

APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2020/2021 SCREENWRITING



Deutsche Film- und
Fernsehakademie Berlin
German Film and
Television Academy Berlin

1. Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the DFFB, applicants must pass the entrance examination. The examination focuses on the applicant's artistic aptitudes rather than their technical skills. Applicants must be 21 years old at the start of their studies. Applicants can only apply twice to the DFFB, even if they apply to different specialisations.

The DFFB's approach to teaching filmmaking is both practical (students make films throughout their time at the DFFB) and theoretical (students learn all the theoretical aspects of film).

2. Education and Study Programmes

The first year of studies is generalist, based on the idea of training a filmmaker who is knowledgeable about all the different aspects of filmmaking. This means that during the first year, students are not yet separated by specialisation. All students gain skills and knowledge in the most important film trades – screenwriting, cinematography, directing, editing and sound – and create a film together.

During their time at the DFFB, students experience the open boundaries between each specialisation (screenwriting, cinematography, directing, producing, editing & sound). Students become filmmakers in the best sense of the word – they study and understand filmmaking from as many perspectives as possible. They learn the entire process of filmmaking, but practice the individual parts of it, which means that they develop both specific and generalist film knowledge. Students learn about all the phases of filmmaking and they can test their theoretical knowledge of filmmaking through creating films.

3. Entrance Examination

The entrance examination consists of two parts: the **preselection** and the **examination week**. The application materials that applicants must submit for the preselection process are listed below. After reviewing all the materials, a commission selects the applicants who will be invited to the examination week at the DFFB in Berlin.

A maximum of ten students per course are admitted to study at the DFFB.

The following materials must be submitted for the preselection:

I. Submit a curriculum vitae. (continuous text; max. 3000 characters without spaces)

II. What have you learned until now?

Describe the relevant experiences and activities that have shaped your life to date. (max. 500 characters without spaces)

III. What and how would you like to learn?

Describe your expectations and wishes. How do you envision your time at the DFFB, in terms of your studies and on a personal level? (max. 500 characters without spaces)

IV. Through 3 photographs that you have taken, portray one specific place to which you have an emotional connection. Try to portray this relationship through the mood/atmosphere of the photographs.

V. Please write a short story based on this place. (max. 1500 characters without spaces)

VI. Based on your short story, write a dialogue scene, in which there is a conflict.

Upload as PDF with max. 3 ½ pages, use Arial font size 12 and make sure there are 2cm margins left and right. Info: The preview will show only a screenshot of the first page or nothing in some cases!

Please send only your own work. Do not send films, photos, or texts in which others were significantly involved.

4. Application Process and Deadlines

From **17 October 2019**, please fill in your application online on the DFFB homepage <http://drehbuch.application.dffb.de>.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, 8 January 2020 at 6 p.m.

Late applications will not be considered.

We must charge a fee of € 30,00 to process your application documents. Please transfer this amount to our account at Berliner Sparkasse, BLZ 10050000, Account No. 06 300 276 68 by **8 January 2020**, including the message "Application 2020, **Screenwriting**, SURNAME". For payments from abroad: Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin GmbH; IBAN (International Bank Account Number): DE86 1005 0000 0630 0276 68, BIC or SWIFT Code: BELADEBEXXX; bank address: Berliner Sparkasse, Alexanderplatz 2, 10178 Berlin. The fee is non-refundable.

Your materials will only be presented to the examination board if the fee is paid on time.

Due to the large number of applicants, the preselection commission cannot give feedback on applications to non-successful applicants.

The preselection and the examination week will take place on the following dates:

17 October 2019	The application page is online. Applicants can register and start filling in their application process online. Attention: You must register by 06.01.2020! Christmas holidays take place between 21.12.2019 and 05.01.2020. During this time, questions about the application cannot be answered and technical support cannot be provided.
8 January 2020	The application documents must be received online by this deadline at 6 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted.
3 February 2020	The examination commission examines the materials and decides which applicants will be invited to the examination at the DFFB in Berlin. We will inform the applicants by email about our decision.
16 – 20 March 2020	Examination Week Applicants who have been invited to take the examination will be informed about the exact date and details of their examination.

5. Language Skills

Studying at the DFFB is only possible if you have good written and spoken German-language skills. The DFFB's second language is English, therefore all applicants must also have a good command of English.

International applicants must present a B2 certificate from the Goethe Institute (or an equivalent) at the beginning of the second part of the application (the examination week at the DFFB in Berlin). The written application as well as the oral/practical examination can be taken in English if an applicant's knowledge of German is insufficient.

For information on what it will cost to study at the DFFB as well as on funding possibilities, please visit our homepage: www.dffb.de.

Berlin, October 2019