

catalyst

2026

MASTER OF ARTS

Creative Production (Film)

Develop, refine and challenge your filmmaking capabilities through practice-based research

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Teaching Institution: Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology

Final Award Title: Master of Arts

Location: Berlin

Mode of study: Full time (1 year) or Part time (2 years)

Language of instruction: English

Awarding Institution: Plymouth Marjon University

Overview

Develop, refine and challenge your filmmaking capabilities through practice-based research

The Creative Production (Film) MA gives you the space and structure to pursue your chosen interest, specialisation or passion project through an iterative practice-based research approach that blends artistic and academic processes. You'll develop your vision within a flexible framework for negotiated and self-directed learning – designed to help you innovate, refine and challenge your filmmaking practice.

You'll be supported by seminars, workshops, group and individual supervision, guest lectures and access to our professional film facilities. Our seminars and workshops provide a strong grounding in practice-led research theory and methodology, alongside a broader exploration of audiovisual storytelling and the arts. Collaboration is central, with opportunities to work with Catalyst students from our Schools of Film & Visual Media, Acting, Music & Sound and Creative Human Development.

Rather than giving you ready-made answers, the taught component is designed to spark curiosity, expand your conceptual reference points and equip you with tools to test and develop your ideas. By identifying and engaging with the processes your proposal demands, you'll have scope to experiment and grow as a filmmaker, director, cinematographer, editor, writer, producer or audiovisual artist – while strengthening your industry profile and artistic identity.

This intensive and rewarding year (or two years part-time) is guided by expert tutors who will mentor you through a continuous cycle of imagination, creation, critique, reflection and growth.

“The MA treats you as an independent creative and, in some ways, as an artist. I find that incredibly empowering... The MA makes you really structure your work. You are held highly accountable for how you think about your projects.”

–Alexandra Concordia, filmmaker and Creative Production (Film) alumna

What is creative production?

Creative production is intentionally broad. Within film, it covers – but isn't limited to – directing, cinematography, editing, producing, screenwriting, production design, sound for film, experimental practice, documentary, installations, cross-media storytelling or interdisciplinary work. On this programme, creative production refers more to the iterative process of production and reflection, rather than the specific outcomes or media you choose.

Through exploration and innovation, your capabilities as a filmmaker, cinematographer, editor, producer or visual storyteller will evolve and excel, if that's your chosen route. Equally, you can undertake projects with practitioners from other artistic fields to expand your skills and creative industry profile. You bring your vision as a starting point, and we'll help you build from there.

Your postgraduate journey

The majority of the programme content is defined by the project you choose, so your proposal is the foundation of our iterative practice-based research framework. As you design and develop your own research programme, you'll be surrounded by an inspiring community of students and tutors from around the world who will act as mentors, peers, collaborators, audience and fellow travellers.

Required attendance varies over the course of the year, but is expected between 8 and 12 hours per week, and half of that for two year part timers. You are expected to work a lot under your own motivation and in your own time.

Our approach to negotiated learning is split up into five stages:

Proposal → Define your research agenda with an expected project outcome that is then negotiated and developed with a project mentor.

Contract → Once approved, the study plan becomes a contract between the participant and mentor.

Production → Production work is addressed in group critique sessions & individual tutorials.

Assessment → Work is assessed against a set of negotiated criteria stated in the initial contract taking the intended learning outcome as criteria.

Feedback → Formative feedback is given throughout the semester through tutorials, group critique sessions and specific feedback related to the self-set criteria for the proposed outcome.

Your journey progresses through five modules:

Establish is focussed directly on the production of a detailed research proposal and of a research contract and work plan agreed between the student and supervisor.

Investigative Practice will focus on breadth, and will include contextual investigation. This may take the form of a literature review, an overview of an area, discipline or concept that is important to the research. It could also include more practical investigations, for example of an individual filmmaker, movement, or a genre. Part of the challenge of this module is to discover for yourself which of these outcomes are the most appropriate for your individual project brief, and which are most helpful for you.

Production Lab and **Creative Expression** both go in greater depth into two aspects of your research. This might mean, for example, concentrating on particular paths of artistic practice, focussing on the development of particular technical skills, developing an incisive conceptual framework for your work. A level of self-reflectiveness, including a relationship between theory and practice, is also expected.

Resolve – your final submission for this degree and the culmination of your research and learning. In this module you are expected to submit a substantial piece of original work, working with the full breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and experience you have developed throughout the previous four modules.

Modules and supporting workshops

1-Year (Full time) modules

Please note our credit system. Our courses are validated in the UK, meaning we use CATS (Credit Accumulation Transfer System), rather than ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). Generally, the number is doubled: 30 CATS = 30 CATS.

Semester A		Semester B	Semester C
CPF1 Establish (30 CATS)	CPF2 Investigative Practice (30 CATS)	CPF3 Production Lab (30 CATS)	CPF5 Resolve (60 CATS)
		CPF4 Creative Expression (30 CATS)	

2-Year (Part time) modules, first year

Semester A	Semester B	Semester C
CPF1 Establish (30 CATS)	CPF2 Investigative Practice (30 CATS)	CPF3 Production Lab (30 CATS)

Second year modules

Semester A	Semester B	Semester C
CPF4 Creative Expression (30 CATS)	CPF5 Resolve (60 CATS)	

By the end of the course, you'll have:

- Strengthened creative concepts, a distinct approach to production and a clear sense of where your work belongs within broader artistic and industry conversations.
- The ability to navigate critical frameworks and develop innovative production methods.
- Guidance from experienced practitioners and industry experts to realise the full potential of your work.
- The skills to manage complex productions, collaborate effectively and drive your artistic direction.
- A creative network that will open up opportunities to live, create and build your practice in Berlin.
- A body of advanced, festival-ready work and the strategic tools to secure funding, distribution or residencies.

Berlin as your professional base

Berlin is your launchpad. The city offers a unique mix of arthouse cinemas, artist-run spaces, globally recognised festivals and experimental hubs. We often tell our people joining this programme that they aren't students – they're entrepreneurs. So you won't only immerse yourself in Berlin's creative landscape, but rather actively contribute. When it's ready, your work will need a platform and an audience – and Berlin offers them in abundance.

Berlin has a rich cinema history. Studio Babelsberg, the oldest large scale film studio in the world, is just outside Berlin. Berlinale – aka the Berlin International Film Festival – is one of the most famous international film festivals and competitions in the world. It is one of the world's "Big Five" – alongside the Venice Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival and Sundance. Every year, Berlinale, along with the European Film Market and Berlinale Talents, takes over our city, with ten days of film premieres and thousands of industry experts.

There are plenty of other film festivals for emerging artists to participate in, from world-leading to specialist and independent, such as the Berlin Music Video Awards, or platforms for underrepresented groups, such as Grrl Haus Cinema. You can also watch the latest movies in some of the oldest cinemas in the world, get cosy in an intimate Kiez kino or one of Berlin's many open air cinemas during warmer months.

For practitioners, this means two things: your work can be tested in the same city that hosts world-leading festivals and institutions and you can carve your own space in one of the most dynamic and evolving creative networks on the planet. Berlin is also a city with funding opportunities for the arts, from institutions like Goethe Institute, as well as other universities, foundations, residencies and exhibition spaces. Each year we enjoy programming for major experimental arts festivals like Atonal and CTM or homegrown institutes like Floating University.

“You can express your dreams with a film. It's like writing a book, but bringing to life what you saw in your head. It's really free as an expression, without limits.”

– Leonardo Greco, director and Creative Production (Film) alumnus

[[Click here to book a visit](#) →]

Learning by doing

Our learning framework for advanced creatives

Why we teach this way

As with all our programmes, the MA is built on practice-based learning. We apply a postgraduate twist to this progressive approach to education: greater autonomy, higher responsibility and much deeper potential for research. It's a framework that challenges you to take creative risks while giving you the support to turn them into meaningful outcomes.

You'll:

- Define and pursue your own research proposal and plan
- Lead self-directed projects that reflect your artistic vision
- Engage in advanced critique with tutors and peers to refine your ideas
- Build a sustainable, research-informed practice
- Make connections for yourself instead of gaining knowledge passively

Facilities and resources for your professional development

Our facilities aren't classrooms – they're production-ready environments designed to match professional industry standards. MA students receive **fast-tracked inductions to specialist studios and equipment**, ensuring you can focus on your project without delay. You'll have access to our black box Film studio with two-sided infinity wall green screen and overhead lighting rigging, learn from each other and visiting lecturers in our cinema or get into the keyframe dojo in our production labs and editing suites. You'll be able to borrow everything you need to shoot films, including camera, lights, stands, grip and accessories. Set building isn't restricted either, as you can book fog machines, gimbals, dollies, gels, flags, stands, grip gear, cabling and expendables, props and costumes.

The Creative Production (Film) programme is part of our School of Film & Visual Media – alongside our School of Music & Sound, School of Acting and School of Creative Human Development. All four schools share the same facilities: a 5400m² creative campus in central Berlin with every room shaped around the work that happens inside it. We also have our very own grassroots student-run radio station: **Etikett Radio**.

And because all our creative schools share the same building, your next collaborator could be just around the corner or down the hallway. You'll be creating alongside actors rehearsing, filmmakers on set, visual artists rendering, writers workshopping, all under one roof. MA students are also encouraged to collaborate beyond the school. Your work isn't just shaped by what you do, but also by what's happening around you.

Expert guidance, support and peer network

At Catalyst, you're supported by a team of practising filmmakers, artist and researchers who bring real-world wisdom into the classroom. They're not only educators – they're collaborators, mentors and active professionals who understand the challenges of today's creative industries.

You'll benefit from a balance of structured learning and open exploration: tutors will ask tough questions, offer honest feedback and help you refine your unique artistic voice. One-to-one tutorials form a key part of your journey, giving you the space to reflect, set goals and keep your project on track.

Visiting industry leaders bring in fresh perspectives, ensuring your work stays connected to developments in the film and visual media universe.

Our specialist film technicians are a key part of your day-to-day experience. They're here to make sure technology never holds you back creatively. They'll help you:

- Troubleshoot technical issues during workshops so class time stays productive
- Choose the right camera, lighting or grip equipment for your shoot, based on your project goals and team needs
- Test and refine workflows for production and post-production
- Plan and support student-organised shoots, screenings and events
- Service, upgrade and repair equipment across campus so you're always working with reliable tools
- Troubleshoot technical issues quickly so you can stay in flow

“I liked the idea of working toward my own unique vision – with some guidance from the tutors – as opposed to creating projects that had to fit certain criteria.”

– Jennifer Jo Stokka, creative producer, writer and Creative Production (Film) alumna

Your creative community

Alongside this, you'll learn with and from other advanced practitioners – your peers. Together you'll form a network of collaborators, critics and supporters who will shape your creative practice long after graduation. You'll join an international, multidisciplinary community of producers, musicians and sound artists where collaboration is encouraged. You'll work with your classmates day to day, pushing each other's ideas as well as sharing skills. Our campus is designed to encourage interdisciplinary experimentation. As your proposal develops, students from our School of Film & Visual Media, School of Acting and School of Creative Human Development will all be eager to collaborate with you, too.

On campus, you'll share spaces with students joining from over 70 countries, each bringing different styles, influences and ideas. Whether you're getting specific with a story deeply personal to you, sharpening the direction of your practice or choosing to deepen your expertise you'll be part of a creative network that reflects the diversity of today's film industry.

A future-proof creative toolkit

This programme doesn't stop at artistic development, but rather prepares you for professional success in a variety of ways. You'll gain practical support in:

- Funding applications and pitching
- Proposal-writing for festivals, commissions and residencies
- Portfolio curation tailored to industry and artistic contexts
- Career strategy coaching and long-term positioning

Our school also helps develop the soft-skills and mindset that help you grow sustainably as an artist. These soft-skills are some of the most valuable tools you'll gain while with us, and transferable to any challenge or creative direction you decide to pursue.

Alongside your academic and creative development, Catalyst offers a range of support services to help you navigate challenges, build confidence and stay creatively focused:

- **One-to-one counselling and coaching** – confidential sessions with qualified professionals to support emotional wellbeing, anxiety, creative blocks, conflict resolution and life transitions
- **Flourishing Fortnights** – immersive two-week workshop series focused on topics like creative collaboration, healthy boundaries, communication and

emotional self-awareness

- **Self-Development & Leadership Course** – an optional deep dive into how you perceive yourself, others and your creative role in the world
- **Practical wellbeing support** – help accessing medical resources, therapy referrals, diagnosis pathways and other essential life services
- **Everyday check-ins** – a wellbeing team that's visible, approachable and part of the day-to-day campus life

Supervision

Both one-to-one and group meetings with your supervisor are an essential part of the course. The individual meetings will serve to support successful research, whereas the group sessions will serve as forums for project development, production management, engaging in critical peer feedback rounds, industry-focused seminars and guest lectures. Leading the one-to-one and group sessions on the Creative Production (Film) MA are Jon-Carlos Evans, Juli Saragosa, Leandro Goddinho, Marwa Zein and Dominga Ortega, who use their combined breadth of filmmaking and practical experience to help you get the most out of your studies.



1-Year (Full time) supporting workshops

Semester A		Semester B		Semester C	
Supervision					
Production Studio [PS] I		Writing & Directing		Distribution	PS III: Post
Comparative Auteurs	Creative Nonfiction	Modern Cinematic Perspectives		*In Semester B, Full Time students choose between the full semester course Sonic Aesthetics & Applications OR the combined track of Art Direction & Scene Lab.	
		Sonic Aesthetics & Applications*			
		PS II: Art Direction*	Scene Lab*		

2-Year (Part time) supporting workshops, first year

Semester A		Semester B		Semester C	
Supervision					
Production Studio [PS] I		Writing & Directing			
		Creative Nonfiction	PS II: Art Direction		

Second year

Semester A		Semester B		Semester C	
Supervision					
Production Studio[PS] I		Modern Cinematic Perspectives		Distribution	PS III: Post
Comparative Auteurs	Expanded Cinema	Sonic Aesthetics & Applications		*Scene Lab is optional for 2nd year Part time students, depending upon the nature of your proposed project(s) and your creative practice.	

Supporting workshops

This programme uses a clear framework outlined in “Your postgraduate journey” on page 3. Besides the guiding pillars of Proposal, Contract, Production, Assessment and Feedback, you will deepen your understanding of film theory and practice in workshops. Rather than a one off event or single class, our workshops continue throughout the semester. They facilitate you approaching your project from multiple perspectives.

Creative Nonfiction

Learn the history and techniques in the field of creative nonfiction, both theoretically and practically, while gaining foundational knowledge in using practice-based research to produce creative artefacts. Topics include modes of documentary, archival and found footage, directing interviews and distilling the narrative.

Writing & Directing for Film

Comprising half of our practice-based workshops, these sessions will hone in on the craft of filmmakers as both storytellers and researchers through in-class prompts, scene work and analysis. Topics include David Mamet’s “The Four Questions,” story and character development, nonlinear storytelling, adaptation, alternative script structures and genre, script analysis, actions and emotional anchors, character facts, casting practices, actors in the moment and blocking the scene.

Production Studio I, II, & III

The other half of the practice-led workshops explores practical and advanced cinematographic processes, along with contemporary techniques in audiovisual art and digital/expanded cinema. Examples include: sequential storytelling, the cinematographer’s homework, analog filmmaking (Super 8), sonic landscapes and narratives, theories of montage, field recording/foley techniques and digital narratives.

Modern Cinematic Perspectives & Comparative Auteurs

After the initial introduction to research skills, these two discursive theoretical courses expose you to wider social debates and movements within cinema. The topics covered are not meant to directly influence your research, but rather to encourage you to reflect upon your own work and that of others with a more refined sensitivity.

Modern Cinematic Perspectives explores theoretical debates such as semiotics, 21st-century hybrid cinema, postcolonial cinema in the Global South, sexuality and queer theory from Almodovar to Vachon and class in film.

Comparative Auteurs investigates the work of both contemporary and legacy filmmakers from the lens of authorship, technique and collaborators. Topics vary each year, but past sessions have included: Sidney Lumet, Chantal Ackerman, Agnes Varda, Dee Rees, Hector Babenco, Kasi Lemmons, Kim Ki-Duk, Park Chan-Wook, Claire Denis and Sarah Maldoror.

Masterclasses

During the final semester, you will participate in a series of masterclasses focusing on expanded cinema, art direction, set management, distribution, film festival strategies, rough cut and post-production labs and sound design. The masterclasses will be tailored towards refining each student's intentions, objectives and work towards the completion of their thesis production.



Admissions Guide

Here's everything you need to take the next step in your application:

Get to know us better

Virtual Open Days → Get a virtual overview of what we're all about, held over Zoom.

In-Person Open Day → Get a first-hand feel of our school and educational programmes.

Campus Tours → Come see our facilities and creative spaces at one of our regular tours.

Virtual Taster Workshops → Join a programme-specific info event or masterclass

Admissions Open Hours → Book your one-to-one application support on-demand.

Admissions Guidance

1. **Course fees & payment plans**
2. **Early Enrolment Bonus – save €3,000 off total tuition**
3. **Funding options**
4. **Application deadlines & Visa requirements**
5. **How to apply**
6. **Contact us**

1. Course fees & payment plans

We believe creative education should be accessible, transparent and free from hidden costs. Our tuition plans are flexible – you decide to pay monthly, per semester, annually or in full with discounts. Extended payment options let you spread costs beyond your programme.

Creative Production (Film) MA (Full-Time) Tuition Plans 2026-27				
Plan type - Full Time	Standard	€1,000 Early Enrolment Bonus	Payment Plan Duration	Notes
By Semester	€6,528	€6,028	1 year 2 instalments	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Annually	€12,663	€11,663	1 year	3% discount by paying each year upfront. Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
12 Instalments per Year	€1,171	€1,088	1 year	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Extended Yearly	€6,778	€6,278	2 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee in final year
Extended Instalments	€606	€565	2 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee in final year
Creative Production (Film) MA (Part-Time) Tuition Plans 2026-27				
Plan type - Part Time	Standard	€1,000 Early Enrolment Bonus	Payment Plan Duration	Notes
By semester	€4,178	€3,928	2 years 4 instalments	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Annually	€8,104	€7,604	2 years	3% discount by paying each year upfront. Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Total tuition upfront	€15,373	€14,373	One-time	8% discount by paying total tuition upfront. Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
12 instalments per year	€780	€738	2 years	Enrolment fee €895 per year applies
Extended yearly	€5,903	€5,570	3 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee in final year
Extended instalments	€534	€506	3 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee in final year

Enrolment fee

This non-refundable fee of €895 per study year is due before the start of each academic year and secures your place. No enrolment fee is charged in the post-graduation year if you choose an Extended Payment Plan.

Extended payment plans

In addition to single or installment payment options, we offer Extended Payment Plans. This spreads tuition payments over an additional year, resulting in smaller monthly payments that continue for one year after graduation.

Enrolment confirmation & billing

- **Enrolment fee:** due within 14 days of receiving your offer.
- **Billing cycle:** tuition installments begin **1 July 2026** and are billed on the first of each month until your chosen plan ends.

2. Early enrolment bonus

Apply by our **priority deadline** to secure your place, save €1,000 off your total tuition and access visa support sooner.

- **Visa-required applicants:** apply by 28 February 2026
- **EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants:** apply by 31 March 2026

3. Funding opportunities

As an accredited higher education provider, our students are eligible for a variety of national and international financial aid schemes. This includes the German state funding stream BAföG, which is open to citizens of Germany, EU countries and some non-EU citizens too. Depending on which country you are a citizen of, this may also open up funding from other programmes supporting further-education. **[Read more about the various funding opportunities on our website.](#)**

4. Application deadlines

Visa-required applicants

- Priority: 28 February 2026 (includes bonus & visa support)
- General: 30 April 2026 (subject to processing time and availability)

EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants

- Priority: 31 March 2026 (includes bonus & guaranteed spot on preferred course)
- General: 5 June 2026 (granted on a rolling basis)
- Late: until 28 August 2026 (subject to availability)

Visa requirements

- **Visa-required:** If you require a visa before entering Germany (e.g. citizens of India, Brazil, Mexico, China, Turkey), you must apply at a German embassy before arrival. Our Visa Support Service (included in the enrolment fee) supports you with paperwork, appointments and timelines. Visa processing can take 3–6 months, so early application is essential.
- **Post-arrival visa:** If you're from a country that allows visa-free entry (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea), you can enter Germany without a visa and apply for your student residence permit after arrival.
- **Visa-exempt (EU/EEA/Switzerland):** If you're a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland, you don't need a visa or residence permit to study in Germany.

5. How to apply

Our application process is straightforward – just follow these seven steps:

1. **Check deadlines** – especially if you need a visa to enter Germany or financial support.
2. **Prepare your portfolio** – requirements vary by course, check our “How to apply” page.
3. **Submit your application** at catalyst-berlin.com/apply, including personal and educational details, a motivation statement, your portfolio and supporting documents such as transcripts or proof of language ability.
4. **Wait for our response** – we'll be in touch within around two weeks. Sometimes we'll ask for follow-up information or invite you for an interview. Keep an eye on your inbox.
5. **Confirm your place** – once you receive an offer letter, secure it by paying the enrollment fee within 14 days.
6. **Get ready for Berlin** – once your enrolment fee is paid, you're officially enrolled. Next you'll set up your payment plan, receive your welcome package and access preparation materials for your studies. We recommend finding accommodation as soon as you're sure that you're studying with us, and arriving one month before your classes begin.

Contact & resources

Reach out to our Admissions team by email at admissions@catalyst-berlin.com or book a call [here](#).