

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it mean to study in a self-organized school?

It means more freedom but also more responsibility than in a normal school. While the basic courses and material licenses are organized for the first year, as well as the practical exercises for each year, you will be in charge of your own curriculum and class budget. This means that each class has the freedom to learn what they want, but also that no teacher is going to come every week to tell you what to do, unless you invite them to do so. You will also be expected to take active part in the organization of your class and of the filmArche. For example, it is mandatory to be involved in a committee.

Do I get a student status with the filmArche?

The filmArche is not recognized as an institute of higher education in Germany; you will therefore not receive student status while studying here. You will get a student ID card as well as a certificate at the end of the 3 years if you attended most of the classes and participated in the mandatory exercises as well as completing your Alpha, Beta and Gamma films. The filmArche does not offer a state-recognized degree.

How many hours per week does it take?

You will study 1 full weekday per week with your class. In the first year, you will also have a basic course of 4 hours per week on a weekday, in the morning or in the evening. You will also need to do some committee work. This takes more or less time depending on the committee you choose and meeting hours have to be decided according to everyone's availability. And of course, you might want to add more time for personal film projects, but this is up to you! In general it is doable to have a 20h job on the side.

It is recommended to plan between 15-20 hours a week for the filmArche.

How much does it cost?

Students at the filmArche pay a membership fee of €90 per month. It is being used to also pay your class budget so you can then invite teachers from outside or pay workshops.

Can I get unemployment benefits while studying at the filmArche?

It is possible to get unemployment benefits while studying at the filmArche, as you don't have a student status. However, keep in mind that if you cannot work full time, your allowance will be decreased.

Who covers my health insurance?

You do not get student status that would guarantee you health insurance, however, you can ask your insurer if they would agree to cover you. Otherwise, you can get your insurance covered by the "Agentur für Arbeit" or the "Job Center" if you are eligible, or by your employer if you are working. (Minijobs do not include health insurance!).

Do I get a reduced BVG ticket and/or other student reductions?

The BVG does not provide Azubi-tickets for filmArche students. However, many cultural places accept the FilmArche student card.

Can I borrow equipment to make films?

Yes! In the first year, during a series of rental licenses, you will learn how to use light, sound and camera equipment. Upon completion of these licenses, you will be able to borrow the equipment. There are also editing and color grading stations at the FilmArche that do not require any license to use, but you will need to sign up for a time slot.

Does filmArche remain open during lockdowns?

Most courses happen online during lockdown. Practical exercises may still take place or can be postponed depending on restrictions.

Please check the website for any changes!

If you have any questions regarding the application, please do not hesitate to contact the application committee: bewerbung@filmarche.de