

# 5-MONTH FILMMAKING COURSE

Study Plan



PRAGUE FILM  
INSTITUTE

Last revised: November 2025

Content subject to change based on course updates, staff availability, and production resource

## FINAL PROJECT

A 1–5 min short film inspired by the idea of “pure cinema”. Includes pre-production materials and a written reflection. The final outcome is a completed short film.

## SUBJECTS OVERVIEW

SUBJECTS	WHO IS THIS SUBJECT FOR? <i>Mandatory for listed specialisation, optional for others.</i>	WEEKLY HOURS <i>(average)</i>	SEMESTER HOURS <i>(average)</i>
Practical workshops	All specialisations	8,8	88
Final film Consultations & Independent Shooting	All specialisations	-	42
Cinematography & Lighting	All specialisations	3	30
Directing	All specialisations	3	30
Editing	All specialisations	3	30
Screenwriting	All specialisations	3	30
Production	All specialisations	3	30
Sound	All specialisations	2	20
Film Studies	All specialisations	2	20
Film Equipment Protocol	All specialisations	3	30
Production Design	All specialisations	2	20

Post-production	All specialisations	3	30
Shooting exercises B	Camera, Directing, Production, Post-production	3	30
Screenwriting B	Screenwriting	2	20
Production B	Production	2	20
Art of Directing	Directing	2	20
Documentary B	Documentary	4	40
VFX (Beginner)		2	20
English Language *		1,5	15
Czech Language (Beginner)*		1,5	15
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>580</b>

*\*Subject with extra fee*

*Optional subjects are available to students from other specialisations if class capacity allows and if they have the necessary skills or experience to join. If no specialisation is indicated, the subject is considered elective for all and will open if there is sufficient interest (usually a minimum of three students).*

### **Practical Workshops**

A selection of workshops is planned throughout the semester. Topics may vary. Examples include:

- Working with Actors
- Camera Movement Techniques
- Production Design on Set
- Casting Agency Experience
- Sound Studio Session
- Drone shooting workshop (theory + practice)
- Assistant Director
- Unsupervised Filming Day
- Intensive 2-day Shooting Camp

### **Cinematography**

- Camera Basics and History

- Exposure and Lenses
- Prep for Shooting Exercise #1
- Codes and Image Quality
- Crew Roles and Set Workflow
- Lighting Tools and Safety
- Prep for Shooting Exercise #2
- Camera Movement and Visual Planning
- Prep for Shooting Exercise #3
- Final Shooting Test and Review

## Film Equipment Protocol

- Intro to Bmpcc 6k cameras
- Light stands, HMI lights, LED lights
- Wireless Video Transmitter, Wireless Follow Focus
- Grip Equipment - Handheld rig / Slider / Gimbal
- Sound Equipment basics
- Essentials in your AC KIT
- Intro to RED Cameras

## Documentary

- Recording World History
- Exploring the Natural World
- Dziga Vertov - Film and Revolution
- Documentary and Scenario
- Exotic Ethnography
- City Symphonies and Pure Cinema
- Documentary as an Educational Tool
- The Interview: How to Approach Subject
- Documentary as Propaganda
- Documentary as Art and Philosophy
- Shooting of Final Film - Documentary

## Directing

- Introduction to Directing & Visual Storytelling
- Working with Actors & Blocking
- Prep for Shooting Exercise #1: Subtext
- Scene Rehearsals, Footage Review & Feedback
- Cinematic Language & Hitchcock's Pure Cinema
- Mise-en-scène and Visual Rhythm
- Prep for Shooting Exercise #2: Blocking
- Directing for Camera & Actor Performance
- Prep for Shooting Exercise #3: Art of Long Take
- Final Project Prep

## Shooting Exercise

- Shooting exercise #1: Subtext
- Shooting exercise #2: Blocking
- Shooting exercise #3: Art of Long Take

## Screenwriting

- Introduction to Storytelling
- Story Structure and Plot Twists
- Crafting Strong Characters
- Writing a Strong Opening
- Visual Storytelling and Subtext
- Building Conflict
- Pacing and Scene Transitions
- Feedback and Revision
- Polishing the Script
- Final Showcase and Reflection

## Editing

- Introduction to Editing
- Continuity and Film Space
- Storyboarding and Shot Composition
- Transitions, Rhythm and Pacing
- Cross-Cutting and Parallel Editing
- Editing Exercise #1
- Storytelling Principles
- Character Building Through Editing
- Dialogue Editing
- Rule of three and Triadic Structure

## Sound

- Introduction to Film Sound
- The Voice of Cinema
- Basic Production recording
- Ambient Sound Fundamentals
- Sound Planning for Projects
- Music in Film
- Introduction to Voiceover
- Voiceover Recording

## Post-production

- Postproduction Workflow and File Management
- Syncing Audio and Video + Conforming
- Intro to DaVinci Resolve and Color Science
- Primary Color Correction

- Shot Matching and Scene Consistency
- Secondary Color Correction and power Windows
- Creative Grading and Cinematic Looks
- Sound in Editing and Exporting
- DCP Creation
- Individual Consultations

## Production Design

- Introduction to Production Design
- Mood Boards, Script Breakdown and Budgeting
- Set Construction and Composition
- Project Integration and Feedback
- Elements and Principles of Design
- Tone, Theme and Genre
- Symbolism and Visual Metaphors
- Design research and Reference Building
- Floor Plans and Spatial Previsulation
- Mini Project - Mood Board and Set Concept

## Production

- Introduction to Film Production
- Production Workflow
- Pre-Production Essentials
- Budgeting and Financing
- Casting and Locations
- Finding Funding
- Casting Process and Actor Communication
- Scouting and Managing Shooting Locations
- Identify and Preparing for Production Risks
- Maintaining Safety and Well-Being On Set

## Production B

- Advances Set Operations
- Production design and Art Department
- Lighting and Grip From the Producer's Perspective
- Union vs Non-Union Productions
- First AD Techniques and Scheduling
- Multi-Cam and Studio Production
- Stunts, Special effects and Set Safety
- International Production Logistics
- Crisis Management
- Midyear Film Project

## Screenwriting B

- Visual Storytelling Warm-UP
- Subtext Scene Draft
- Subtext Revision
- Conflict and Movement
- Bloating for the Camera
- Blocking Scene Draft
- Long Take Exploration
- Long Take Script
- Rewrites and Workshop
- Table Read and reflection

## **VFX**

- VFX - History
- VFX Pipeline - the Structure of Creating a VFX Shot
- VFX in Pre Production
- VFX in Preproduction Case Study
- VFX in Production
- VFX in Post-production
- Rotoscoping/Masking
- Rigging and Animating /FX and Simulation
- Lighting, Texturing, Rendering

## **Art of Directing**

- Foundations of Cinema and Visual Language
- Cinema as Expression and Political Tool



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