

Film Academy: Oxford through the Lens

Syllabus Guide
For Ages 16 – 18



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Programme Overview

Step into the captivating world of filmmaking with our Film Academy summer programme. Guided through every step of the production process by an industry professional, you will shoot, edit, and screen an original short film with the historical city of Oxford as your set.

Drawing inspiration from the filming location of dozens of epic films - including the Harry Potter and James Bond franchises - you'll master the three-act structure as you make use of a compelling script, editing it to perfection before shooting your first masterpiece.

You'll learn the art of video production using real industry equipment, including HD cameras and professional sound and lighting instruments, before honing your digital editing skills using state-of-the-art software. Most importantly, you'll graduate with your own professionally produced short film to add to your portfolio.

Who It's For

Our Film Academy Summer School is ideal for students hoping to break into the film industry, offering a uniquely hands-on learning experience in which attendees are guided through all stages of the film production process.

Whether you are already a seasoned actor hoping to take your turn in the director's seat, or an aspiring cinematographer looking to try out professional equipment for the first time, this creative and technical programme will give you the experience and skills needed for the dynamic world of filmmaking.



*Upon completion of this programme
at Oxford Royale, you will:*

1. Competently and confidently use the camera.
2. Successfully set the white balance, focus, and iris on the camera, setting it up on a tripod so that it is safe and level.
3. Connect the microphone, and know how and where to position the microphone before filming.
4. Understand the protocols of marking up and operating a clapperboard.
4. Know the names and shot sizes of different types of camera movement.
5. Understand the director's role in storytelling with shots as well as actors' performances.
6. Have some understanding of what can be achieved during post-production.

During the programme you will also develop a number of core skills:

- 1. Collaborate with international peers:**
Work with global peers and hone your communication and teamwork skills through workshops and group projects.
- 2. Develop problem-solving skills:**
Enhance your critical thinking and problem-solving abilities with daily lessons and workshops.
- 3. Build confidence:**
Thrive in a supportive environment, think creatively, share ideas, and discover your strengths.
- 4. Showcase your success:**
Showcase achievements, explore peer projects, and engage in critical discourse during subject challenges and Exhibition Days.
- 5. Gain a taste of independence:**
Manage your assignments and schedule while exploring a new location with new friends and staff support.





How You'll Learn

Film Academy offers a rare early flavour of film school, providing you with the opportunity to learn to direct, and take creative ownership of, your own film as part of a functioning film crew.

Transcending traditional classroom education, you'll learn 'on the job' as it were, through practical demonstrations, workshops, and intensive practice.



Teaching methods include:

1. Lectures on production theory
2. Workshop with practical demonstrations
3. Use of state-of-the-art filmmaking equipment and software
4. Group work and presentations
5. Reflective writing exercises ('film diaries')
6. Writing, directing, producing, and editing your own short film
7. Feedback on your film based on solid assessment criteria



Module 1:

Directing Theory and Technical Training

The course will kick off with a theoretical introduction to key elements of filmmaking, concentrating on the different areas of a director's work and how they come together as a whole in film production. You'll become familiar with the core vocabulary of filmmaking, as well as the rules of composition, lighting, and audio. As your technical training commences, you'll familiarise yourself with the equipment you'll be using to shoot your film during the first week of the course, learning to set up cameras and execute different types of shots. Finally, you'll visit various sites in Oxford to scout potential locations for filming.



Module 2:

Practical Filming

Now comes the time to put your learning into action. You'll participate in a practice shoot to become comfortable with using the equipment, moving on to review the rushes (unedited footage) you have gathered throughout the day. Having drafted your shooting scripts, you'll conduct a table-read, collaboratively editing them and familiarising yourself with the content so that when you are on the shoot you have a strong sense of the structure and type of shots you'll use. Then, you'll spend the rest of the first week shooting your film on location in historic Oxford.



Module 3:

Post-Production

Now that you have shot your short film, the second week will be devoted to the post-production process, honing your production for seamless storytelling and continuity. You'll master the fundamentals of video editing, using state-of-the-art software such as FinalCut Pro. You'll also learn how to shoot pick-ups: minor shots recorded after the major shoot is conducted to either replace a faulty shot or fill in a lacuna in the production. Following several edit days, you'll have the opportunity to view your production on the big screen as you exhibit it to your tutor and the rest of your cohort. What better way to celebrate your achievements?



Module 4:

Additional Learning

In addition to production and post-production techniques, you'll be instructed in other crucial parts of the creative process in order to gain a holistic understanding of how the different elements of great films come together. You'll receive a masterclass in screenwriting and the three-act structure, the storytelling model that underpins all great scripts. You'll also learn how to edit a script to perfection, tightening the dialogue and ensuring continuity between scenes. Finally, you'll learn about the many different roles within the film industry, and how you can best position yourself to make your cinematic breakthrough.



www.oxford-royale.com

All information correct at the time of publication.