



Undergraduate Creative and Performing Arts and Architecture Course Guide



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Acknowledgement of Country

Charles Darwin University acknowledges and pays respect to the Elders both past and present of all First Nations people upon whose lands CDU campuses and centres are located.



Fit learning around your lifestyle

Study your way with a leader in online learning

At CDU, you can fit your learning around your lifestyle. Choose to study online from anywhere in Australia, part-time or full-time, and complete your placements close to home.

How online study works



Whether you study online or on campus, you will have access to our online learning platform, Learnline.



Take part in interactive lectures and group discussions live, or download recordings and resources to access later.



You'll have 24/7 access to your own study-specific tutoring service and round-the-clock technical support via email.



Access your laptop, desktop or mobile device and upload assignments from anywhere.



Meet other students and have lots of opportunities to make friends.



“

“I loved experimenting with new ideas and mediums as a digital artist during my study at CDU. Through guidance from my lecturers, I was always motivated to continuously move out of my comfort zone.”

Skye, Bachelor of Arts Honours

Study Creative and Performing Arts and Architecture at CDU

Engage your imagination through creative expression with fields as diverse as architectural design, screen media and the performing and visual arts.

The Bachelor of Creative Arts develops and nurtures your talents, giving you the skills to create, perform, and present creative works and build a sustainable career in the ever-changing creative industries. Meanwhile, the Bachelor of Architectural Design centres around design studio expertise, with emphasis on tropical, desert and temperate climate architectural design.



#2 in Australia for creative arts starting salary.[^]



Join the CDU Academy of the Arts to study creative, visual, performing and screen arts.



Gain valuable experience and build on strengths and skills via studio practice units.



Study online, on campus, part or full-time. Choose what suits you.

Find your course online for the latest admissions requirements and course details: cdu.edu.au/study/creative-arts-design

[^]Good Universities Guide 2025

Bachelor of Architectural Design

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 3 years full-time, 6 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Bachelor of Architectural Design emphasises the design studio as central to the curriculum with supporting history and theory, communication, materials and construction and environmental design units.

The course is structured to develop theoretical knowledge, design proficiency, and communication techniques applicable to architecture and the built environment, including the practical skills of computer-aided design for the preparation of architectural design and documentation drawings.

Each semester builds on the knowledge and skills gained in the previous semester and is applied to projects of increasing complexity across the three years. There is particular emphasis placed on the environmental design for architecture in tropical, desert and temperate climates.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This course develops your knowledge and skills for the role of building designer and technician in the architecture, design and construction industries. Other opportunities include further study leading to a Master of Architecture degree and registration as an architect.

Bachelor of Creative Arts

 **LOCATION** – Casuarina, Online

 **DURATION** – 3 years full-time, 6 years part-time

 **DOMESTIC INTAKE** – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Bachelor of Creative Arts provides an innovative and comprehensive program in contemporary creative arts. This course offers a transformative learning experience in making, performing, and presenting creative work, leading to careers in the sector's creative, managerial, and leadership roles.

The course is designed to support students in developing their unique creative voice through studio practice units with guidance from experienced teachers who are creative professionals. Students collaborate with each other and connect with the creative sector in the context of discovering their creative potential.

The Bachelor of Creative Arts is delivered from an Australian perspective through internal and external delivery to ensure maximum flexibility for learning, with the opportunity to study online, depending on the choice of units and major. Optional field trips in the Northern Territory are available to connect students to On-Country arts learning. Students will be inspired by northern Australia's spectacular landscapes and diverse cultures to reflect on and develop their own creative practice.

Students choose to major in one of the following creative disciplines:

- > **Music:** Shape your passion for music and sound into a sustainable career by majoring in Music through CDU's Bachelor of Creative Arts. This innovative and comprehensive contemporary arts program develops knowledge and skills in music performance and theory, technology and production, music history and culture.

Specialise in an instrument or composition through studio practice, performance and recording projects, leading to a professional portfolio and showcase presentations.

- > **Screen Media Arts:** Develop the confidence to tell the stories of your time on screen by majoring in Screen Media Arts through CDU's Bachelor of Creative Arts. This innovative and comprehensive contemporary arts program introduces essential knowledge of screen culture and skills in storytelling, cinematography, editing, and visual and audio communications. Specialise in your preferred area of screen media arts through studio practice and projects, leading to a professional portfolio and showcase presentations.
- > **Visual Arts:** Realise your creative practice by majoring in Visual Arts through CDU's Bachelor of Creative Arts. This innovative and comprehensive contemporary arts program explores materials, processes, and techniques fundamental to a rich, independent studio practice. Craft your ideas, knowledge and skills through project-based learning and exhibition opportunities, leading to a professional portfolio and showcase presentations.

Students can study part-time or full-time, online, on campus, or a combination of both.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Bachelor of Creative Arts offers an innovative and comprehensive program in contemporary creative arts, leading to careers in music, performing arts and festivals, storytelling and creative writing, screen and digital media, design and the visual arts and contemporary Indigenous arts and production management and leadership roles across the creative industries.

Students will be supported in developing their own unique creative practice. The course enables students to focus on practice-based arts projects that develop skills in working independently and collaboratively. The course is distinct in its perspective, responding to local and global industry and professional pathway opportunities through community-based projects and industry work-placement opportunities unique to the northern region of Australia. The students' journey through this program will also develop core transferable skills in communication, collaboration and critical and creative thinking to prepare them to participate in multidisciplinary areas of the creative arts workforce locally and globally.

The Bachelor of Creative Arts is ideal for anyone who wants to develop their creativity as a life-long investment, leading to options for rewarding careers as an independent creative practitioner or in the creative industry sectors. Graduates will find work in galleries and museums, screen and media production, entertainment and music, festivals and performing arts as well as in applied arts contexts such as education, health and government. The bachelor's degree provides a pathway into further study at postgraduate level for those wishing to pursue research and/or creative practice as research. It also supports previous study inclusions through recognition of TAFE/vocational programs.

Diploma of Creative Arts

LOCATION – Casuarina, Online

DURATION – 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

DOMESTIC INTAKE – Semester 1, Semester 2

The Diploma of Creative Arts introduces students to ways of making, performing, and presenting creative work. The course is designed to help each student find and develop their unique creative voice with the support of experienced teachers who are creative professionals. Students collaborate with each other and connect with the Australian creative sector in the context of discovering their creative potential.

The Diploma of Creative Arts offers an introduction to contemporary creative arts, leading to further study or entry-level careers in the creative sector. The course provides foundational knowledge and learning experiences to develop students' playfulness and confidence in creative thinking and practices, their awareness of cultural, health, and safety issues relating to work in arts sectors, as well as critical thinking, research skills, and creative collaboration. Students choose to specialise in an arts discipline through studio practice units in one of the following:

- > Music
- > Screen Media Arts
- > Visual Arts

The Diploma of Creative Arts is delivered from an Australian perspective through in-person and online delivery, ensuring maximum learning flexibility. Optional field trips in the Northern Territory are embedded to connect students to the creative sector in the north of Australia.

The course is delivered full-time over one year or part-time over two years. The diploma provides a pathway into the Bachelor of Creative Arts for those who want to continue their studies, or it is a standalone program for those seeking an undergraduate qualification in a short duration.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Diploma of Creative Arts introduces students to contemporary creative arts from an Australian perspective, with the option to specialise in one discipline area. The program prepares graduates for further study or for entry-level careers in Australia's creative sector, whether working as a musician, performer, visual artist, filmmaker, creative writer, arts administrator, production assistant or crew for live events or screen productions. The program supports graduates to continue to learn through the arts. Students will be supported to recognise their own unique creative practice and how they might develop it.

The course requires students to develop skills in working independently and collaboratively. The course is distinct in its perspective, responding to creative sector activities that are unique to the northern region of Australia. The student's journey through this program will also develop core transferable skills in communication, collaboration and critical and creative thinking to prepare them to participate in multi-disciplinary areas of the creative arts workforce.

The Diploma of Creative Arts is ideal for anyone who wants to get started in the creative arts through a focussed, short-duration program so that they can decide whether to pursue further study or embark on a creative career. The diploma supports previous study inclusions through recognition of TAFE/vocational programs.



A woman with dark curly hair and a man with short dark hair are sitting at a wooden table. The woman is wearing a black and white patterned top and is smiling while looking at the man. The man is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and is also smiling. They appear to be in a casual setting, possibly a cafe or a meeting room, with a window and some papers visible in the background.

A place for you at CDU

Undergraduate

Entry requirements that recognise your achievements

Each university course has its own entry requirements – if you've achieved the required ATAR and meet the criteria you can apply directly into the course of your choice.

But perhaps you didn't ace Year 12, decided to start your career with a trade, parked your first degree to go travelling, or already have great professional experience in your industry.

We welcome and celebrate unique paths like these, which is why we offer a range of non-traditional, flexible entry requirements.

Postgraduate

Ready for the next step in your studies?

Postgraduate courses range from graduate certificates through to doctorates and can help you take the next step in your career. In most cases, you will need to have completed an undergraduate degree to apply for a postgraduate course. In some cases, consideration can be given to non-graduates who have relevant professional experience. For some courses, other criteria such as an interview, curriculum vitae (CV), audition or portfolio submission apply. Check the admissions requirements for your chosen course at cdu.edu.au/study

Inherent requirements

Many professions require practical, physical, cognitive, literacy, numeracy and certain personal capabilities, such as ethical behaviour, communication skills and legal reporting compliance.

Find out more at: cdu.edu.au/inherent-requirements

How to apply

1. Visit cdu.edu.au

Explore course information, entry requirements and selection processes for your preferred courses.

2. Select your preferences

Register with [SATAC](https://satac.edu.au) and select up to six preferences. Make sure you select your dream degree as your first preference and check the key dates for applications. Late applications may still go through but the application fee may be higher.

3. Apply

Follow instructions from SATAC to complete and submit your application. SATAC may contact you for further information.

4. Accept your offer and enrol

If you are successful you will receive an offer to study at CDU. This will arrive by email from SATAC. Offer rounds will be made from December, with the majority of offers being sent in January for Semester 1 intake. CDU will then email you information on how to accept and enrol.



TIP

After you've enrolled with CDU take the time to apply for available scholarships: cdu.edu.au/scholarships

Returning to study with us?

If you've previously completed a TAFE Certificate III or higher, the Tertiary Enabling Program or an undergraduate degree at CDU, you may be able to apply for your next course directly through CDU rather than via SATAC.

MyNextCourse is an easy, online portal that allows you to apply faster, avoid application fees and receive your offer sooner.

Visit mynextcourse.cdu.edu.au



Be supported

We are a university that will empower and support you. Whether you study online or on campus, you'll be connected to a network of support services to help keep you focused, motivated and on-track with your studies.

Free academic skills programs

Language and learning support is free and confidential, assisting you with skills development tailored to your specific unit. Language and learning advisors work with you to help you understand assignment requirements and improve communication and study skills for your discipline.

You will be paired with a dedicated peer advisor to help you navigate your studies. They will check in with you every other week. This ongoing support ensures that you're progressing well in your studies and academic life. Peer advisors also run collaborative sessions focusing on preparing you for assignments and exams.

Online study buddies

Enjoy seamless, interactive collaboration with your peers, tutors and lecturers on Learnline. Jump into forums, join discussion boards and chat online with your fellow students – any time of the day or night, across Australia and beyond.

Free career advice

The Careers and Employment team offers expert advice and online tools to help you find a job, understand your work style, build your CV, practice job interviews and more.

Log on to the library

Online and on-campus students have 24/7 access to library resources. Knowledgeable and friendly library staff are ready to help over the phone, via email or face-to-face on most campuses.

Staying well

CDU offers a range of resources to help improve your wellbeing including confidential counselling and wellbeing services.

Equal access

The Access and Inclusion team is on hand to provide free and confidential services and support for students with a disability and/or health conditions. This may include providing adjustments to your study conditions, course materials or assessments or the provision of supportive resources like assistive technology.

Scholarships and financial help

CDU offers scholarships to help you complete your studies. Scholarships are available across a range of categories – not just for high achievers. Get assistance with fees, budgeting and grants to help with your financial health and wellbeing.

Student Central

Student Central is your one-stop spot for support and guidance. You can phone, email or visit them on campus for advice on admissions, timetabling, enrolling, exams, course fees and payments, study plans, scholarships and more.

Respect. Now. Always.

At CDU we believe in diversity as a strength and welcome differences in culture, race, religion, gender identity, ability, and sexuality. We are proud of the diversity of the CDU community, and we are working together to create a fair, safe, and inclusive university where everyone can thrive.

CDU is a part of the Universities Australia, Respect. Now. Always. initiative. We are committed to ensuring our students and staff are safe from gender-based violence, sexual assault or harassment.



Why Choose CDU?

Join students from all across Australia who choose CDU to empower and support them to launch or progress their career.



A leading university for graduate employment outcomes¹

Graduate job-ready – with a salary to match. CDU graduates earn 5% more and are 6% more likely to land a full-time job than the average university student.²



Study your way

CDU is a specialist in flexible study. Fit learning around your lifestyle with part-time, full-time, online and on-campus options.



Top 5 Australian university for first-in-family study

We're a leading university for supporting students who are the first in their immediate family to go to university.¹



Scholarships to help you through

We have a diverse range of scholarships that recognise hard work, support those in need and assist students with the financial burden of studying.



The dual-sector advantage - we're a TAFE and a university

From certificates and apprenticeships through to diplomas and degrees, we have a course to fit your preferred level of study and pathway options. This means if you complete a TAFE course and decide to continue studying, you can do it all with CDU.

1. The Good Universities Guide 2025

2. 2023 Graduate Outcomes Survey National Report

Contact us

E: study@cdu.edu.au

Freecall: 1800 061 963

Mon – Thursday 8.00am - 4.00pm

Friday 8.00am – 3.00pm (ACST)

cdu.edu.au

Casuarina

Larrakia Country

Orange 1.1

Ellengowan Drive, NT

Education and Community Precinct

Larrakia Country

54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin NT

Darwin Waterfront

Larrakia Country

21 Kitchener Drive, Darwin NT

Palmerston

Larrakia Country

University Avenue, Palmerston NT

Alice Springs

Arrernte Country

Grevillea Drive, Alice Springs NT

Katherine Town Centre

Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagoman Country

19 Second Street, Katherine NT

Katherine Rural

Jawoyn, Wardaman and Dagoman Country

Lot 5626 (16km North of Katherine)

Stuart Highway, Katherine NT

Nhulunbuy

Yonju Country

Lot 1468 Dartnall Close, Nhulunbuy NT

Sydney

Gadigal Country

Level 10, 815 George Street,

Haymarket, Sydney, NSW

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct, matters covered by this publication are subject to change. Charles Darwin University does not assume and hereby disclaims any express or implied liability whatsoever to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, whether these errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause.

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Student Central

Freecall: 1800 061 963

E: study@cdu.edu.au

You make CDU



cdu.edu.au