

**BFI Film Academy – Short Course  
delivered by Watershed, Bristol**

**Autumn 2025 Application Info**



**The course runs across 10 full-day sessions, on the following dates:**

- Sat 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> October 10am-5.30pm
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup>, Tue 28<sup>th</sup>, Wed 29<sup>th</sup>, Thu 30<sup>th</sup>, Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Oct (half term) 10am-5.30pm
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> November 10am-5.30pm

**Apply via the online form [APPLY HERE](#)**

Applications open at 9am on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Aug

Applications close at 10am on Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

(You shall hear back from us by Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Sept)

*See further down for further information to help you with your application.*

**Course Information**

The BFI Film Academy Short Course delivered by Watershed in Bristol is back again this autumn! The course is for 16-19 year olds interested in developing practical filmmaking skills, finding out about careers in the screen industries, meeting and working with industry professionals, and watching and making films.

You can expect to:

- Take part in masterclasses and practical workshops delivered by industry professionals
- See your ideas develop from script to screen.
- Learn how to work as part of a production crew to create a documentary short film.
- Gain skills, networks, support, knowledge and confidence to move forward working in creative media.
- Have fun, meet great people, watch lots of films.

No film experience needed to apply, just creative ideas and the desire to learn more!

If you have any questions not answered in this letter, or on our website,

[www.watershed.co.uk/film-academy](http://www.watershed.co.uk/film-academy) you can email us

[film.academy@watershed.co.uk](mailto:film.academy@watershed.co.uk)

## The recruitment process

We have 2 stages of the recruitment:

- 1) Online application
- 2) In-person interview (a very relaxed chat, in a small group of 3-5 people)
- 3) 21 people are then offered a place on the course

## Application top tips

We recruit the course cohort to reflect a diverse range of backgrounds and experience.

If you have *no prior experience*, we're interested to know what brings you to be interested in film/tv production now? And what other life experience or interests you have that you can bring to the course?

If you *do have prior experience*, we're interested to know how that has shaped your skills and your creative and personal development? And why you want to do this course *in addition* to what you have already done?

## Preview of application questions

We encourage you to prepare your answers first and then paste them into the online [application form](#) (*long-answer questions require 300 words maximum per answer*)

- Please tell us about yourself, what interests you about the BFI Film Academy short course, and **what difference you hope the Film Academy will make to you?**
- Please tell us about your experience and/or interest in Film & TV. This could include your favourite film or television programme, or a class that you have taken at school, for example.
- If you were going to make a short, low budget **documentary** film, what would it be about?  
(Tell us about the idea, who would be in the film and why you want to make it).  
You can view previous films we have made here [Watershed YouTube](#)
- Please tell us if you have any areas of interest in a particular film/tv production role  
(Producing, Directing, Camera, Sound, Editing etc.....)
- Would you be open to learning a production role that may not be your first choice?
- If you like, you can also submit a link to any relevant work you have created (it doesn't have to be film!)