking for items that are significant to the management of the production)
- You can support the above with relevant images and technical drawings

**Costume, Workshop and/or Design elective**
- Select and make an element of the design concept for your choice of play/musical/dance. This could be a costume, a scene (a scale model) or a prop. This needs to be then placed within the design context and discussed in detail. You can support the above with relevant images and technical drawings.
- A folio of examples of your past and current work, including the processes of how the final product was created

Applicants will also be required to talk more generally about their reasons for their application to this course. Interviews for inbound exchange and study abroad applicants are conducted by Skype or telephone by mutually convenient appointment. Applicants will be notified by email of when this will occur.
Financial Aid for USA Students
The University of Melbourne is able to accept USA students who are recipients of USA Federal Aid Student Loans. Applicants are required to state the University of Melbourne’s school code when applying for a loan. The school code for the University of Melbourne is G08505.

Transport
The Faculty’s Southbank campus is located along St Kilda Road and is 20 minutes from the airport by taxi. In addition, Melbourne has an excellent public transport system with trams, buses and trains running everyday throughout the city.

Accommodation
The University of Melbourne offers a housing service to Study Abroad and Exchange students. Information about the accommodation options available, as well as the on-line application form, is available at:  
http://cms.unimelb.edu.au/studentservices/international/saex/longterm#housingpackages

Work
Part time work is possible for exchange students, although there will be restrictions on where and the amount of hours students are allowed to work.

Melbourne: the Arts Capital of Australia
The Southbank campus is located in the thriving arts precinct in Melbourne which is home to the Australian Ballet, Playbox Theatre Company, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, the Chunky Move Dance Company, the ABC Studios, the State Theatre, Hamer Concert Hall and the National Gallery of Victoria.

This vibrant cultural city is the home of the annual Melbourne International Arts Festival, the Melbourne Fringe Festival, the Melbourne Comedy Festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival – one of the longest running – and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition.

The Economist Intelligence Unit has twice rated Melbourne the most liveable city in the world. The survey ranks 130 cities against factors such as health and safety, infrastructure, culture and environment (Economist Intelligence Unit, London, 2004).

Melbourne has a population of approximately 3.52 million people. Languages most commonly spoken in Australia are English, Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin. Collectively, Australians speak over 200 languages, including 45 indigenous languages (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Year Book Australia 2004).

Due to its multicultural influences, Melbourne is home to some truly diverse food representing the multitude of ethnic groups in Australia with various restaurants and eateries to cater for every taste and budget.