

Lift Off Award 2026 Guidelines, Terms & Conditions

The Lift Off Award, generously funded by private donors, will provide \$20,000 to a promising graduating MFA candidate from the National Art School. The successful recipient will be eligible to use the funding to undertake an artist residency, international travel, to establish a studio, purchase specialised equipment, mount an exhibition, a publication or any project that requires a lift off to support their burgeoning art practice.

Key Dates

Applications Close: **Sunday 16 November 2025, 11:59pm.**
Award Announcement: **Wednesday 10 December 2025.**

Selection Criteria

The Lift Off Award will be granted to an individual who, in the opinion of the selection panel, would benefit from such an opportunity at this stage of their career based on the following:

- An outstanding record of artistic achievement and dedication to their practice.
- The suitability of the proposed activity to their professional development as an artist.
- Genuine need for financial support.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be a graduating MFA candidate at the National Art School.
- Applicant must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Applications

- Applicants must complete all aspects of the online application form and upload required support material.
- All applications will be considered by a selection panel comprising suitable representatives of the National Art School and the donors of the Award.
- The panel may request to meet with an applicant to discuss their application further.

Support Material

PROPOSAL

All applicants must upload a detailed proposal in PDF format including the following:

- An Artist Statement.
- A proposal for use of the \$20,000 Lift Off Scholarship (no more than 1200 words).

The Lift Off Scholarship can be used to undertake an artist residency, international travel, to establish a studio, purchase specialised equipment, mount an exhibition, a publication or other project.

3. A statement regarding financial need.

IMAGES

All applicants must upload a maximum of 10 images, with one image per slide in PPT format. Each slide should include the name of artist, title, date, medium, and dimensions. Moving image-based artists can present a high-quality video of up to two minutes presented as a single-track show reel.

CV

All applicants must upload a summary CV of no more than two pages saved in PDF format.

The panel reserves the right to not assess applications that do not include specified supporting material correctly formatted as outlined above.

Conditions

- Applicants must submit a completed application that fulfils all eligibility requirements.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- The successful applicant will need to complete the acquittals process.
- The successful applicant must dispense the Award in 2026.

Acquittal of Award

The successful applicant will be required to:

- Take part in a Lift Off Award panel discussion at the National Art School in 2026. The successful applicant may be asked to be part of a 15-20 minute formal presentation about the use of the award.
- Provide high-resolution photographs and a statement of approximately 200 words that can be used by NAS for promotional purposes and in publications including the Annual Report and Yearbook.

Please email scholarships@nas.edu.au, for any inquiries regarding the application process.