

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is delivered by Drama Works Academy of Performing Arts on behalf of Perform Australia (RTO 40859).

When does the course start?

The part-time course is run each year, February to November or July to June.

Semester 1 (2020)

Term 1: Tues 11 February – Tues 1 April (9 weeks)

Term 2: Tues 21 April – Tues 23 June (10 weeks)

Semester 2 (2020)

Term 3: Tues 16 July – Tues 17 September (10 weeks)

Term 4: Tues 8 October – Tues 26 November (8 weeks)

What does the course involve?

Participation in this course involves around 380 hours of face-to-face study which include studies in vocal development, movement skills, acting technique for stage and screen, and industry awareness.

On successful completion of the course, you will be awarded the following competencies:

- CUAACT401 Use a range of acting techniques in performance
- SASCHA401 Use text to create character
- SASPRA401 Apply principles of professional practice
- SASSTA401 Apply stage performance technique
- CUAPRF410 Develop on-camera performance skills
- SASPHY401 Expand physical vocabulary
- SASVOC401 Increase vocal capacity
- SASCON401 Acquire and integrate knowledge of performance contexts
- CUAPRF304 Develop audition techniques.

More information about each subject can be found in the student handbook (*provided at enrolment*).

Contact hours:

One full day (*Tuesday*) plus one week film intensive on location and 4x weekend competition performances across 1 year.

Homework commitments:

You should allow for around **5 hours of prep work each week**, which may include:

- Reading of scripts, plays and class notes
- Keeping a journal
- Learning lines and preparing pieces for class
- Rehearsing with classmates outside of class times, as needed (this may include evenings and weekends)
- Written tasks or research tasks

Assessments may include:

- 'Workshop' assessment – the teacher observes you demonstrating your skills as you complete exercises, role plays, scenes, improvisations and other activities workshopped in class
- Written tests (e.g. multiple choice tests)
- In-class oral presentations
- Performances on stage and screen
- Other written tasks.

Course entry requirements

To enter the course, you need to:

1. Register for and attend a drama workshop audition (*information session*).
2. Attend a brief interview at the end of the workshop.
3. Fill out an official enrolment form.
4. Pay your deposit.

You will then receive confirmation of your enrolment.

You need to have completed grade 10 at school or be 16 years of age or over and have sufficient English to participate in the course. You do not need to have past experience in acting, however you need to demonstrate that you have the capacity to complete the course at the drama workshop.

What happens at the drama workshop audition?

It's a games-based audition so no preparation is required. We run you through some short drama games and activities which might include a voice and movement warm-up, telling a story, being a character, and so on. At the conclusion of the workshop we interview you about your hopes and what you'd like to get out of the course if you are accepted.

When are the drama workshop auditions held?

Check the Drama Works Academy website for the latest dates. Session dates are in April, May, June and Sept, Oct, November and January prior to the intakes.

What is the qualification?

The 10197NAT Certificate IV in Acting for Stage and Screen is a nationally recognised qualification accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

What does the course cost?

For 380 hours' tuition, the total cost is \$5,270 excluding GST. Payment plans are available. On acceptance of a place in the course, you will need to pay a deposit of \$800 to secure your place.

Are there any other costs?

There is a one-off fee of \$150 for a Drama Works Academy shirt & hoodie, and a fee of \$300 for a week's film intensive which includes your accommodation and main meals. You may have to purchase some scripts or other items for your study. We also encourage you to see as much theatre and film as possible so that you become familiar with the art forms. Sometimes teachers will recommend you see a show, or they will include a current show or film as part of the curriculum, which you may have to pay for. So, if you're budgeting, keep in mind that you may need to put some money aside for these things.

What days of the week will I study?

The timetable for each semester is made available at your orientation session just prior to course commencement.

Can I get Austudy/Abstudy/Youth Allowance for this course?

This course may be approved for some government assistance if you meet the eligibility criteria with Centrelink. Please contact them to directly. Their website is

www.humanservices.gov.au.

How do I apply to do the course?

Audition dates are listed on the website and you can contact the Drama Works Academy office to enquire about the next intake or any upcoming auditions.

Who's on the teaching staff?

Drama Works Academy has a range of teachers working on the program. They are all industry practitioners as well as committed teachers. Teaching staff may vary from semester to semester, depending on their creative and performance commitments.

Where is the course held?

The course is held at around the North Lakes/Petrie area (location TBC).

Can I just do one unit of the course?

We do offer unit CUAPRF410 – *Develop On-Camera Performance Skills* as a separate unit. This 45-hour unit will be delivered over the first week of winter (dates TBC). Those interested will need to enrol by the end of April and pay the \$695 fee at least two weeks prior to commencement of the first weekend workshop. Upon successful completion of this unit students will receive a statement of attainment for this unit of competency.



Other FAQs About Being An Actor

I'm not good looking enough / thin enough / fit enough to be an actor!

Actors cover the full range of looks, body shapes and ages. In fact, some of the most consistently working actors are those who fit a non-standard look, age or personality type. And while some of the exercises we do in class are physically demanding, students are able to work at their own pace. Most are pleasantly surprised at how quickly their bodies adapt in flexibility, vocal tone and posture.

It's too late to start acting now – I'm too old!

No such thing. Many great actors like Gene Hackman, Chi McBride, Anthony Hopkins and Brendan Gleeson took up acting in their thirties or even later. Samuel L Jackson was 46 years old when he appeared in his breakout role in Pulp Fiction. Acting relies upon an actor's personal emotional experience – so a rich wealth of experiences can give older students a significant advantage!

I would like to act but I'm too shy and/or embarrassed.

We'll let you in on a little secret: everyone is – at first. Studies show that people are generally more afraid of public speaking than death! Our program isn't "sink or swim" – we don't throw you in the deep end without supporting you. Instead, our program gradually builds up your comfort levels and confidence to overcome anxiety and shyness. In fact, if shyness is a problem for you, acting is a fantastic way to beat it. Many professional actors are very introverted people who prefer to stay out of the spotlight – except when they're performing.

I'd really like to pursue acting, but I'm worried my family won't support me.

This is a problem many people face, particularly young people who have done well in drama at school and would like to take it further. There is a lot of pressure in some families to "get a proper job", join the family business, or pursue a career that has a greater degree of stability than acting. Drama Works Academy staff are happy to talk to any parents about their concerns, so feel free to make an appointment with the Program Director to discuss.

But it's important that you think through the issues yourself, too.

- Can you afford the tuition fees, for starters? If it comes to the crunch, are you prepared to work hard and save up so that you can fund yourself, rather than rely on family support?
- Would you be willing to wait a semester or two until you've got your finances together (or won your family's support?)
- What about taking a 'gap year' and making this course a gap year activity?
- Have you looked into Austudy/Abstudy/Youth Allowance to see if you're eligible? (Contact Centrelink)
- If you have your own children – how will you doing this course impact your home life? Do you have to plan and arrange childcare?
- What measures will you take to ensure your partner and children get enough of your attention while you study?

I'd like to act but I don't have any desire to do it professionally. Should I still do the course?

Of course! We say, 'Why not?' If you have the commitment needed to complete the course, and the willingness to participate in the acting/learning process, you are very welcome to join. Just because you can't see yourself in Hollywood, it doesn't mean you won't benefit from this course. There are many satisfying opportunities to act that are not classed as 'professional' – in amateur theatre, for example, or in short filmmaking projects, in Brisbane's many festival shows, and so on. Acting is a rewarding hobby for many people. But in the end, the skills you learn in this course are extraordinarily useful in day to day life, no matter what your chosen profession may be. You'll build teamwork skills, self-confidence, and communication skills – plus you'll tap into your creative side.

Will I get to act in actual performances?

Yes! The course includes a full-scale theatrical performance as well as smaller opportunities to perform, e.g. monologues and short scenes. You will also be filmed regularly during the on-camera unit – and it usually concludes with the filming of scenes recreated from classic movies. Students will also participate in the South East Queensland One Act Play Festival in July-August.

What opportunities are there if I complete this course?

Possible employment opportunities include extras roles and speaking parts in screen or stage performances, amateur theatre roles, TV commercials, dramas, presenter work, lifestyle and documentary films, corporate and training videos, music videos, and children's entertainment.

Will I get a job if I do this course?

This course introduces you to some essential acting skills – but like any job, it's up to you to source the work.

Need more info? Contact admin@dramaworks.net.au