FAQ for Associate Degree in Creative Industries

Q. What is an Associate Degree?
A. An Associate Degree is a nationally recognised undergraduate qualification which sits at Level 6 in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). Graduates from an Associate Degree will have a broad knowledge and skills to undertake paraprofessional, highly skilled work and/or as a pathway to further learning. For further information about Associate Degrees, please refer to the AQF website: www.aqf.edu.au.

Accordingly, the Associate Degree in Creative Industries offers students the opportunity to develop relevant business management knowledge and communication skills, grounding them in a practical application of the practice and business of the creative industries, while exploring issues facing creative industry practitioners today.

Q. What is Creative Industries?
A. Creative industries refer to the broad range of enterprise activities that contain a substantial element of artistic or creative endeavour. These industries combine the creation, production and commercialisation of content which is artistic in nature, typically protected by copyright and usually takes the form of a good or a service. The seven creative industry sectors addressed in this course are:

- Interactive and Digital Design
- Music and Performing Arts
- Film, Television and Radio
- Writing and Publishing
- Advertising and Marketing
- Media and Communication
- Visual Arts.

Q. Why should I choose this degree?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries is the only one of its kind in Australia and has been developed to address the skills gap found between vocational artist training and the management of creative enterprise.

The Associate Degree in Creative Industries combines key units from the University of Western Sydney's Schools of Business, Law and Humanities and Communication Arts to enhance your entrepreneurial abilities and give you the knowledge and skills to innovate, collaborate and succeed in all aspects of creative business management. New units in project management and event delivery created specifically for this degree will provide you with industry-based practical experience where you will also make valuable industry contacts towards future placements and projects.

Q. How many places are available in the degree?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries offers 30 places per intake.
Q. How will the degree be delivered and who will be teaching it?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries will be delivered through on-campus, off-site and online lectures and tutorials by staff from the University of Western Sydney and UWS College and relevant creative industry practitioners.

Q. Where will the degree be delivered?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries is delivered at our primary campus UWS College Nirimba (Blacktown), which is located on Eastern Road, Quakers Hill and at the UWS College Westmead campus, which is located on Hawkesbury Road, Westmead. Industry-based requirements for units within the degree may also be delivered at the venues of key creative industry partners across Sydney.

Q. Can I do this degree part-time?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries will be offered in both full-time and part-time modes at both Nirimba and Westmead campuses from February 2013. Full-time mode is a minimum of 3 units and a maximum of 4 units per session and equates to approximately 9 — 12 contact hours per week. Part-time mode is a minimum of 1 units and a maximum of 2 units per session and equates to approximately 3 — 6 contact hours per week.

Q. Will I still be able to work while studying this degree?
A. It is understood that applicants for the Associate Degree in Creative Industries will be creative industries professionals who may wish to continue with their practice while undertaking this degree. The study timetable has been designed with this in mind and units will be delivered during the day and evenings to accommodate students. The timetable for the current student cohort is all day Monday (10 am - 5 pm), Tuesday afternoon and/ or evening (2 pm – 5 pm and 5.30 pm – 8.30 pm).

Q. Are there any upfront fees that I need to pay?
A. As this is a Commonwealth Supported Place course, the student contribution is covered by the HECS-HELP scheme if you are eligible. For more information, please visit: www.goingtouni.gov.au.

Q. Is this degree open to international students?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries is only available to Australian Residents.

Q. Do you offer financial assistance for this degree?
A. Students enrolled in the Associate Degree in Creative Industries may be eligible to receive AUSTUDY/ ABSTUDY while undertaking this degree. To determine your eligibility and for more information go to www.centrelink.gov.au.

Q. When does the degree commence?

Q. Can I use this degree to go on to further study with UWS?
A. Graduates of the Associate Degree in Creative Industries can apply to receive advanced standing towards a Bachelor degree at UWS. In particular, the Associate Degree in Creative Industries includes a number of units from both the Bachelor of Business and Commerce and the Bachelor of Communication Arts.

Q. I already hold a Bachelor degree, so why should I do this course?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries is a nationally recognised qualification in management of creative industries. If you already hold a Bachelor degree, the Associate Degree in Creative Industries serves as an adjunct qualification and a professional supplement to your Bachelor qualification.
Q. What qualifications do I need to have to be eligible for this degree?
A. Applicants may be eligible for admission if they have completed the NSW HSC and attained the required ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) or completed other equivalent qualifications such as a recognised Certificate III, Certificate IV or Diploma or have extensive vocational experience and attained the required entrance standard set for the course. This may include bridging/preparatory courses and paraprofessional and other post-secondary qualifications. In addition, all applicants must have at least three years relevant industry experience.

Q. What is Industry experience?
A. Industry experience includes any work that you have undertaken in the creative industries including vocational internship or secondment with a corresponding creative industry company or organisation; or independent, semi-professional, paraprofessional or professional engagement in a creative endeavour or event within your specified creative industry field.

Q. How do I apply for this degree?
A. Applications for the February 2013 intake of the course are now open and must be made through the University Admissions Centre (UAC). The February 2013 intake commences on Monday 25 February. Applications made through UAC will incur a processing fee. To make an application for the February 2013 intake of the Associate Degree in Creative Industries, please visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/uws/729480.html. For more information about applying through UAC, please visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/faq/applying.shtml.

Q. What do I need to include in my application?
A. You must submit the following:
1. verified academic transcript of all non-UWS studies
2. a curriculum vitae/resume, outlining all independent, semi-professional, paraprofessional and professional work undertaken by you to the equivalent of three years experience (maximum two pages)
3. proof of change of name if your qualifications are in a name other than the name under which you are applying, and
4. proof of English language proficiency if your studies were taken in a language other than English.

You should also submit some or all of the following:
5. evidence of your work in the form of a sample portfolio including campaign material, posters of events naming the applicant, music composition, DVDs, proof of business registration from ASIC, programs of exhibitions, reviews, media coverage, photographs and footage
6. evidence of membership of professional association(s) such as National Association for Visual Arts (NAVA), Screen Australia, Media, Entertainment Arts Alliance (MEAA) and Australian Writer’s Guild (AWG)
7. letters of reference, written by a recognised creative industry professional or an individual from a recognised professional creative industry organisation written on company letterhead
8. a professional statement of service, written on company letterhead which states the following information:
   + your full name
   + whether you were employed on a full-time or part-time basis
   + the hours you work/ed per week
   + your position title
   + the period of employment in the position
   + details of the duties of the position.

All written documentation submitted with your application must be correctly certified by following the certifying document guidelines (see www.uws.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/applying_to_study/certifying_documents2).
Q. When do applications close?
A. UAC on-time applications closed on Friday 28 September, 2012 but you can make a late application for this course until January 31st, 2103. Late fees will apply. To make a late application for the February 2013 intake of the Associate Degree in Creative Industries, please visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/uws/729480.html. For more information about applying through UAC, please visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/faq/applying.shtml

Q. How will I know if my application has been successful?
A. Offers for the February 2013 intake will be made via UAC’s Main Round on Wednesday 16 January 2013. For more information about offers via UAC, please visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/offers.

Q. Can I receive course credit for previous study?
A. The University of Western Sydney offers advanced standing to students who are accepted into the Associate Degree in Creative Industries. Advanced standing is recognition of prior learning in terms of experience and/or studies. When you apply for advanced standing, we will assess your prior learning and may award you advanced standing in the course in which you are currently studying in recognition of what you have achieved. For more information on advanced standing and how to apply, please go to www.uws.edu.au/currentstudents. See also TAFE Pathways at www.iamcreative.com.au/course_information/tafe_pathways.

Q. What are the dates/sessions I will be enrolled in?
A. The Associate Degree in Creative Industries is a 1.5 year course, with four full-time study sessions in total. There are 13 teaching weeks per session plus a one week session break and one week exam period. For commencement in February 2013, you will be enrolled from Term 1, 2013 to Term 1, 2014.

Term 1, 2013
Start: 25 February 2013
Break: 29 March — 7 April 2013
End: 7 June 2013

Term 2, 2013
Start: 24 June 2013
Break: 10 — 18 August 2013
End: 4 October 2013

Term 3, 2013
Start: 21 October 2013
Break: 21 December 2013 — 5 January 2014
End: 3 February 2014

Term 1, 2014
Start: 24 February 2014
Break: 28 March—6 April 2014
End: 6 June 2014