

# APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026 IN CINEMATOGRAPHY



## 1. Admission Requirements

Admission to study at the DFFB relies solely on successfully passing the entrance exam. Admission is based on the applicant's artistic aptitudes, not their technical abilities. Applicants to the DFFB must be at least 21 years old at the beginning of their studies. An applicant can apply to the DFFB a maximum of twice, regardless of the specialisation (screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography, or picture and sound editing).

DFFB studies are focused on film production, but students are also required to understand the theoretical aspects of filmmaking.

## 2. Training and Programs

The first year is a foundation year, and the curriculum based on the concept of the well-rounded filmmaker. This means that the curriculum is the same for all students; students are not yet streamlined into their chosen specialisations. All students familiarise themselves with the most important trades of film production—screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography, and picture and sound editing. Students complete their first year with the making of a film.

At the DFFB, the boundaries between each specialisation are not rigid. This means that students become filmmakers in the best sense of the word; they study and understand film from as many angles as possible. The goal of the DFFB is for students to understand filmmaking as a whole, while also specialising. Students learn about filmmaking from development to distribution, while delving into theory and applying this theoretical knowledge to their films.

## 3. Entrance Exam

The entrance exam consists of two parts. First, there is a pre-selection process. Next, if the applicant is pre-selected, then they are invited to the DFFB in Berlin for a week of exams. Below is a list detailing what each applicant must submit for pre-selection. A jury reviews the application, then selects candidates who are invited to Berlin for the exam week.

A maximum of eight students per specialisation are admitted to study at the DFFB each academic year.

The following works and documents must be submitted for pre-selection:

- I. **A curriculum vitae (CV).**  
(tabular CV; max. 1500 characters without spaces)  
Your tabular CV must allow the jury to see that you have been involved in filmmaking for some time. This involvement can include internships, your own film work, studies in related fields, etc.
- II. **Briefly explain why you are applying for cinematography and not for screenwriting, directing, producing, or picture and sound editing.**  
(maximum 750 characters without spaces)
- III. **Create a photo series on the theme “PORTRAIT OF ME WITHOUT MY FACE” using 5 photos that you have taken.**  
Each photo file must not be larger than 5 MB. Allowed photo formats are jpg and png. The photos will be highly compressed when submitted online and in a PDF, but the original photo files are saved separately.
- IV. **Create another photo series on the theme “ON THE EDGE” using 5 photos that you have taken.**  
Each photo file must not be larger than 5 MB. Allowed photo formats are jpg and png. The photos will be highly compressed when submitted online and in a PDF, but the original photo files are saved separately.
- V. **Write down your impressions of the last art exhibition you visited.**  
(max. 1500 characters without spaces)
- VI. **Create a 3-minute short film with the title “THE NIGHT BEFORE”.**  
You can work within any film genre to create your film. For example, you can work in fiction, non-fiction, essay, experimental, etc. The screenplay or the documentary screenplay or concept must be written by you. You must also do the cinematography. Someone else can direct the film.

It is important that the film's length is a maximum of 3 minutes. Longer works will not be viewed by the jury.

We do not specify the production form, but we only accept films with a maximum resolution of 1920 x 1080 in an aspect ratio of 16:9 or 4:3. Permitted file formats are Quicktime (mov) and Mp4. We recommend Mp3/ Apple Lossless/H.264 as

audio/video codec and a data rate of 10 Mbit/second. The file must not be larger than 150 MB.

*Only submit your own work and not films, photos, or written work in which others have played a significant role.*

## 4. Application Process and Deadlines

Complete the application online on the DFFB website from Friday, **October 18, 2024**:  
<https://bildgestaltung.application.dffb.de>

Please register online by Monday, **December 16, 2024** at 6 pm at the latest.

The deadline for submitting your full application is Thursday, **January 16, 2025** at 6 pm. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

The DFFB charges a fee of **30 Euros** to process application documents. Please transfer this amount to the DFFB bank account at Berliner Sparkasse, BLZ 10050000, account no. 06 300 276 68, by Thursday, January 16, 2025. Include the following information: "Application 2025, study program **CINEMATOGRAPHY, SURNAME**". For international payments: 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 work can only be submitted to the jury if payment is made on time.*

Due to the large volume of applications, the jury is unable to provide applicants with any feedback on their applications (for example, let an applicant know the reasons for their non-acceptance to the DFFB).

### Pre-selection and exam dates:

October 18, 2024

Applicants can register and start filling out their application online. **Applicants must register by Monday, December 16, 2024.** Registration is required so that an application can be submitted. Registration is not considered an application. Registrations without a completed application will be deleted after the end of the application period. Christmas holidays are between Friday, December 20, 2024, and Monday, January 6, 2025. During this time, the DFFB is closed and staff are unavailable to answer questions or provide technical support.

January 16, 2025	The application documents must be received online by 6 pm on this date. Late submissions will not be accepted.
End of February 2025	The jury reviews each application and decides which applicants will be invited to take the exam at the DFFB in Berlin. The DFFB will inform applicants of their decision by email.
June 16 to 27, 2025	Exam week Candidates will be informed of the exact dates of their exam schedule ahead of time, so that that they can prepare and make travel plans if necessary. Candidates must attend the exam period in person. If a candidate requires a visa to enter Germany for the exam period, they must organize their visa with the relevant authorities ahead of time. Please make an embassy appointment well in advance (even if you are not yet sure if you are invited for the exam week).

## 5. Language Skills

Studying at the DFFB is only possible if you have a good command of written and spoken German. The second language at the DFFB is English. We require all applicants to have a good command of English.

International applicants should note that the B2 certificate from the Goethe Institute (or equivalent) must be presented at the beginning of the second part of the application, i.e. the exam week in Berlin. The written application and the oral/practical exam can be completed in English if a candidate's German language skills are insufficient.

For information on DFFB tuition, other costs, and funding opportunities, please visit our website: [www.dffb.de/en/](http://www.dffb.de/en/).