



Screenwriting 1 Year HE Certificate

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Awarding Institution: Plymouth Marjon University

Teaching Institution: Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology

Location: Berlin

Mode of study: Full time

Language of instruction: English

Final Award Title: Certificate of Higher Education (1 year)

Overview

Transform your ideas into compelling scripts in an environment built for exchange

Our **Screenwriting Certificate** is a hands-on course for writers and filmmaking professionals who want to bring compelling characters, worlds and ideas to life across modern storytelling, from film and series to other audiovisual media such as games and animation. In this one-year intensive you will learn to develop your stories, communicate them clearly and iterate them quickly. You will work in a Writer's Room, take part in weekly table reads and receive actionable notes from active industry tutors.

Across two semesters you will create a portfolio of short film pitches and scenes, an original short-series concept with beats, a drafted episode and a concise pitch deck. Sessions combine technical craft, structured peer critique and guided project development. This Certificate prioritises technical elements, such as mastering story design and scene writing – all the while, you'll be discovering what moves you through immersion in the craft.

This course is a strong fit for writers, journalists, copywriters, arts professionals, filmmakers and theatre practitioners who want to lead from the page. However, anyone with a story to tell and enough drive to express themselves through scriptwriting will feel at home.

You can study the Certificate as a stand-alone Higher Education qualification. On successful completion you may also enter Year 2 of the Screenwriting BA.

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

- A portfolio of at least 3-5 short film concepts with loglines, tone statements and selected scripted scenes
- An original short-series concept developed in a Writer's Room, with a bible
- One drafted episode for the short series, with tracked passes and a revision plan
- A refined pitch document and concise deck with story, tone, audience and format
- A collection of polished scenes across different tones and genres

- A process dossier including received notes, actions taken, version histories and reflections – demonstrating professional practice and a strong sense of how to proceed with your craft and project.

Learn in a space designed for creativity

The Screenwriting programme is part of our School of Film & Visual Media – alongside our Music & Sound, Acting and Creative Human Development Schools. Our riverside campus is located at the Funkhaus. Berlin's iconic broadcasting complex from the GDR era now brings together creatives from around the globe. Honouring the heritage of our building and the potential of broadcasting, we also have our very own grassroots student-run radio station: **Etikett Radio**. Host live shows, script and produce audio features, collaborate with sound students and develop projects such as podcasts from pitch to pilot to publish.

Our School of Film & Visual Media includes a cinema, green screen studio, theatre, as well as industry-spec editing and compositing suites. You'll have access to dedicated writing spaces, quiet rooms for focused work, and the wider creative ecosystem of studios, performance spaces and multimedia production suites.

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, musicians in session, all under one same roof. Your work isn't just shaped by what you do, but also by what's happening around you.

"You can go wherever you want, in any world, at any time. You can expand – there's no limits to it and that's the beauty of scriptwriting."

— Naseef Ganadry, Catalyst student

Come see it for yourself. Join a tour, attend an open day or visit our campus during a live showcase.

[[Click here to book a visit →](#)]



Define your artistic voice in 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 Europe's “Big Three” – alongside the Venice Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival. 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.

At the crossroads of Europe, our city is alive with a rich literary history and stories from every corner of the world. Fritz Lang and Thea von Harbou's epic Metropolis was filmed, premiered and still screened in Berlin, nearly 100 years later. Our streets pay homage to The Brothers Grimm, Bertolt Brecht, Walter Benjamin and Audre Lorde, all of whom's work has left a lasting impression on Berlin.

Today's mix of history, subculture, politics and art gives current denizens endless material to work with. Whether you're inspired by the quiet corners of a neighbourhood café, the raw energy of a festival, or the intensity of democratic protests, Berlin offers a constant flow to both experience and draw from. Miss Read, ILB and poesiefestival bring writers from all over the world, but if you're more focused on grassroots activities, Berlin is brimming with creative writing meet-ups and independent bookstores.

“Being able to put my ideas into action and actually possibly make a movie out of them... is just amazing”

— Dimitra Ntogka, Catalyst Student



Learning by doing

Our learning method and philosophy

Why we teach this way

We believe the best way to learn screenwriting is by writing – and rewriting – real scripts. That's why this course is built around practice based learning. This is a progressive approach to education that replaces off-the-shelf learning with practical work, giving you insight into how the creative industries actually operate.

Ready to leave outdated learning methods behind?

→ Working on sustained projects helps you retain knowledge, turning it into usable skills. This gives you a deeper understanding of your craft and skills that are applicable to new situations.

Textbooks aren't your thing?

→ Instead of gaining knowledge passively, practice-based learning is an educational model that supports you in making connections through practical real-world tasks. Throughout our programme you'll apply your skills to meaningful work with clear outcomes.

Worried you won't have the necessary experience to start your career?

→ Practice-based learning allows you to gain professional experience from day one. In every project you'll work with real tools, serious briefs and collaborative workflows.

Do assignments feel like chores?

→ Our curriculum is based around challenges that give you creative ownership. This approach opens doors, keeping your studies in tune with your personal interests and developing vision.

Want to learn how to turn creative ideas into action?

→ Practice-based learning continuously pushes you out of your comfort zone, requiring you to take action. Our supported structure for experimenting, testing and refining your ideas, allows you to build confidence in your creative decision-making and practice.

Need to build a portfolio that speaks for you?

→ Leave with more than just finished work – leave with a body of finished projects that reflect who you are as an artist, how you've grown and where you're going. Your portfolio is your creative fingerprint.

We've got you every step of the way

At Catalyst, you're supported by a team of experienced professionals who bring real-world wisdom into the classroom. As screenwriters, script editors and filmmakers themselves, they understand the challenges and demands of crafting authentic and engaging stories. They'll guide you through a balance of structured learning and open exploration – asking you tough questions, offering honest feedback and helping you refine your unique voice as a writer. One-to-one tutorials are an important part of your learning journey, giving you a chance to reflect on your progress, set goals that align with your creative process and strengthen your storytelling vision.

A future-proof creative toolkit

Developing your practice as a screenwriter means more than mastering story structure. It's about building a creative mindset and a set of transferable skills you can apply across media and industries. Alongside hands-on experience with scriptwriting techniques, we'll help you develop the soft skills and mindset that help you grow sustainably across media and industries. That includes self-direction, time management, creative resilience, negotiation and the ability to learn through iteration and reflection. These soft skills are some of the most valuable tools you'll gain while with us – transferable to any challenge or creative direction you decide to pursue.

Seismic technological shifts during this decade have redefined the media landscape. That's why our curriculum emphasises future-proof skills like self-motivation, problem-solving, collaboration and communication. This course doesn't just teach you how to create bulletproof scripts. It helps you shape your path, strengthen your identity as a creative professional and stay agile in a field that's constantly evolving.

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

Your creative community

You'll join an international, multidisciplinary community of screenwriters, filmmakers, actors and visual storytellers where collaboration is an essential element of our learning framework. You'll work with your classmates day to day, helping each other develop scripts, workshop scenes and share feedback. Our campus is designed to encourage interdisciplinary experimentation. As your storytelling skills, script portfolio and understanding of screen media grow, students from our School of Music & Sound, School of Acting and School of Creative Human Development will all be eager to collaborate with you – whether that's developing a short film together, producing a table read or adapting your work for performance.

Our campus brings together over 70 nationalities under one roof. That diversity of perspective helps shape your creative outlook and opens up new ways of working. Whether you're drafting a screenplay, revising a scene or collaborating on a table read, you'll be part of a community that reflects the collaborative nature of the screenwriting and filmmaking industries.



Course structure & learning outcomes

The Screenwriting Certificate unfolds over two semesters. The year is fast-paced, a mix of collaboration, working by yourself and highly focused on practice. You'll write several short film pitches and scenes and will dive into a Writer's Room experience with your fellow classmates.

You can study the Certificate as a stand-alone qualification. On successful completion you may apply to enter Year 2 of the Screenwriting BA.

Please note that the following curriculum is non-binding and subject to change.

Year 1 – HE Certificate

Semester One		Semester Two	
SYNC1: Create (20 ECTS) SYNC2: Craft (20 ECTS) SYNC3: Explore (20 ECTS)		SYNC4: Shape (20 ECTS) SYNC5: Form (20 ECTS) SYNC6: Locate (20 ECTS)	
Development			
Screenwriter’s Toolbox		Serial Toolbox	
Scene Writing & Dialogue		Narratology II	
Pitch Paper Writing		Post Structuralist Screenwriting	
Narratology I	Character Workshop	Short Comedy Drama	Writer’s Room & Creative Collaboration

The course content will focus on:

- Learning the basics of storytelling: structure, desire vs obstacle, protagonism and more
- Develop pitch ideas for short films
- Learning how to edit
- How to give and receive both constructive and critical feedback
- Working in a Writer's Room with your peers to develop an original short series concept
- Writing an episode for your short series

Modules

SYNC1: Create

Ideation, conceptualisation and creative process. You will generate and test multiple premises, articulate loglines, identify stakes and define initial tone and audience. Assessment centres on a slate of short concepts and a reflective commentary.

SYNC2: Craft

Tools, technique and the application of theory to practice. You will produce structured outlines, scene lists and a short scripted extract that demonstrates conflict, active protagonists and purposeful beats.

SYNC3: Explore

Industry, publishing and audience awareness. You will position your projects for readers and contexts, practise query language and evaluate where a piece fits. Outputs include a one-pager and a targeted pitch email.

SYNC4: Shape

Integrating idea and craft. You will take one concept from outline to draft through staged passes, tracking changes and rationales. Emphasis on coherence across beats, scenes and acts.

SYNC5: Form

Critical discourse, reflection and academic skills. You will connect your decisions to tradition and contemporary practice, drawing on narratology, case studies and alternative frameworks. Assessment includes an annotated script extract and a short critical reflection.

SYNC6: Locate

Situating your voice and work in context. You will map influences, references and intent, and plan realistic next steps, including festivals, labs or collaborations across the campus.

Workshops

Development

Your “home room” with your Advisor, guiding you through the modules, projects and assessments which make up the accredited degree. Examine and reflect upon your audiovisual writing skills from a top-down perspective, including your collaboration, communication, organisation, preparation and professional skills.

Screenwriter’s Toolbox

Learn the basics of storytelling in this vast course that covers all subjects regarding screenwriting. Deep dive into: how to create conflict, making protagonists active, how to specify character desires, how to implement theme, antagonism creation, pacing, connecting macro & micro parts in storytelling.

Pitch Paper Writing

Workshop that focuses on the idea generation, creation and edition of the pitch document. Learning how to communicate your story ideas in a compelling pitch document is a vital skill for a screenwriter..

Character Workshop

In this workshop, students learn the craft of creating unforgettable characters. This workshop focuses on different ways to flesh out characters and create character webs.

Scene Writing & Dialogue

A seminar that teaches crafting dialogue that fits the tone of your story. This includes writing, feedbacking and editing scenes and coming up with dialogue that feels organic to your specific characters.

Narratology I & II

The basics of film structure - focused on the short form, but learning these essentials will serve you in any writing you do down the line. This workshop teaches film and serial structure.

Serial Writing Toolkit

This workshop delivers all the essentials you need to create your very first short series.

Writer’s Room

In the Writer’s Room, all that you’ve learned about serial writing will be put into practice! Together with your classmates, you’ll create an original series idea, beat it out over extensive Writer’s Room days and take on different roles in a Writer’s Room setting (like showrunner, staff writer, etc).

Post Structuralist Screenwriting

Forget what you’ve learned about structure! Not really, but this workshop aims to counter the structural and more anglo-american approaches to writing by providing a new framework.

What to expect

To give you an idea of what a typical week will look like for you, here is an example week from a previous first year. Please note that this is not intended as a guide or your official timetable when joining this programme.

Development Workshop

- Talk through submissions
- Open roundtables: share your writing, give and get feedback
- Have open discussions about industry related questions: how do screenwriters make money? How does networking work?

Screenwriter's Toolbox

- Deep dive into how to create compelling conflict: an interactive class on how to make protagonist goals extremely specific and build true opposition that is the narrative engine of the story

Narratology I

- Looking at the origins of storytelling starting with Aristotle - learning about 3, 4, 5 act structure, 8 sequence models, circular storytelling - a mix of lecture and hands on writing exercises

Visual Framing

- look through your submissions and Pitch Decks alongside a professional designer. Visual Framing workshops help you understanding design thinking, how this impacts the way you present your writing and how to think visually



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. **Scholarships**
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.

Plan type	Standard fee	With Early Enrolment Bonus	With €6,000 scholarship	Duration	Notes
By semester	€5,528	€5,028	€4,528	1 year / 2 sem.	Annual enrolment fee €895
Annually	€10,723	€9,723	€8,723	1 year	3% discount. Annual enrolment fee €895
12 instalments per year	€1,005	€921	€838	1 year	Annual enrolment fee €895

Enrolment fee

This non-refundable fee of €895 per study year is due before the start of each academic year and secures your place.

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 relocation 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 and Catalyst scholarships

As an accredited higher education provider, our students are eligible for a variety of national and international financial aid schemes. **Read more about the various funding opportunities on our website.**

We also offer our own **€2,000 scholarships** for eligible Screenwriting students. Scholarship recipients are embedded into the Catalyst community by taking an active role in collaborative projects and event support.

1. **Global stories & cultural perspectives scholarship:** For screenwriters from diasporic, non-Western or otherwise underrepresented cultural backgrounds who write stories not typically seen in mainstream media.

2. **Equity in film & visual media:** For writers exploring identity, community and systems of power, particularly from perspectives often left out of the mainstream. It supports those navigating structural barriers as they build a path in screenwriting.
3. **Social justice & documentary storytelling scholarship:** For writers using documentary, hybrid or narrative forms to investigate displacement, climate, borders or social inequality, particularly through long-form or community-based approaches.
4. **Narrative reinvention scholarship (career switchers):** For applicants moving from another field into screenwriting, bringing new perspectives, transferable skills and life experience to story development.

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. **Apply for a scholarship** (if eligible) – by completing the additional Scholarship Form, which requires an additional motivation letter and background information.
5. **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.
6. **Confirm your place** – once you receive an offer letter, secure it by paying the enrollment fee within 14 days.
7. **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 us

Reach out to admissions@catalyst-berlin.com or book a call [here](#).