

summer school screenwriting

A Three-Week Introductory Course

August 19 – September 6, 2019

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The City

With its 2,000 year heritage, Cologne is Germany's oldest major city, known for its monumental Cathedral (UNESCO World Heritage Site), a vast number of historical sites, and more than 40 museums. With approximately 90,000 students, and the inhabitants' unique, open minded attitude, the city is especially popular with creatives. As a consequence, Cologne is one of Germany's most important media hubs.

A third of German TV programs are produced here. Several notable TV and radio stations, numerous renowned film and TV production companies and more than 70 print and digital publishing companies are based in the city and draw a creative and artistic crowd to Cologne.

Over 55,000 people work in the region's media industry. Not a day goes by without a camera crew filming somewhere on the streets of Cologne, and this has in fact become an element of urban life in Germany's TV capital.

The School

Located in a part of the city that is in transition from an old industrial area to a new hub of the creative industry, ifs internationale film-schule köln is consistently ranked as one of the best film schools in Germany. This evaluation is based on its outstanding student support, excellent teaching and project work, and several film awards, including a Student Academy Award.

In cooperation with the TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, the ifs offers Bachelor's degree programs in Screenwriting, Directing, Creative Producing, Cinematography, Editing Picture & Sound, VFX & Animation and Production Design, as well as international M.A. programs in Serial Storytelling, Digital Narratives and 3D Animation for Film & Games. Several new Master's programs are currently in development. In addition, the school offers several further education programs for media professionals that provide training in a wide variety of disciplines.

The school is a member of CILECT, the International Association of Film and Television Schools, and maintains partnerships with a global network of film schools and universities.

Summer School Screenwriting

An intense and enjoyable introduction to the art of visual storytelling for film and TV.

This three-week Summer School course aims to support aspiring writers in developing their creative writing skills in the area of screenwriting. In an enjoyable, supportive setting and through a combination of theory, practice and collaborative exercises, an international group of participants learns about all key aspects of this craft, ranging from premise, theme and topic to characters and character orchestration, from plot to scene structure, and from setting to subtext. Formal aspects like screenplay formatting, text forms and industry conventions are touched upon as well as tools and devices that help writers tell stories visually.

All of these aspects, however, are never seen as stand-alone entities, but viewed as means supporting writers in finding and conveying the stories they want to tell.

Any theoretical input is immediately applied to writing exercises before the participants eventually enter into the story development of their own original short film script.

Learning Outcomes

The Summer School Screenwriting supports writers in finding and voicing their vision, providing them with useful tools and essential screenwriting skills. In the end of the three-week course, participants will have developed a screenplay for a short film or a written work of comparable scope.



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Course Structure

Week One

- Topics:
- Introduction
 - Finding your voice and expressing yourself through stories
 - Screenwriting essentials (part I)

Format: Lectures, workshops & exercises

Week Two

- Topics:
- Screenwriting essentials (part II)
 - Story development – short film script

Format: Lectures, workshops, writing & script consulting

Week Three

- Topics:
- Story development – short film script
 - Feedback and conclusion

Format: Writing & script consulting

Lecturers



Keith Cunningham *Head Lecturer*

Screenwriter and head writer Keith Cunningham consulted on dozens of projects, led hundreds of seminars, and trained thousands of writers, directors, producers, and commissioning editors. His screenwriting and teaching career profits from his insights as a psychologist and specialist in creativity with years on set as a cameraman and lighting gaffer. The author of “The Soul of Screenwriting: On Writing, Dramatic Truth, and Knowing Yourself” has taught at AFI New York, the Director’s Guild, the Writer’s Guild in L.A., and numerous institutions, companies, and broadcasters all over the world. Keith Cunningham has been a guest lecturer at the ifs for over 12 years, and served as Substitute Professor of Serial Storytelling from 2016-2017. In addition, he headed the Writer’s Room Lab at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Heidelberg (DAI).



Alexander Daus *Assistant Lecturer*

Alexander Daus bought his first book on storytelling when he was 18 and fell in love with the theory of it all. He became a raging nerd hell-bent on understanding how it works. He started his career at the theatre, where during his two internships he saw drama come to life for the first time. He then went on to write, direct and produce a number of short films and shortly after moved to Berlin, where he worked as runner, set-manager, concept artist, screenwriter and script consultant for film productions and short film projects. Finally his dream came true and he was admitted to study screenwriting at the ifs internationale filmschule köln. Currently, Alexander works as a freelance writer, script consultant and writing instructor in Cologne. He is a regular lecturer at the ifs, giving workshops for the BA Screenwriting and MA Serial Storytelling since 2012.



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further international
programs at ifs

Dates

Application Deadline:	May 24, 2019
Start of Program:	August 19, 2019
End of Program:	September 6, 2019

Application & Requirements

This program is open to aspiring writers from various backgrounds, e.g. high-school students, current undergraduate students, post-graduate students, or media professionals from other fields. As the Summer School Screenwriting will be held in English, applicants need to have English language skills of B2-level or higher.

Registration Documents

- Registration form (fully completed and signed)
- CV (English language)
- Idea-outline for a short film (1 page)
- Copy of student ID (when requesting student discount rate)

Please find the registration form here:
www.filmschule.de/drehbuch

Fees

Regular Participants:	1200 euros
Students:	950 euros
ifs Alumni and ifs Students:	850 euros

Financial Support

Participants may be eligible to obtain financial support to cover the program fee through the Grant Voucher of the Continuing Education Grant. This Voucher is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as well as the European Social Fund of the European Union. Please note that the Grant Voucher must be available at the time of invoicing.

For more information see www.bildungspraemie.info

Contact

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International Master's Programs

» Serial Storytelling

www.filmschule.de/ma-serialstorytelling

» Digital Narratives

www.filmschule.de/ma-digitalnarratives

» 3D Animation for Film & Games

www.filmschule.de/ma-3d-animation