

Australia Awards Short Course

At the Forefront of Film – Screenwriting and Directing



The participants of At the Forefront of Film, Screenwriting and Directing, a creative short course exploring the major principles of writing and directing for the screen.

Future leaders in Indonesia's film industry joined Course Leaders Dr Dean Chircop, Associate Professor Maragret McVeigh and Ms Martha Goddard for the Australia Awards Short Course aimed at promoting Indonesia's creative industry for economic growth, strengthening participants' skills in content creation, screenwriting, directing and producing visual media projects.

Key learning objectives included understanding the Australian film sector, developing screenwriting and production skills, pitching concepts, improving creative writing, applying feedback, enhancing communication and negotiation abilities and developing project management skills. Participants also met with industry leaders to discuss the economic impact of the film sector and build industry connections.

The program offered a hands-on, immersive experience at Griffith University's Film School, featuring scene shooting in state-of-the-art studios, interactions with industry experts, pitching opportunities and site visits to renowned film studios.

Course Highlights

- Pre-Course workshop
3 – 5 December 2024
- In-Australia program
13 – 26 January 2025
- Post-Course workshop
14 – 16 May 2025





Participants attending a site visit at Village Roadshow Studios on the Gold Coast.

Site Visits and Presentations

During the In-Australia program, participants had the opportunity to visit a variety of organisations and attend presentations by industry experts. These included:

- Village Roadshow Studios, Gold Coast
- Bus Stop Films
- Screen Queensland
- Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), Queensland

Award Projects

As part of the course, participants developed Award Projects based on their learning objectives, which were reviewed and refined throughout the program. The participants presented their promotional materials, finance plans, funding strategies and pitched their script concepts. The projects demonstrated creative innovations, reflecting the skills gained during the course. Since the course concluded, many projects have continued to progress, with some featured in festivals or entering distribution negotiations.

Pre-Course Workshop

The three-day pre-course workshop, conducted in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 3 to 5 December 2024, served as an orientation for participants. Facilitated by the course leaders, the workshop aimed to introduce the program's objectives, clarify expectations and present an overview of the main topics. The sessions provided participants with essential background knowledge and a clear grasp of the program's structure prior to their departure for Australia. During the workshop, participants and DFAT representatives attended a networking dinner with Adelaide Film Festival delegates. The workshop also included a visit to Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival (JAFF) Market and a panel discussion with Agung Sentausa (President of Indonesian Film Directors Club) and Jose Prabowo (Filmmaker).

Post-Course Workshop

The Post-Course Workshop, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 14 – 16 May 2025, offered participants a chance to reflect on their learning experiences. Through a range of workshops and activities, they revisited and summarised key insights from the course before presenting their Award Projects, receiving constructive feedback from both course leaders and peers. Participants attended the Festival Sinema Australia Indonesia (FSAI) and Dr Chircop's masterclass after the post-course workshop.

'The short course delivered by Griffith University offers a concise yet enriching curriculum that thoroughly explores the arts and crafts of filmmaking. Our mentors nurture our curiosity with kindness that inspires us to learn more than textbooks. I'm proud to say that I graduated from this course with a smile and deep affection.'

Adhyatmika, AAI participant and Film and Commercial Director

'I gained many valuable benefits from this course, not only for my personal and professional development, but also for my community in Surabaya. It provided me with deeper insights into writing structure and character development and strengthened my ability to collaborate with other participants and filmmakers in Australia.'

Anonymous Participant



Participants attending a screening at the Asia Pacific Triennial Exhibit at the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art.

For further information about the program, please contact:

Samantha Hilbig, Project Manager, Griffith University |
Email: s.hilbig@griffith.edu.au