

# APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2020/2021 CINEMATOGRAPHY

---

**DFFB** 

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. **Please explain briefly why you are applying for the Cinematography specialisation and not the Screenwriting, Directing, Producing, or Editing & Sound specialisations.** (max. 500 characters without spaces)
- III. **Through 5 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.**

Each picture file cannot be larger than 5 MB. Allowed formats are jpg, png, gif. The pictures are compressed online and in PDF, the original files are saved separately.

- IV. **Please describe the artistic characteristics of Patrick Zachman's painting "SPAIN. Barcelona at night. 2004. Cellar of a bar" (2004) in relation to how the painting impacts you, the viewer.** (max. 3000 characters without spaces)

You can find the photo on the internet, for example at [https://www.wipplay.com/en\\_GB/user/Patrick\\_Zachmann/](https://www.wipplay.com/en_GB/user/Patrick_Zachmann/).

- V. **Please create a second photo series of five photographs on the topic of "breathless".**

Each picture file cannot be larger than 5 MB. Allowed formats are jpg, png, gif. The pictures are compressed online and in PDF, the original files are saved separately.

- VI. **Create a 3-minute short film on the theme of "seduced".**

You can decide which kind of film you would like to make: either a fiction, documentary, essay, or experimental film.

You must write the screenplay and be the cinematographer of the film. You do not have to direct the film, and can work with a director. It is important that the film does not exceed a duration of 3 minutes. Films that are more than 3 minutes will not be viewed by the jury.

The production format does not matter, but we only accept films with a max. resolution of 1920 x 1080 in an aspect ratio of 16:9 or 4:3. Permitted file formats are Quicktime (.mov), Mpeg2, or Mp4. For the audio/video codec, we recommend Mp3/H.264. The file cannot be larger than 150 MB.

*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://bildgestaltung.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, **Cinematography**, 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: BELADEBEXX; 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. <b>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.</b>
8 January 2020	The application documents must be received online by this deadline at 6 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted.
11 – 13 March 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.
20 – 30 April 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](http://www.dffb.de).

Berlin, October 2019