

APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2027/2028 IN DIRECTING



NOTICE

Please note the two mandatory deadlines:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

All assignments must be uploaded to the online portal by this deadline.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Please make sure to register in time!

Online registration via the application portal must be completed by this date. Late registration is not possible; without timely registration, an application cannot be submitted.

Once you have registered, **the online portal will remain open until the deadline on December 8, and application materials can be submitted until then.**

If you have any questions or encounter any problems, please contact:

bewerbung.support@dffb.de

1. Admission Requirements

Admission to study at the DFFB depends solely on successfully passing the entrance exam. Admission is based on the applicant's artistic aptitude, not their technical skill. 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 two times, regardless of the specialisation (screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography, or picture and sound editing).

The DFFB curriculum is focused on practical filmmaking, but students are also required to understand the theory behind the practice.

2. Training and Programs

The first year is a foundational year with a curriculum based on the concept of the well-rounded filmmaker. This means that the curriculum is the same for all students; students do not yet take up their chosen specialisations. All students become familiar with the most important areas of film production —screenwriting, directing, producing, cinematography, and picture and sound editing. The culmination of the first-year studies is a short film.

At the DFFB, the boundaries between specialisations are fluid. This means that students become filmmakers in the best sense of the word; they study and understand film from many angles. The goal of the DFFB is for students to develop an understanding for the many complex and varied processes that contribute to the creation of films, while also specializing in a specific field. Filmmaking in all its phases is an essential part of the programme. Theory and film history are an integral part of the program of study. This knowledge will be tried out and tested in your own filmic practice, giving you an opportunity to check whether these ideas and approaches are relevant to your own artistic working methods.

3. Entrance Exam

The entrance exam consists of two parts. First, there is a pre-selection process. Next, if the applicant is pre-selected, they then get invited to the DFFB in Berlin for a week of exams. The list below details the submission materials required for the pre-selection phase. After reviewing the applications, the jury then selects a shortlist of candidates who are invited to Berlin for the exam week.

The written application and the oral/practical exam can be completed in English.

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:

The use of AI is not permitted when completing the application assignments.

I. A curriculum vitae (CV).

Your tabular CV should demonstrate the extent to which you have already been involved with film. This involvement can include internships, your own film work, studies in related fields, etc.

Please also update the CV with information about your personal background, such as social or cultural engagement, formative experiences through projects or travel, educational background, etc.

Upload as PDF (tabular CV; maximum 1 page of continuous text, in Arial font size 12; page margins 2 cm on the left and right)

II. Briefly explain why you want to become a director?

Upload as PDF (maximum half a page of continuous text, in Arial font size 12; page margins 2 cm on the left and right)

III. Write a short story on the theme “Ghosts”.

Upload as PDF (maximum 1 page of continuous text, in Arial font size 12; page margins 2 cm on the left and right)

IV. Create a 3-minute short film with the title “Abolish Time”.

You can work within any film genre to create your film. For example, you can work in a fictional, non-fictional, hybrid, essayistic, or experimental mode. You must write the

screenplay, the documentary script, or the concept yourself. You are responsible for the direction and the selection of the documentary scenes. You may leave the cinematography to a cinematographer.

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

We do not specify the production format.

(use max. resolution: 1920x1080, aspect ratio: 16:9 / 4:3, Data format: Quicktime (mov) or MP4, max. data rate 7MBit/s, max. file size: 150MB, video codec: H.264 / H.265, audio codec: MP3, AC3, AAC)

After uploading the film file, it is not possible to watch the film on the website. Only a screenshot, randomly selected from the first frames of the film, will be displayed. The screenshot will only be displayed once the file has been fully uploaded. In some cases, the video format may not be recognized, in which case no screenshot will be displayed.

V. Write a director's statement about the short film that you created for this application.

Please discuss the following questions:

How did you work on the film? What were the challenges? Which shots were especially important for you? Is there a central image?

Upload as PDF (maximum 1 page of continuous text, in Arial font size 12; page margins 2 cm on the left and right)

VI. Research a potential documentary film about a milieu that is unfamiliar to you.

This can be a social, cultural, professional, or thematic world about which you know nothing or very little. Describe your insights, experiences, and impressions.

Upload as PDF (maximum 2 pages of continuous text, in Arial font size 12; page margins 2 cm on the left and right)

Please submit only your own original work. Films, photos, or written work in which others have played a significant role may not be submitted.

4. Application Process and Deadlines

Please register via the application portal starting **September 23, 2026**, and complete your application online:

<https://regie.application.dffb.de>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

By this deadline, all assignments must have been uploaded to the online portal. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Online registration via the application portal must have been completed by this date. Late registration is not possible; without timely registration, an application cannot be submitted.

After registration, the online portal will remain open until the deadline on December 8, and application materials can be submitted until then.

Later applications will not be considered.

If you have any questions or encounter any problems, please contact: bewerbung.support@dffb.de.

The DFFB charges a fee of **30 Euros** to process application documents. Please transfer this amount to the DFFB bank account by December 8, 2026. Include the following information: "Application 2026, degree program DIRECTING, SURNAME".

Bankname: Berliner Sparkasse, IBAN-No. (International Bank Account Number): DE86 1005 0000 0630 0276 68, BIC or SWIFT: BELADEBEXXXX, Bank Code: 10050000, Account No.: 0630027668, Account Name: Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin GmbH.

The processing 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 feedback on their applications (for example, the reasons they were not admitted to the DFFB).

Pre-selection and Exam Dates:

September 23, 2026	The application portal opens. Applicants can register and begin completing their application online.
--------------------	--

November 24, 2026	REGISTRATION DEADLINE Online registration via the application portal must be completed by 6:00 p.m. on this date. Registration after this deadline is not possible; without timely registration, an application cannot be submitted. Registrations without a completed application will be deleted after the application period has ended. After registration the online portal will remain open until the deadline on December 8. The application materials can be submitted there until the deadline.
-------------------	---

December 8, 2026	SUBMISSION DEADLINE The application materials must be submitted online via the portal by this deadline at 6:00 p.m. Late submissions are not possible.
Beginning of March 2027	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.
April 19 to 30, 2027	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 will be 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-level certificate from the Goethe Institute (or equivalent) must be presented at the start of their studies in autumn. The written application and the oral/practical exam can be completed in English if a candidate's German language skills are insufficient at that time.

If you require a visa for the examination period, please remember to make an appointment with the relevant authorities in good time.

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