Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production)

The degree encompasses stage management, lighting, sound, multimedia production, costume, props, stage mechanics, scenery installation and theatre design. You’ll also get the opportunity to specialise in a particular area of live production. From your first year you will explore stage management for different genres including dance, music, orchestras, circus, opera, musical theatre, and apply your knowledge on real QUT productions.

You’ll progress to learning about live productions and performance industries—production and tour management, festival site and logistics management, and technical direction—applying your skills in the technical, management and design area. In your final year you’ll work alongside industry professionals and learn to lead a team that will lay the foundations for transition into the profession.

Why choose this course?
Technology is transforming the world of entertainment. Production artists who can harness the potential of technology to create meaningful artistic experiences for today’s audiences are going to have an exciting future in production. If you aspire to a career in the extended field of theatre, performance and entertainment, this course is just what you need. You will learn the professional skills you need to keep pace with future technical, management and design developments in the field.

The degree encompasses stage management, lighting, sound, multimedia production, costume, props, stage mechanics, scenery installation and theatre design. You’ll also get the opportunity to specialise in a particular area of live production.

Real-world learning
During this intensive three-year program, you’ll learn from industry-experienced teaching staff and have the opportunity to work across a range of performances including theatre and dance productions, featuring students from other creative industries courses.

The course offers opportunities for workplace internships and placements at a range of companies, productions and events including national, state and local theatre companies, major performing arts venues, opera and dance companies, and touring theatrical stage productions.

Clark Corby
Creative careers

‘As technical director for Casus Circus, my career has been an amazing adventure so far, travelling to 35 different cities in 15 countries. I love working on a technical creative level to produce great work from small to big productions. QUT prepared me on many level, it gave me the confidence to take risks and the skills to work in a multidisciplinary industry.’
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production)

Learn from the best
Your teachers are working at the highest levels in the professional industry and are all practicing production artists. These strong ties to industry pave the way for a smooth transition into professional practice upon graduation.

In your final year you will have the opportunity to undertake placements within Australia’s peak performing arts organisations, as well as presenting your work to leading industry figures at the annual graduate showcase event.

Assumed knowledge
Before you start this course we assume you have sound knowledge in these areas

- English

We assume that you have knowledge equivalent to four semesters at high school level (Years 11 and 12) with sound achievement (4, SA).

Course structure

Year 1
- develop an understanding of the disciplines involved in live production
- study technical lighting, sound and multimedia production, and practicalities of set, props and costume
- explore stage management for different genres—dance, music, orchestras, circus, opera, musical theatre
- apply your knowledge on real QUT productions
- progress from introductory to more senior roles
- sceneography—history, techniques and applications of theatre design

Year 2
- explore advanced production concepts and technologies
- investigate and apply design skills for lighting, sound, multimedia and all aspects of production
- advance your knowledge in management
- learn about live productions and performance industries—production and tour management, festival site and logistics management, and technical direction
- develop further experience across four QUT productions
- apply your skills in the technical, management and design areas

Year 3
- work on several QUT productions
- gain senior experience as production stage manager, designer or head of department in sound, set, vision or lighting
- lead first and second-year students as your production crew
- option to focus on one particular area
- work alongside industry professionals
- industry placements are available
- apply previous learning in professional contexts
- lay the foundations for transition into the profession

Study overseas
Study overseas while gaining credit towards your QUT creative industries degree with one of our worldwide exchange partners. Overseas study can be for one or two semesters (or during the semester break) and the units you take can be in a creative or non-creative discipline area, depending on how they match with your QUT course. Saving your electives for exchange will allow you the most flexibility. Find out more about studying on exchange.

Careers and outcomes
Graduates work for companies and shows all over the world as stage managers, production managers, lighting, sound and scenic designers, technical programmers and operators, tour managers, technical directors and in the areas of props, costumes and stage mechanics, theatrical flying and automation. They work across all types of live production and performance for theatre, ballet, contemporary dance, opera, circus, international and corporate events, and arts festivals.

Fees
HECS-HELP
You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your course fees, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the HECS-HELP information.

Student Services and Amenities Fee
You’ll need to pay the student services and amenities fee as part of your course costs. You may be eligible for SA-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your student services and amenities fee, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the SA-HELP information.