

POLICY TITLE: Master of Arts Photography
Application, Selection and
Admission
(Domestic and International)

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline Photography Studies College (Melbourne)'s approach to domestic and international graduate student application and admissions through its entrance requirements and course specific requirements.

Policy

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) is committed to ensuring a balance is met between upholding the principles of fairness, equal benefits, opportunity and student merit, when admitting students. The College will ensure that all prospective and admitted domestic/international students are made aware of the requirements and obligations of applying and being admitted as a graduate student to Photography Studies College (Melbourne).

Procedures

The Master of Arts (MA) Photography welcomes prospective students representing a wide range of ages and life experiences, educational and working backgrounds, cultural roots and nationalities.

Prior to Application for the MA Photography Course

The College welcomes discussion with prospective students regarding the appropriateness of initial proposals and encourages them to take every opportunity to make contact in advance of application.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and/or Credit Transfer (CT)

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) does not expect students to repeat learning that has been successfully completed at a similar level and standard elsewhere, where that learning or experience is substantially the same in content and standard as that required for the student's course at Photography Studies College (Melbourne). Two types of learning may be recognised to enable students to gain entry into a course of study or gain credit towards their current course at Photography Studies College (Melbourne), these are:

- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- Credit Transfer

Details of the policy and procedures relating to RPL and Credit Transfer applications for the Master of Arts Photography are contained in the *RPL and Credit Transfer Policy* and the *Application for Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure (Master of Arts Photography)*.

Prior to application the Higher Education Course Director/Course Convenor will outline the required evidence and support material for RPL applications.

Application for the MA Photography Course

Prospective students are required to complete a *Master of Arts Photography Application Form*.

This must be accompanied by:

- a submission of selected 20 to 30 images of their work, evidencing current creative practice/s
- a project proposal of up to 500 words
- a personal statement (100 words)
- a professional experience statement
- a resume/CV.

An application should be accompanied by:

- two references - one should be academic and one should be professional
- an original transcript of results
- certified copies of testamur/s.

The application, indicative project proposal and supporting material will be assessed for:

- the quality of the prospective student's practice
- the appropriateness of the prospective student 's skills, experience and practice
- effective communication of intentions, purposes and issues
- the level of contextual/professional/industry awareness
- the potential for realisation of stated objectives within the timeframe of the course
- evidence that the prospective student has the confidence and ability to benefit from and contribute to the learning environment at Graduate level.

Applications should be directed to:

Higher Education Course Director
MA Photography
Photography Studies College
65 City Rd, Southbank
Melbourne 3006

Admission for the MA Photography Course

Applicants who can demonstrate they have achieved a suitable educational level of attainment (AQF Level 8) will be considered for admission into the course.

This may be demonstrated by:

- a. possession of Bachelor with Honours Degree or an equivalent academic qualification (AQF Level 8).

- b. a combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning/professional experience which, taken together, can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.*
- c. possession of qualification recognised as equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.*
- d. prior experiential learning/professional experience, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.*

*These applicants (b, c, d) will need to apply for 'Recognition of Prior Learning' (RPL) to assess their experiential learning/professional standing and ability to undertake studies at this level. The Master of Arts Photography program is an AQF Level 9 qualification. Applicants for RPL for entry should reference the AQF specifications for AQF Level 8 (Bachelor Honours Degree/Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma).

See *Application for Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure (Master of Arts Photography)*.

Additional Admission Requirements for International Students

In addition, for admission to the MA Photography course, international students must satisfy additional course entrance requirements:

- PSC accepts a range of English language examination methods as evidence of English language proficiency. Prospective students must provide evidence that they have achieved one of the following levels of English language proficiency.
 - International Language Testing System (IELTS): minimum overall score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0
 - TOEFL Internet: a minimum overall score of 79 – minimum writing score of 21
 - Pearson Test of English (PTE): minimum overall score of 58 with no score lower than 50
 - University of Cambridge – Advanced (CAE): minimum overall score of 175
- evidence of ability to pay the tuition fees, overseas student health cover cost, equipment requirement costs, other course material costs and living expenses.

Selection for the MA Photography Course

Selection is based on satisfying the requirements of the *MA Application Form* and the Admission criteria (as described above).

Applicants selected into the course will be required to attend an interview to demonstrate the following:

- a thoughtful and responsible approach to practice
- the capacity for independent research/professional practice
- appropriate critical and reflective abilities
- an awareness of the cultural and social context within which they practice
- appropriate communication skills

- a preparedness to participate collaboratively in debate, practice and presentation

The interview determines whether the personal and professional aspirations of the applicant are compatible with the aims and outcomes of the course. It also provides the opportunity for the applicant to demonstrate an objective, critical and reflective relationship to their work.

Although it is not essential that international applicants attend a face-to-face interview, the Higher Education Course Director will need to discuss the application by telephone or video conferencing.

Selection is conducted by two members of staff (normally the Higher Education Course Director and one other member of staff). Applicants who have successfully met the course entrance requirements and the selection criteria will be advised in writing with a Letter of Offer from Photography Studies College (Melbourne).

The selection procedures for the course adhere to the *Fair Treatment and Equal Benefits and Opportunity Policy*

Enrolment

Successful applicants are required to complete the Photography Studies College (Melbourne) Enrolment Form and pay the relevant tuition fees.

International students will need to also pay the Overseas Student Health Cover payment. Once these payments are received and confirmed an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) will be issued. This Confirmation of Enrolment must be taken to the nearest diplomatic mission, as stated on the eCoE certificate, along with the other student Visa requirements.

Responsibility

Higher Education Course Director
Master of Arts Photography Course Convenor
Academic Staff
Future Students and Communications Officer

Definitions

Nil

Related Documentation

Policies

Fair Treatment and Equal Benefits and Opportunity
RPL and Credit Transfer

Procedures Forms & Documents

Master of Arts Photography Application Form
Application for Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure (Master of Arts
Photography)
Master of Arts Photography Tuition Fee Schedule
Master of Arts Photography Student Handbook

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Julie Moss - Managing Director

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