Film Studies

About this area of study

To be successful in this industry, be prepared to promote yourself. Technical staff should stand out from the crowd, and film makers need to market their ideas to production companies and potential employers to show that they have the right mix of flair, creativity and practical expertise. Portfolios and examples of previous work are key factors in finding employment and should be targeted to individual employers. Be prepared to start at the bottom - running errands and lugging equipment - and to push yourself forward, learning and observing new skills once your main job is done.

Job opportunities are hugely competitive and are often offered by word of mouth, rather than by advertisement. Most graduates have to start building up contacts and making themselves and their work known. In film and TV, the usual route is to become a 'runner' (often unwaged) and build up experience and a network in that way. Statistics show that less than 25% of graduates in this field gain employment in the industry straight after leaving their course. Many take a year or more to find suitable employment.

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Film and Digital Media
- Bachelor of Arts (with a major in Film Studies)
- Bachelor of Arts (Media and Communication)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

Actor

Actors may work in theatre or recorded media - film, radio, television and video. Competition for parts, whether high drama or commercials, is very high. Experience within community theatre is a common starting point for actors; whilst working a day job to facilitate an income.

Producer

Producers are responsible for managing the whole process of a production, from the original idea to the final product. They tend to specialize in film and television, or theatre, rarely both. Producers need business acumen and good understanding of medium techniques and technology.

Technicians

Technicians in film and video include production managers, sound recordists, all camera crew, lighting, grips, makeup, assistant directors, location scouts. To gain employment, door knocking and word of mouth tend to be most successful.

Critic

Critics occupy a well defined niche in the arts industry. They often have a background in journalism or media and communication and may write on topics besides film and theatre.

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Working Dog www.workingdog.com

December Films www.decemberfilms.com.au

Fox Studios Australia www.foxstudiosaustralia.com

Ultra Films www.ultrafilms.com.au

Melbourne International Film Festival www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au

SBS www.sbs.com.au

ABC www.abc.net.au

Channel Seven www.sevencorporate.com.au

Fremantle Media www.fremantlemedia.com.au

Roving Enterprises www.rovingenterprises.com

Media World www.mediaworld.com.au

Kestrel www.kestrel.net.au

Crock Productions www.crockproductions.com.au

Primordial Productions www.primordialproductions.com

Grey Australia www.grey.com/australia

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Arts Hub www.artshub.com.au

Screen Hub www.screenhub.com.au

V-Raw www.itallstartswithv.com.au/vraw

Jobs77 www.creativejobs77.com

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

Australian Centre for the Moving Image www.acmi.net.au

Screen Australia www.screenaustralia.gov.au

Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance www.alliance.org.au

Live Performance Australia www.liveperformance.com.au

Australian Interactive Multimedia Industry Association www.aimia.com.au

Open Channel www.openchannel.org.au

Screen Producers Association of Australia www.spaa.org.au

Advertising Federation of Australia www.afa.org.au

Film Victoria www.film.vic.gov.au