Beijing Film Academy's International Film Production

### 1.Course Outline

Film is the 21st century’s pre-eminent form of communicating ideas and shaping the way people think. This is why we at the Beijing Film Academy pride ourselves in approaching film from a practical point of view. We believe that guiding our students from the conception of a film idea all the way through to the finished product is the optimal path to success. Our program is recognized internationally as China’s most innovative and creative full-time undergraduate program taught in English in all of China.

In 2013 the Cinematography Department took the initiative to start the Academy’s first ever International Program. Therefore, we share the same resources, facilities and equipment that the Cinematography Department uses.

The Beijing Film Academy’s International Program is a progressive program that is committed to excellence in filmmaking. We want to create a stimulating environment where students can realize their potential in order to transition smoothly into a working professional.

**High Standards**

Our educational standard is of the highest quality and we strive towards excellence for our students. We provide a safe learning environment with top of the line facilities and equipment.

**Diversity**

This is the foundational core of our program since our students come from all over the world. We believe in treating all students with fairness no matter your country of origin, religion, age or sex. We also promote the acceptance of ideas from all cultures and don’t believe in only having one way of thinking.

**Collaboration**

Because we have a small community our faculty and students are one extended family who are all working towards the same goal of being committed to appreciating and respecting each other and encouraging each other to do our best.

### 2. Course breakdown:

Our courses in the program have been divided into four categories: Production, Technique, Technology, Historical and Theoretical classes. At least 50% of all courses will be taught in the Production aspect, which gives our students a hands-on approach to film making.

We believe that students must navigate the world of film making by first examining all of its parts and figuring out which part fits best for them. That’s why for the first 2 years students will take a generalized approach to film and their classes will include the following:

### Term 1

* Visual Narrative 1 – Gain an understanding of how to express ideas and emotions using filmic language vs. literary language. Also, learn the fundamentals of how to use film equipment.
* Photography 1 – Production course learning the skills and language of how to take a professional photograph.
* Camera technique basics – Learn the technical elements of the camera such as aperture, lens, exposure, depth of field and methods like time lapse.
* Visual Art History – Theoretical class to understand the development of visual expression in the history of art. Also, explore different aspects of fine art forms like architecture, painting, sculpture. Supports Photography 1 class.
* Post-production of Photography – Gain a basic understanding of how to use post-production software like Photoshop. Learn techniques like color correction, how refine the image and adding special effects to a picture. Supports Photography 1 class.

### Term 2

* Visual Narrative 2 – Synthesizing the ideas and emotions in order to gain a deeper understanding of how to use film language. Learn the inner details of film equipment.
* Photography 2 – Create high quality professional photos that will be used for a photo exhibition as the final project.
* Editing – Gain a clear understanding of the fundamental concepts of editing and the different theories of how to assemble a film. Learning the basics of how to use Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premiere.
* Cultural Comparison – Comparing the similarities and differences of Chinese and Western cultures and customs.
* Digital Image technique – Importing and naming files, how to use photo software, how to compress and decompress video.

### Term 3

* Basic Lighting – Use fundamental lighting equipment to create basic set-ups in order to learn the different characteristics of light like shadow and texture and how to manipulate and control them.
* Experimental Image – how to combine technical elements of Cinematography with the concept of how to manipulate the form, color and shape of the image.
* Visual Effect Basics – Introduce the fundamentals of how to think digitally and to gain the necessary computer skills to create computer graphics. Students will first create a virtual world then light the world and use the camera’s POV to see the overall picture.
* Film History – Gain a broad understanding of the different periods, genres and major directors in film history.
* Beginner Screen writing - Students will learn the difference between telling a story through showing vs. telling. Also, they will learn the basics of format, structure, character and dialogue.

### Term 4

* Documentary Film Production – A research into society and humanity. How to explore the inner and outer conflicts, emotions and what drives peoples’ motivation. Learn the techniques of how to interview people and shoot a short documentary.
* Producing – Help students understand budgeting, scheduling, how to obtain financing and distribution.
* Film Sound – Production course to learn how to get good sound quality and the basic skills of sound recording, editing and mixing. This class supports documentary class.
* Intermediate Screen writing – A more in-depth look into feature film screen writing. Also, to write a professional script of 8-12 minutes of length that will be shot during the 1st semester of the 3rd year for Directing majors.
* Humanities – A general education class where we invite professors and expert from a variety of areas where they talk about history, culture, art and philosophy.
* Chinese language – There are 2 levels of classes: Beginner and Advanced Chinese.

### 3rdyear of study

After experiencing the different facets of film making students will now have a better idea of what they want to do and now they can choose to major in either:

* Directing
* Cinematography
* Visual Effects

**If students choose to Major in Directing they will specialize in:**

* Intermediate Directing – Students will develop their directing skills such as how to work together with actors, how to block a scene, how to design mise-en-scene, and improve their storytelling ability.
* Advanced Directing – Learn the role of the director in the overall system of a professional production and the strategies of how to work with a producer, distributor and the crew. Students will make their thesis film.
* Advanced Screen writing – Through personal 1 on 1 meetings students will finish a professional script that will be used for their thesis.
* Acting – Learn the fundamental skills of acting, how actors prepare and what’s the mental process of developing a character. In the end students will act in a play of15 or 20 minutes.

**If students choose to Major in Cinematography they will specialize in:**

* Intermediate Cinematography – To be introduced to more skills and methods of Cinematography and become familiar with advanced lighting and camera equipment. Work together with the director to shoot the directors film.
* Advanced Cinematography – To fully understand and comprehend the skills needed to be a professional Cinematographer. Learn how to make an equipment list, a budget, developing way to manage time on and controlling difficulties on set. Learn to set up a crew and how to efficiently manage people. Shoot the directors thesis film.
* Students who specialize in Cinematography will have the choice to shoot their own films or shoot a directors film or both.

**If students choose Visual Effects they will learn:**

* Advanced CGI training – Learn the in-depth details of color correction, compositing and computer graphics.

In order to graduate students must create a thesis film that will exemplify all of what they have learned in the previous 3 years.

An optional 4th year is offered to students who will be guided by their professors throughout the conception of their thesis film idea, to writing a script then scheduling and budgeting, to pre-production and storyboarding and eventually to the shooting and editing stages and the completion of the film.

### Admission Requirement

* Must hold a non-Chinese passport for at least 4 years. Applicants should have lived in a foreign country for over 2 years. Please send us a scanned copy of your passport along with scanned copies of the visas of the last countries you’ve been too in the past 4 years.
* Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 30. No one under 18 or 30 will be accepted.
* Must meet the health requirements met by the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Chinese Ministry of Health.
* For applicants who may be required by their own country to perform national military service, we suggest completing your service before applying. Joining your country’s army in the middle of study will cause automatic disenrollment.
* If any school has expelled the student in the past we will deny the application.
* Applicants who have a criminal or prison record will not be accepted.

### Tuition costs & Payments

* The total tuition costs for one academic year will be 80,000RMB. Payment can be made on campus by Credit card (foreign and domestic cards such as Union pay), bank transfer(students pay the transfer fees and fluctuations in exchange) or paid in cash in Building C
* Our deadline for the total tuition will be October 1st every year. Students who have failed to pay before this day will have their student ID revoked and will no longer be able to attend classes.

### Scholarships

* However, for the Fall 2015 program the Cinematography department will offer 3 different scholarships for each grade at the end of year:  
  1 scholarship at 30,000rmb  
  2 scholarships at 20,000rmb each  
  3 scholarships at 10,000rmb each
* The 6 students who receive the scholarships will be judged by academic performance, participation in class, attendance of classes, and the total amount a student has improved during the year.

### Application steps

* Step 1:  Submit all documents  
  Email a scanned copy of each document and the Application form to [InternationalBFA@yahoo.com](mailto:InternationalBFA@yahoo.com)
* Step 2:  Pay the Application fee of 800rmb
* Step 3:  After a week you will be notified and an interview will be setup either in person if you’re in Beijing or by Skype if you’re in your home country.
* Step 4:  After the July 15th deadline students will be notified by email if they are accepted into the program. They will be mailed a JW202 form (China Student Visa Form), which the student will take to the Chinese Embassy and apply. Make sure we have your current mailing address and updated phone number.

### Application checklist

* Scanned copy of your passport
* Filled application form
* 1 Passport sized photo
* Scanned copy of previous educational certificates and academic records. (English translations attached with non-English records)
* An essay of maximum 1500 words that’s split into 2 parts:
* A motivational letter explaining why you want to be a part of the program.
* An original 5 minute story outline for a short film
* A personal statement letter that includes your family and cultural background,  your education level,  your academic achievements and your areas of interest.
* A portfolio of past projects. (This isn’t necessary but it will help show your creativity and will give us a better idea of your personality).
* Some examples of what to send are:
* Short films no longer than 10 minutes
* 10 minute excerpt from a feature film
* 10 pages from a screenplay in PDF format
* No more than 10 professional photographs
* Easily accessible paintings or sculptures.
* For screenplays only email PDF files to us. (No .doc or .fdx files). For video files please upload them to Dropbox and email the link to InternationalBFA@yahoo.com
* Optional - A scanned copy of English language results verified by recognizable institutions like IELTS or TOFEL verified within 3 years.
* Optional - A scanned copy of SAT or A-Level test result.

### Application fee

* The application fee is 800 RMB.  
  Applicants should send the payment before June 15,  2015 by T/T (telegraphic transfer) to:  
  INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BANK OF CHINA LIMITED NEW YORK BRANCH SWIFT   
  Address :  ICBKUS33  
  FED ABA :  026014591  
  CHIPS ABA :  1459  
    
  For credit to  
  Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Beijing Municipal Branch, Beijing,  PRC SWIFT   
  Address :  ICBKCNBJBJM  
    
  For further credit to Beneficiary  
  Account Number : 0200010009014480041   
  Name:  Beijing Film Academy  
  Address :    
  Beijing Film Academy  
  No.4 ,  Xi Tu Cheng Road,  Hai Dian Dist.  Beijing 100088,  China

**Beijing Film Academy's International Film Production**

* Qualification Awarded: Bachelor's Degree
* Teaching Language: English
* Duration: 3-4 Years
* Tuition Fee: RMB 80,000 per year
* Starting Date: Sep 5 , 2016
* Application Deadline: Jun 30 , 2016
* Application Fee: USD 130 or RMB 800 (Non-Refundable)

Academic Requirement: High school diploma