

Legal Notice: This is a translation of the original document, entitled "Studienordnung für den Masterstudiengang Film der Zürcher Hochschule der Künste" and issued in German. Under applicable law, solely the German version shall be deemed binding.

Zurich University of the Arts

Master of Arts in Film

Degree Programme Regulations (DPR MFI)

13 December 2023

Based on § 2 para. 3 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Zurich University of the Arts of 2 November 2021, the University Board hereby decrees:

A. General Provisions

§ 1. Subject

In addition to the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at ZHdK (RF), the Degree Programme Regulations (DPR) set out here govern the Master of Arts in Film.

§ 2. Programme Objective

¹ The Master of Arts in Film programme develops the practical and theoretical knowledge and skills that enable graduates to assume responsible positions in the film and audiovisual industry. Coursework is designed to build individual artistic and creative competence in dealing with cinematic content and forms, as well as the ability to perform professional duties and responsibilities in one of the practical fields of filmmaking. To this end, courses and lectures take up the current trends in audiovisual narration and integrate them into individual training.

² The master's programme leads to a professional qualification.

§ 3. Majors in Film

¹ The master's degree programme comprises the following majors, each awarded 90 credits:

- a. Major in Directing Fiction;
- b. Major in Screenwriting;
- c. Major in Documentary Filmmaking;
- d. Major in Cinematography;
- e. Major in Film Editing;
- f. Major in Creative Producing.

² The Annexes to these DPR describe the MA majors in film.

B. Admissions

§ 4. Admissions

Programme admissions are governed by the provisions of the Regulatory Framework.

§ 5. Admissions Process and Entrance Examination Committee

¹ The admissions process comprises four stages:

- a. The University Office establishes whether applicants meet the University's admissions requirements (i.e. previous education, fulfilment of additional requirements, language proficiency and application documents);
- b. Applications are reviewed to verify whether applicants fulfil the admissions requirements for the subject-specific aptitude test;
- c. The Entrance Examination Committee conducts the subject-specific aptitude test;
- d. Admissions decision.

² The Head of Programme appoints an Entrance Examination Committee, comprising at least two members of the teaching staff and the head of the respective major.

³ Admissions interviews must be conducted by at least two members of the Entrance Examination Committee. All members of the Committee must assess the aptitude test as a whole.

§ 6. Additional Admissions Requirements

To be admitted to the Major in Film (Directing Fiction, Screenwriting, Documentary Filmmaking, Cinematography, Film Editing and Creative Producing), applicants must hold:

- a. A bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification in an artistic or creative discipline from a recognised or an accredited higher education institution or
- b. A bachelor's degree in another area of study such as the humanities, arts or cultural studies, natural sciences, economics and life sciences. Such candidates must either provide evidence of high-level aesthetic, artistic or creative working methods or be addressing a question or problem that involves collaboration with artistic or creative disciplines.

§ 7. Evidence of Language Proficiency

¹ Students must provide evidence of an adequate knowledge of German and English.

² Students can demonstrate their adequate knowledge of German in one of the following ways:

- a. Native speaker;
- b. German as a subject that was examined as part of their previous education (passed or at least grade 4) or
- c. B2 certificate in German that was earned under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or
- d. A university degree (BA/MA) in a programme that was taught and examined in German.

³ Students can demonstrate their adequate knowledge of English in one of the following ways:

- a. Native speaker;
- b. English as a subject that was examined as part of their previous education (passed or at least grade 4) or
- c. B2 certificate in English that was earned under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or
- d. A university degree (BA/MA) in a programme that was taught and examined in English.

⁴ Proof of the required language skills can be provided in the first two semesters. In this case, programme admission is subject to students providing evidence of their language proficiency at the latest by the end of their second semester. Students who fail to meet the language requirements may be expelled.

§ 8. Verification

The University Office reviews the documents listed below to verify whether applicants meet the admissions requirements (i.e. previous education, additional requirements, language proficiency):

- a. Application form;
- b. Examination answers;
- c. Portfolio including work samples;
- d. Filmography;
- e. CV;
- f. Motivation letter;
- g. Bachelor's degree in accordance with the RF and overarching legislation.

§ 9. Subject-Specific Aptitude Test

Students who fulfil the requirements set out in § 8 and who have submitted the required application documents are admitted to the subject-specific aptitude test.

§ 10. Subject-Specific Aptitude Test

¹ The subject-specific aptitude test has two parts.

² The first part of the aptitude test involves the assessment of the application documents. The positive assessment of these documents is a prerequisite for applicants being invited to the second part of the aptitude test.

³ The second part of the aptitude test comprises an admissions interview. Candidates may be required to answer further examination questions.

⁴ Programme admission is subject to the positive overall assessment of the application documents and of candidates' performance at the subject-specific aptitude test.

⁵ Candidates who fail their subject-specific aptitude test may repeat this only once for any degree programme.

§ 11. Assessment Criteria

The following criteria are used to assess candidate aptitude:

- a. Artistic and technical quality and potential of work samples;
- b. Motivation and commitment to professional filmmaking and film studies;
- c. Analytical skills, problem-solving skills, ability to think independently;
- d. Independence and personal responsibility;
- e. Reflective thinking skills and self-assessment;
- f. Communication and interpersonal skills.

C. Programme Structure

§ 12. Programme Duration

As a rule, the degree programme takes four to a maximum of eight³ semesters to complete.

D. Student Performance

§ 13. Credit Requirements

The number of credits required to pass the MA majors in film is stipulated in the respective programme structures (see Annexes).

§ 14. Assessment Criteria

¹ The following criteria are used to assess student performance:

- a. Technical and artistic skills in theory and practice;
- b. Artistic independence;
- c. Ability to undertake artistic projects;
- d. Reflective thinking skills;
- e. Team and communication skills.

² These criteria are assessed in terms of the programme outcomes stipulated in the respective Annex.

E. Programme Organisation

§ 15. Internship

¹ The Head of Programme must approve the type, content, duration and crediting of a film production internship or research internship prior to commencement.

² Students are not required to do an internship during their programme. Internships are credited only if they meet the content and organisational requirements, which must be defined in a corresponding agreement.

³ Students must arrange internships themselves.

F. Graduation

§ 16. Major Graduation Requirements

¹ Students who wish to graduate with a Major in Film must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. Practical master's project for the Major in Directing Fiction:
A short or feature-length film or a previously defined collaboration on a transmedia project;
- b. Practical master's project for the Major in Documentary Filmmaking:
A medium-length documentary film or a previously defined work³ on a non-fictional³ or transmedia project;
- c. Practical master's project for the Major in Screenwriting:
A screenplay for a full-length feature film or a previously defined (conceptual) collaboration on a transmedia project;

- d. Practical master's project for the Major in Cinematography:
Collaborating as a director of photography on two short master's degree films or on other film productions or a previously defined collaboration on a transmedia project;
- e. Practical master's project for the Major in Film Editing:
Collaborating as a film editor on two short master's degree films or on other film productions or a previously defined collaboration on a transmedia project;
- f. Practical master's project for the Major in Creative Producing:
Collaborating as a delegated producer, as producer³, or as a production manager on one³ master's degree film or on one other film production³;
- g. Degree colloquium.

² The Head of Programme appoints an Examination Committee, comprising the head of major or the head of programme, at least one person (professor or lecturer) from the film degree programme and at least one external expert.

³ The graduation requirements are set out in detail in the module descriptions.

⁴ Students who wish to graduate from the MA Major in Film must be awarded a "Pass" or at least a grade of 4.0.

⁵ Students who are awarded a "Fail" or a grade below 4.0 may repeat their final examinations only once, at the next possible examination date.

G. Intellectual Property Rights and Production

§ 17. Copyright Ownership

¹ Copyright in all inventions, designs and copyrighted works created in degree programmes is owned by ZHdK.

² ZHdK reserves the right to decide on the licensing and transfer of intellectual property rights.

§ 18. Production

¹ ZHdK can either produce its students' films itself or enter into co-production agreements with external partners.

² Works that are produced as part of the Master of Arts in Film are produced by ZHdK and, if applicable, by any co-production partners. All contracts must be concluded in its name or, if applicable, in their names.

³ The Head of Programme represents ZHdK in its functions as a producer.

⁴ ZHdK is entitled to conclude co-production agreements.

⁵ If substantial changes to the content and production of a project are made during its production, this shall require the written approval of the production manager.

⁶ Details concerning production, rights and revenue are stipulated in the copyright transfer agreement and, if applicable, in the co-production agreements.

§ 19. Budget

¹ Films produced as part of the master's thesis must be undertaken within the budget approved by the Head of Programme.

² Production funding must be secured before the official start of shooting. Students must provide written evidence of funding commitments prior to shooting.

H. Final Provisions

§ 20. Enactment¹

¹ These Degree Programme Regulations were enacted on 1 February 2024.

² These Regulations apply to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn semester or thereafter.

¹ Resolution of the University Board of 13 December 2023.

§ 21. Transitional Provision

¹ Master's students who began their studies before the 2024/25 autumn semester will graduate from their programme in accordance with the Degree Programme Regulations for the ZHdK Master of Arts in Film of 7 February 2018 and with the respective curricular concept.

² In accordance with previous legislation, students must complete their degree programme before the end of the maximum period of study.

³ Students who interrupt their studies are subject to the new legislation. The terms and conditions of resumption as well as the accreditation of previous achievements are governed by § 34 of the Regulatory Framework for Bachelor's and Master's Programmes.

¹ Resolution of the University Board of 19 June 2024. In Effect since 1 August 2024.

² Resolution of the University Board of 3 July 2024. In Effect since 1 August 2024.

³ Resolution of the University Board of 14 January 2026. In Effect since 1 February 2026.

Master of Arts in Film

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Directing Fiction

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Film with a Major in Directing Fiction»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- A fundamental knowledge of film production and filmmaking;
- A basic knowledge of film theory (film analysis, film history);
- First practical experience of shooting films;
- Well-developed skills in staging scenes and actor directing.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- Conceive and undertake a feature film project at an appropriate artistic and professional level;
- As responsible creative professionals, recognise the complex aspects and questions of film and television productions and find solutions to these challenges;
- Develop creative options for the dramaturgy and staging of films, communicate them to the responsible producers and creative team, and implement them.

They will:

- Possess individual cinematic authorship;
- Be able to recognise socially relevant issues and understand how these relate to their creative work;
- Know how to work creatively and innovatively in teams;
- Possess in-depth experience of film analysis, be able to discuss films in an appropriate professional manner, and be able to give and accept feedback.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Directing Fiction must earn at least 90 credits.

In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below. They must also earn at least 2 credits in elective modules forming part of the degree programme.

Theory	min. 9 Credits from C-Modules
Craft	min. 15 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Practice	min. 25 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Campus	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules ¹

Key: C = Compulsory Module; CE = Compulsory Elective Module

Enactment and Effectiveness

¹ This Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations was enacted on 1 February 2024. It was approved by the University Board on 13 December 2023.

² This Annex applies to all students who enter their programme in the 2024/25 autumn or thereafter.

¹ Resolution of the University Board of 19 June 2024. In Effect from 1 August 2024.

Master of Arts in Film

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Screenwriting

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Film with a Major in Screenwriting»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will:

- Possess a fundamental knowledge of film production and filmmaking;
- Possess a basic knowledge of film theory (film analysis, film history);
- Know the most important text types and have practical writing experience (journalism and fiction);
- Possess well-developed storytelling skills (i.e. knowledge of narrative processes).

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- Draft a feature film project (short film, full-length film, series) by following the standard writing process (synopsis, outline, treatment and screenplay) and attain an appropriate artistic and professional level;
- As responsible creative professionals, recognise the complex aspects and issues of film and television productions and find solutions to these challenges;
- Develop creative options for the dramaturgy and staging of films, communicate them to the responsible producers and creative team, and implement them.

They will:

- Possess individual cinematic authorship;
- Be able to recognise socially relevant issues and understand how these relate to their creative work;
- Know how to work creatively and innovatively in teams;
- Possess in-depth experience of film analysis, be able to discuss films in an appropriate professional manner, and be able to give and accept feedback.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Screenwriting must earn at least 90 credits.

In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below. They must also earn at least 2 credits in elective modules forming part of the degree programme.

Theory	min. 9 Credits from C-Modules
Craft	min. 15 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Practice	min. 25 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Campus	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules ¹

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Master of Arts in Film

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Documentary Filmmaking

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Film with a Major in Documentary Filmmaking»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- A fundamental knowledge of film production and filmmaking;
- A basic knowledge of film theory (film analysis, film history);
- First practical experience of shooting films;
- Well-developed skills in dealing with the questions and techniques of documentary filmmaking.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- Develop creative options in researching and presenting facts;
- Conceive a documentary film project and pursue it at a high artistic and technical level;
- As responsible creative professionals, recognise the complex aspects and issues of film and television productions and find solutions to these challenges.

They will:

- Possess individual cinematic authorship;
- Be able to recognise socially relevant issues and understand how these relate to their creative work;
- Know how to work creatively and innovatively in teams;
- Possess in-depth experience of film analysis, be able to discuss films in an appropriate professional manner, and be able to give and accept feedback.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Documentary Filmmaking must earn at least 90 credits.

In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below. They must also earn at least 2 credits in elective modules forming part of the degree programme.

Theory	min. 9 Credits from C-Modules
Craft	min. 15 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Practice	min. 25 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Campus	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules ¹

Key: C = Compulsory Module; CE = Compulsory Elective Module

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Master of Arts in Film

Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Cinematography

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Film with a Major in Cinematography»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- A fundamental knowledge of film production and filmmaking;
- A basic knowledge of film theory (film analysis, film history);
- First practical experience of shooting films;
- Well-developed methodological, technical and creative skills in the core areas of creating film images and cinematography (camera operation).

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- Apply cinematographic and lighting techniques at a high professional level;
- Recognise the complexities of developing and undertaking film, video and television productions, in particular with regard to visualisation;
- Develop, present and implement creative options for designing film images.

They will:

- Be able to recognise socially relevant issues and understand how these relate to their creative work;
- Know how to work creatively and innovatively in teams and be able to do so in practice;
- Possess in-depth experience of film analysis, in particular the analysis of images, as well as be able to discuss films in an appropriate professional manner and to give and accept feedback.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Cinematography must earn at least 90 credits.	
In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below. They must also earn at least 2 credits in elective modules forming part of the degree programme.	
Theory	min. 9 Credits from C-Modules
Craft	min. 15 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Practice	min. 25 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Campus	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules ¹

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Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Film Editing

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Film with a Major in Film Editing»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- A fundamental knowledge of film production and filmmaking;
- A basic knowledge of film theory (film analysis, film history);
- First practical experience of shooting films;
- Well-developed methodological, technical and creative skills in the core areas of film editing.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- Apply relevant film editing techniques and methods at a high professional level;
- Recognise the complexities of developing and undertaking film and television productions, in particular with regard to post-production;
- Develop, present and implement creative options for the dramaturgic and cinematic design of films.

They will:

- Be able to recognise socially relevant issues and understand how these relate to their creative work;
- Know how to work creatively and innovatively in teams;
- Possess in-depth experience of film analysis, be able to discuss films in an appropriate professional manner, and be able to give and accept feedback.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Film Editing must earn at least 90 credits.

In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below. They must also earn at least 2 credits in elective modules forming part of the degree programme.

Theory	min. 9 Credits from C-Modules
Craft	min. 15 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Practice	min. 25 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Campus	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules ¹

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Annex to the Degree Programme Regulations

13 December 2023

Major in Creative Producing

Level of Study: Master

Credits: Major (90 Credits)

Qualification: «Master of Arts ZHdK in Film with a Major in Creative Producing»

Entry-Level Competencies

Newly admitted students will possess:

- A fundamental knowledge of film production and filmmaking;
- A basic knowledge of film theory (film analysis, film history);
- First practical experience of shooting films;
- Well-developed skills in managing the film production process, its questions and methods, as well as the fundamentals of entrepreneurial thought and action.

Programme Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- Develop feature and documentary film projects as well as hybrid AV projects with a creative team and to implement such projects as the responsible producer;
- Recognise the creative and financial complexities of developing and undertaking film productions;
- Develop, present and implement creative options for producing films;
- Determine, calculate and control the costs of a film production;
- Project, present and implement the different types of financing film projects;
- Identify, present and implement ways of distributing films.

They will:

- Possess negotiation and presentation skills;
- Be able to recognise socially relevant issues and understand how these relate to their creative work;
- Know how to work creatively and innovatively in teams;
- Possess in-depth experience of film analysis, be able to discuss films in an appropriate professional manner, and be able to give and accept feedback.

Programme Structure

Students who wish to graduate with an MA Major in Creative Producing must earn at least 90 credits.

In accordance with the programme regulations, students must complete modules and earn credits as specified below. They must also earn at least 2 credits in elective modules forming part of the degree programme.

Theory	min. 9 Credits from C-Modules
Craft	min. 15 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Practice	min. 25 Credits from C-Modules ¹
Campus	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules
Graduation	min. 5 Credits from C-Modules ¹

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