

catalyst

2026

BACHELOR OF ARTS / HE CERTIFICATE

Film Production

Express your authentic self through film

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Teaching Institution: Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology

Final Award Title: Certificate of Higher Education (1 year) / Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (3 years)

Location: Berlin

Mode of study: Full time

Language of instruction: English

Awarding Institution: Plymouth Marjon University

Overview

Express your authentic self through film

Our **Film Production BA** transcends borders and teaches you to disrupt the status quo – making you part of a new wave of cinema that better reflects the world we live in today. You will create original work by diving deep into your own unique point of view and by embracing the global perspectives that your peers and tutors bring, here in the heart of Europe.

The programme covers and offers guidance on a variety of filmmaking styles, including experimental, music videos, hybrid films and documentary as well as various formats such as short films, feature-length projects and series. You'll gain skills in all the major filmmaking roles, allowing you to choose your specialisation. Our inclusive approach ensures that you will develop the versatile skills needed to work across different mediums and storytelling modes.

Your filmmaking journey will begin the moment you walk through the door, and you will walk away proudly with an impressive showreel and an expansive network of filmmakers, actors, screenwriters, visual effect specialists, sound artists and composers.

You can study this programme either as a full three-year BA degree or the first year only as a one-year HE Certificate.

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

- A portfolio of films, showreels and collaborative projects
- Skills and experience in major filmmaking roles: director, screenwriter, producer, cinematographer, production designer, editor and sound designer
- Confidence leading a project during initial concept, on set in post-production and delivering the final cut
- A clear creative voice and understanding of your strengths as a filmmaker
- Real-world experience working in teams and under production conditions
- The mindset to keep developing your craft and navigating a creative career

Learn in a space designed for creativity

The Film Production 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. Our riverside campus is located at the Funkhaus. Berlin's iconic broadcasting complex from the GDR era now brings together events and 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**.

Our cutting-edge facilities are built with one thing in mind: maximising 'hands-on' access to doing what you love. Think of it as your very own technological playground. Inside, you'll find a fully equipped film studio with green screen, a cinema, production labs and editing suites as well as dedicated performance, acting and communal spaces plus the vintage sound and recording studios.

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, musicians in the studio, visual artists rendering, writers workshopping, all under one roof. Your work isn't just shaped by what you do, but also by what's happening around you.

“Studying here was nothing short of amazing and to throw all of my talents and passions into one medium was magical.”

— Adam Munnings, Director and Film Production alumnus

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

Berlin has a rich cinema history. 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 Venice Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival – and one of the world's "Big Five" – a list that includes 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 Kiezkino or one of Berlin's many open air cinemas during warmer months.

"It's nice to find out how good I was at certain things – specifically, what I wanted to do in film. You discover things about yourself, like 'hey I'm good at this'... I never knew that I could be that person."

— Sheona Mateos, Film Production alum



Learning by doing

Our learning method and philosophy

Why we teach this way

We believe the best way to learn film production is by doing it. 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 directors, editors, cinematographers and producers themselves, they understand the challenges and demands of the creative industry. They'll guide you through a balance of structured learning and open exploration – asking you tough questions, offering honest feedback and helping define your own unique voice as a filmmaker. 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 vision.

Our **technical team** is a key part of your day-to-day experience. They're here to make sure production tools and environments never hold 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



A future-proof creative toolkit

Developing your creative practice means more than learning how to shoot or edit films. It's about building a set of creative life skills that stay with you, long after you've left the studio. Alongside hands-on experience with cameras, lighting setups, editing suites and production workflows, we'll help you develop the soft skills and mindset that help you grow sustainably as a filmmaker. That includes self-direction, creative resilience, critical thinking 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, and transferable to any challenge or creative direction you decide to pursue.

Seismic technological shifts during this decade have redefined the film and media industries. 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 make films. It helps you shape your path, strengthen your identity as a storyteller and stay creatively agile in a world that keeps changing.

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 filmmakers, editors, visual storytellers and writers where collaboration is an essential element of our learning framework. You'll work with your classmates day to day, helping each other learn as well as sharing skills. Our campus is designed to encourage interdisciplinary experimentation. As your filmmaking and directing skills 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, too.

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 crewing a shoot, cutting a film or screening your latest project, you'll be part of a community that reflects the collaborative nature of the film industry.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Catalyst. The cohort has extremely hard working people, those interested in collaborating and sharing ideas in a non-competitive space. My short film, 'Generation Z', was accepted into the Indie Short Fest in LA, and I thank Catalyst for the amazing experience."

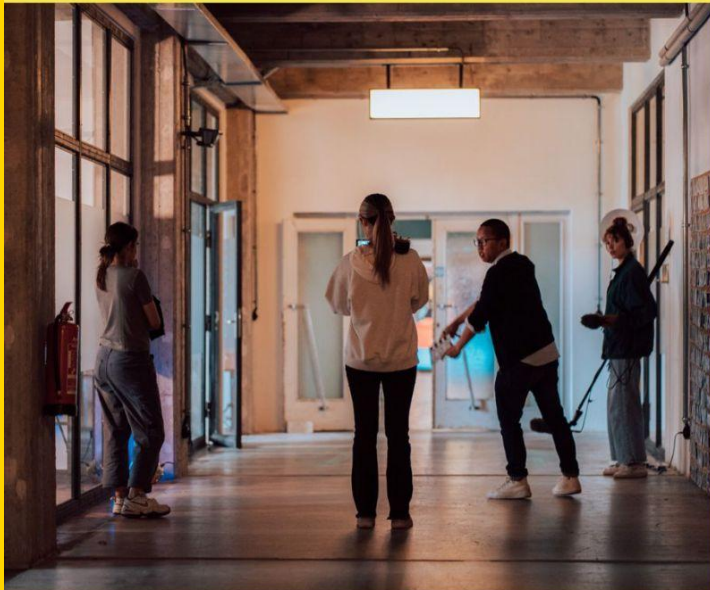
— Andrea Riba, Director and Film Production alumna

Core skills for an industry-ready CV

This course is designed to prepare you for the realities of contemporary filmmaking. You'll learn how to:

- Direct and produce narrative and non-fiction films
- Work with professional camera, lighting and grip equipment
- Edit and colour grade with industry-standard software
- Record and design audio for film
- Manage productions and workflows across teams
- Apply creative and critical thinking to film language

You'll also graduate with a portfolio that reflects your unique voice and range – one that speaks to your capabilities and vision as an emerging filmmaker.



Course structure & learning outcomes

The Film Production programme unfolds over three years:

Year 1 focuses on the foundations: learn to collaborate in a team and meet deadlines while developing foundational skills in screenwriting, cinematography, editing and sound design.

Year 2 expands your practice after the whirlwind first year of filmmaking. You will take on more focused investigations into how to find your artistic voice and what constitutes quality cinema.

Year 3 culminates in a major project that integrates everything you've learnt. Now it's time to build the bridge between academic and professional life.

You can study this programme either as a full three-year BA degree or the first year only as a one-year HE Certificate.

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

Year 1 – HE Certificate

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: 20 CATS = 10 ECTS.

Semester One		Semester Two		
SYNC1: Create (20 CATS) SYNC2: Craft (20 CATS) SYNC3: Explore (20 CATS)		SYNC4: Shape (20 CATS) SYNC5: Form (20 CATS) SYNC6: Locate (20 CATS)		
Development				
Frame by Frame	Microfilm Feedback	Industry & Audience Strategies	Kilo- & Mega-film Feedback	Industry & Audience Strategies
Producing & Production Management		Research & Context		
Screenwriting I		Post-Processes: Image & Sound Design		
Editing & Colour	Directing Characters		Editing & Colour	
Cinematography		Production Design	Documentary Production	

Year 1

Throughout the year, you'll gain a professional and creative toolkit that will enable you to:

- Understand and apply the basic principles of each role and department in filmmaking.
- Work with the equipment and software required to create a short film.
- Collaborate on film productions in a team environment.
- Begin to grasp the power of your own voice and how this affects your creative output.
- Investigate your passions through filmmaking.

Over the year you'll take on three major projects – Micro-films, Kilo-films and a Mega-film – alongside a series of workshop briefs and at least one external collaboration. In the early projects you'll write and direct your own ideas while rotating through crew roles, gaining a full-spectrum view of filmmaking. The Megafilm takes things further: a collaborative practice-based research project developed from a pitch and brought to life with your peers. By the end of the year, you'll have worked on over 20 films – building a rich portfolio and connecting with Catalyst's international creative community along the way.

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 filmmaking skills from a top-down perspective, including your collaboration, communication, organisation, preparation and professional skills.

Roundtable Feedback

Screen your films and learn to give and receive critical feedback on your and your peers' work.

Cinematography, Editing & Colour, Production Design, Post-Processes: Image & Sound Design, Documentary Production and Directing Characters

Practical, tools- and techniques-based workshops designed to get you up to speed on the fundamentals of filmmaking. They will give you a grounding in the equipment, tools, software and hands-on skills needed to complete your projects.

Screenwriting, Producing & Production Management and Industry & Audience Strategies

Learn to hone and communicate your ideas and vision to others: cast, crew, industry partners and audience members.

Frame by Frame and Research & Context

Familiarise yourself with the concepts and terminology used in filmmaking, analysis and proposals/pitching through theory-in-practice workshops. Understand the context of your work in relation to other films and media artworks.

Year Two – HE Diploma

Semester One	Semester Two
BIND1: Develop (40 CATS) BIND2: Refine (20 CATS)	BIND3: Apply (40 CATS) BIND4: Venture (20 CATS)
Development	
Screenwriting & Narrative	Editing & Narrative
Mise-en-Scene	LABs I, II & III
Audio Storytelling OR Production Design	Directing
Films That Changed Us	

Year 2

The course content in your second year will focus on:

- Narrative storytelling and screenwriting.
- Honing a creative vision.
- Historical and cultural context of cinematic storytelling.
- The creative process of study, experimentation and observation that goes into a film.
- How to engage in critical discourse around film.
- Developing project management skills.

Just like in your first year, the **Development** workshops continue as a guiding thread, encouraging meaningful self-exploration and growth as a filmmaker. Alongside this, **Films That Changed Us** runs throughout the year, inviting you to watch, discuss and reflect on landmark works in cinema history. Practical workshops in **Screenwriting & Narrative**, **Mise-en-Scène**, **Directing**, **Editing & Narrative**, and **Labs I–III** push you beyond technique, exploring the aesthetic, historical and artistic contexts of each discipline. You'll also choose between **Audio Storytelling** or **Production Design** in Semester A, tailoring the curriculum to your interests.

The pace shifts from **Year 1**'s boot camp briefs to a more focused production timeline. In the Fall, you'll pitch and crew on collaborative Lab Films – experimental group projects prioritising study and exploration over polish. Each student will take a major role in at least two productions. In the Spring, the spotlight turns inward with a semester-long project built around your own audiovisual obsessions, artistic DNA and creative fingerprints. Here, you'll have the time and space to define your voice, moving from quantity to quality as you deepen your identity as an artist.



During the second year of study is when **Film Production** students are inducted on how to use our greenscreen.

Year Three - Bachelors Degree

Semester One		Semester Two
PUSH1: Frame (20 CATS)	PUSH2 Invent (40 CATS)	PUSH3 Launch (20 CATS)
PUSH4: Process or PUSH5: Dissertation (40 CATS)		

Year 3

- Evolving your approach to your chosen career path, so you leave feeling confident, empowered and with a clear direction.
- Crafting a proposal that will bring your process and use of language to an industry standard.
- Taking the creative lead by writing, directing and producing your projects to completion.
- Undertaking the process of releasing your projects into the wild and getting a handle on film distribution.
- Providing a service in a professional context OR writing a thesis.

Finally, you'll work on a major project that integrates everything you've learnt.

In the third year, you're in control. Time to dedicate yourself and shape work as you see fit. Is it a meticulously executed commercial for a startup that needs your fresh take? Perhaps it's a narrative, multimedia music video made in collaboration with one of Catalyst's music students? Maybe you'll travel with your crew of filmmaking peers back to your home country to make a short film close to your heart. Or will you bring a feature-length film to life?

Spend the year training in your chosen field to get ready for your final project. Work in short creative bursts, focusing on improving specific skills in the context of the larger whole. That could mean stretching out a scene in your film down to each frame. It could mean exhaustive auditions of every actor in town. As well as the filmmaking tools at your fingertips, you will have the abilities to self-reflect on your own practice, honing your strengths while identifying where you still need work.

Dream it up, assemble your team and make it happen. The third year will see you distribute and release your work to the public, whether that's applying to your favourite film festivals, getting screened in an art-house cinema or launching a commercial campaign. Don't worry if that sounds like too much now – by this point of the BA, you'll have already investigated where your voice will cut above the noise.

Whatever your ambitions, our tutors will push you to reach even further in one-on-one consultations and we'll support you with our facilities, equipment and network as much as we can.

Major Project

Your major project is a year-long undertaking that showcases your creative and professional identity. The following three stages provide a starting point, however the full picture is entirely reliant on your individual choices, made as a result of your time with us.

Frame

You will design a clear, ambitious and well-researched proposal. This sets out your aims, methods, and context, ensuring the project is both challenging and feasible.

Invent

You will execute your proposal, delivering a completed piece of work at professional standard. Alongside this, you will submit a creative process report that documents the methods, decisions and reflections behind your project.

Launch

You will share your project with a public audience. This involves developing a marketing and distribution strategy and reflecting on the full journey in a project debrief. The goal is to give your work long-term relevance and impact.

Minor Project

Process (Option A)

Process bridges study and professional practice. You will identify career goals, propose a service for an external client, and deliver a professional product outside Catalyst. A creative report documents your process, challenges and reflections. This option is ideal if you want to build confidence in freelancing and professional collaboration while testing how your skills operate in real-world contexts.

Dissertation (Option B)

This module gives you the opportunity to undertake an extended piece of academic research. You will propose and develop an 8,000-word thesis on a subject you are passionate about, demonstrating advanced research methods and critical analysis. Supported by tutorials and independent study, this module is for those who want to dive deep into a topic and hone their academic voice.

A Typical Week: Year 1, Semester A, Week 4

During the start of the first year, you will be getting to grips with foundational processes. Your learning is supported through the following workshops

Cinematography Workshop

- Start the week in our Film Studio getting inducted on our professional camera gear and learning how to bring what you see in your mind to the screen.

Editing Workshop

- On Tuesday, you'll begin the day at a workstation in one of our fully kitted out Fabriks. After some foundational theory in editing, you'll put that to practice straight away by using the software that will bring your ideas to life in Visual Storytelling Briefs.

Screenwriting Workshop

- Soon after lunch, you'll be in one of our Co-Labs, which are set up for idea generation and exchange. In the first year, Screenwriting workshops provide you with the basics of getting your ideas down on the page in alignment with industry standards.

Development

- Aside from all the technical lessons, during this time you begin working on your Microfilm screenplays, writing your ideas for a non-dialogue short film.

Frame by Frame

- In these workshops you'll start understanding the language of cinema, how to analyse films and how to use the tools of cinema to tell stories without words. You'll be analyzing the work of others while working towards your own Microfilm script.

Collaboration workshops

- At the start of the semester, during Fridays you will take part in workshops targeted at working in teams and across disciplines. You'll learn, for example, how to work with actors or record location sound.

In between all that, you are free to explore filmmaking ideas alone or with peers from across the school. We'll put the tools in your hands and the context of how to use them, the rest is up to you.



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 opportunities**
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 fees	With Early Enrolment Bonus	Payment Plan Duration	Notes
By semester	€6,028	€5,528	3 years / 6 sem.	Annual enrolment fee €895
Annually	€11,693	€10,693	3 years	3% discount by paying each year upfront. Annual enrolment fee €895
Total tuition upfront	€33,272	€30,272	One-time	8% discount by paying total tuition upfront. Annual enrolment fee €895
12 instalments per year	€1,088	€1,005	3 years	Annual enrolment fee €895
Extended yearly	€9,541	€8,791	4 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee for the fourth year.
Extended instalments	€858	€795	4 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee for the fourth 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 €3,000 off your total tuition (€1,000 per study year) 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 us

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

