



BFI Film Academy Short Course at Derby QUAD

The BFI Film Academy Short Course at Derby QUAD is led by industry professionals and provides invaluable practical skills and filmmaking experience where new filmmakers can explore their creativity and collaborate with their peers to bring their passion and vision to the screen! At the end of the course, you will have gained: a portfolio, a short film which you have produced in your production team and be a member of the national BFI alumni.

A key element of the BFI Film Academy is working in collaboration with others to produce a short film. For this reason, attendance during the course is very important, and we do ask that you consider the time commitment when completing your application. If this is something that concerns you, please get in touch to arrange a chat with us.

The Derby QUAD course will run on Saturdays from October 2025-February 2026 from 12pm-5pm. The course is totally free, and we have bursaries available to cover things like travel costs, childcare, and access needs if you need them – please reach out to us!

Our course values are respect, passion, ambition, collaboration, and openness and we ask that everyone on our course shares these values.

How do I apply?

Please visit the QUAD webpage to find out more information about the course, including all dates and key events such as your welcome event and premiere screening!

There are 20 places available for the BFI Film Academy Short Course at Derby QUAD so there is an application form which you must complete. You can apply via the link on the website or by scanning the QR code below which will take you straight there.

To apply, please read the information carefully and ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria which is at the start of the application. If you have any concerns about the form or application process, please contact filmacademy@derbyquad.co.uk and we will be more than happy to support you.

Deadline to apply is 14th September and we will let you know if your application has been successful by 19th September.





Completing the Application Form

Section 1: Eligibility Criteria – Please ensure that you read this section carefully and that you meet all the criteria for the course. Unfortunately, if you are enrolled in university, currently attending or are due to start a degree course in autumn 2025, you are not eligible to take part. If you attend Further Education courses such as apprenticeships, A-Levels, B-Techs or any other vocational course, you are eligible to apply. If you are aged 19-25, you must have an EHCP to be eligible.

Section 2: Course Information – Here you will find information of all the course dates starting with the Welcome Event on 3rd October and the final session which take place on 7th February where we will reflect on the course and have a celebration. You will also find the date of your film screening at QUAD. The section will ask you to identify and tell us if there are any workshops you will be unable to attend.

Section 3: Applicant Information - This section asks for general information about you for your application such as name, date of birth, preferred pronouns, address and email contact. We'll also ask you how you heard about the course, and you can choose more than one option here.

Section 4: Supporting Statements - This section is all about why you are applying to the BFI Film Academy Short Course. You don't need to provide long answers to the questions, you can keep your responses concise. If you're running out of words, please feel free to add in links with additional notes and examples of your work. We are also happy for you to answer this question in video format and upload the link – just make sure we can access everything and you provide passwords if needed. Here are the questions and some prompts for answering them:

Why do you want to take part in the BFI Film Academy?

- Do you have an interest in film or filmmaking?
- What are you passionate about in relation to film?
- Are you looking for a career as a filmmaker or film journalist?
- Do you want to learn any new skills?

Please tell us about your experience and/or interest in film.

- Have you had an interest in film for a long time or is this something new that you would like to explore? This can include television, animation, VFX, etc.
- What kind of films or television shows do you like? Why?
- Are there any filmmakers that inspire you?
- Do you have any film, photography, writing, animation that you would like to share? You can upload YouTube, Vimeo links, links to a Google Drive.



Do you have any areas of interest in film?

- Areas to consider for this section: directing, producing, camera operation, sound design, programming, screenwriting, visual effects, lighting design, editing
- Have a look at [ScreenSkills](#) for more insight into potential roles

Section 5: Terms and Conditions - Please read the terms and conditions carefully and sign once you are happy that you understand. You can also select whether you would like to receive emails from the BFI about alumni opportunities such as events, courses and further development such as Traineeship Programmes and Mentoring Schemes. While this is not mandatory, we do recommend receiving these updates as they can lead to incredible experiences.

Section 6: Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form - Please read this carefully. This will provide you with all the context to why the BFI are asking for the below information. All the information in this section is optional and if you do not wish to answer any of the questions, you can select 'Prefer not to say'. You can also self-identify to some questions.

Submitting Your Application

Once you click submit, your application will be sent to QUAD to review. We will be reviewing all applications to join the BFI Film Academy Short Course after the deadline closes on 14th September and will get back to you by 6pm on 19th September 2025.

Additional Information

Here are some comments from our past participants about the course:

- *"Since finishing the course I have gained opportunity after opportunity provided by the BFI such as invitations to film screenings and FORMAT festival and it has also motivated me to look for more opportunities within film"*
- *"Do it, it is so fun even if a bit scary at first. You'll make friends and it's an amazing opportunity."*
- *"It was a brilliant and fulfilling experience and I developed many technical skills as well as gaining experience of how filmmaking works overall."*
- *"Do the course and take every opportunity it offers because it is a very valuable experience!"*
- *"My favourite part was being able to interview the different industry professionals as it helped me to understand what they want to see in my role."*



If you're still unsure if this course is for you, please contact us at filmacademy@derbyquad.co.uk or by calling 01332 285425 to chat about the BFI Film Academy in more detail.