

MASTERS IN SOUND DESIGN (BY RESEARCH)

1. Proposal

The Masters in Sound Design by research will provide an opportunity for advanced study and research in the area of sound design in performance, or other, art forms in Australia.

There are currently no similar courses being offered in Australia and few are offered internationally. Students who have completed the Graduate Diploma in Dramatic Arts (Sound Design) have expressed a strong desire to continue study in the area, and enquiries from graduates of other related courses regarding higher degree studies are often made.

2. Course/Program Objectives

- provide an opportunity for candidates to undertake advanced work in sound design for the performance arts in an environment where their artistic vision will be realised;
- extend the knowledge, creative and expressive skills, and collaborative abilities of the candidate;
- develop appropriate skills in the documentation, description and analysis of the sound design processes;
- enhance the development of sound design, with relevance to the contemporary age and the traditions of the art form;
- provide an environment where the practice and critical analysis of sound design exists at an advanced level; making a significant and innovative contribution to sound design practice.

3. Entry Requirements

Applicants will have completed a four year Honours, or equivalent degree in a cognate discipline, with a grade average of at least 70% (H2B).

Applicants must also submit a 1000 word outline of the area they wish to explore, showing the relevance of that area and demonstrating an advanced knowledge of the topic Sound Design.

4. Course structure and assessment

Semester one

- An 8000 word, or equivalent, research proposal, discussing the major research objectives, methodologies to be used, and projected outcomes of the study. The research proposal to be presented to peers and the School of Production research committee at a post graduate seminar. The proposal may consist of a written exegesis, a sound design(s) with an accompanying written commentary, software and/or hardware, with an accompanying written commentary, or other work deemed appropriate to the student's research by the supervisor and equivalent in work commitment to an 8000 word essay. 37.5 points

AND EITHER

- Directed study courses arranged in liaison with the course supervisor that provide theoretical and/or practical support for the major research project. These courses will be available through the Graduate Diploma in Sound Design stream. 12.5 points.

OR

- Fieldwork arranged in liaison with the course supervisor that provide practical experience relevant to the major research project. 12.5 points

A mark of at least 75% (H2A) in each of the above subjects is required for the student to continue to the major research project, these are hurdle subjects.

Semesters two and three

- The major research project:

Phase A: The sound design of a major public performance or series of performances, value 60% of total research project. This performance will be documented, and assessed by two appropriate experts in the field.

Phase B: A 10-15,000 word commentary, value 40% of total research project, to be developed concurrently with Phase A. The same two appropriate experts in the field will assess the commentary. 100 points

The Degree of Master of Sound will be conferred on students reaching a minimum mark of 65% (H3) in this subject. Admittance to the Master of Sound qualification will require a high level understanding of the contribution the study makes to the field of sound design demonstrated by the performance(s) and the written commentary. The sound designs must show a very high degree of professionalism in artistic quality, execution and documentation and the commentary must show a significant depth of knowledge of the subject sound design and the relationship of the students work to it. The commentary must be presented in clear and concise English prose. The final mark of the Masters will be provided as a letter grade with corresponding percentages.

5. Course availability

The course will be available fulltime (three semesters) or part time (six semesters). In the case of a part time student subjects will be taken over two semesters. This is appropriate as all tuition will be individual to the student.