



Choosing a Professional Photographic Course in Australia

There are 3 types of tertiary courses offered in Australia.

University

University based courses provide mainly theory or research based education usually 3 + years full time duration. University courses incur HEC's payments.

Institutes of Technical and Further Education (TAFE)

TAFE courses generally run for 2-3 years full time and do not incur HEC's payments, but incur costs with enrollments and materials fees. Qualifications range from certificate, diploma and advanced diploma

Private Colleges

Private colleges offer a range of courses differing in delivery and duration. Although not incurring HEC's payments the cost of courses can vary considerably. While University's and TAFE's are accredited under ITAB and ANTA an important point is to consider is the level of accreditation of the private college.

Making a decision on where to study

Below are a number of questions which may assist you in your decision.

- Meet and talk with recently graduated students, ring the college to supply you with a list of recent graduates.
- Meet and talk with lectures of the relevant colleges and ask questions.
- Many colleges offer open days for prospective students, generally in the latter part of the year.
- What is the subject list and curriculum?
- What are the financial costs involved.
- What is the duration of study and what are the options for flexible delivery and attendance. Full time or part time, can a student transfer from one to the other?
- Mode of delivery, lectures, workshops, practical, or online delivery.
- Does the course offer electives in other related disciplines, like design, life drawing, computer, digital imaging, business, marketing and art history.
- Does the course offer work experience, and if so for how long and how is it organized to include insurance and appraisal upon its completion. Is the work placement organized by the institution or the individual student's responsibility?
- What are the institution links with the industry, in terms of the make up of its staff and relations with professional photographic organizations?
- What are the professional backgrounds of the staff. Does the institution have a mix of full time and part time photography staff, as both are important.
- Consult with professional photographers on their opinion.