

# summer school screenwriting

**A Three-Week Introductory Course**

August 16 – September 3, 2021

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Cover Photo: Filmstill »Beat Beat Heart«, Mathis Hanspach

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## The City

With its 2,000 year heritage, Cologne is Germany's oldest major city, known for its monumental Cathedral (UNESCO World Heritage Site), a vast number of historical sites, and more than 40 museums. With approximately 90,000 students, and the inhabitants' unique, open minded attitude, the city is especially popular with creatives. As a consequence, Cologne is one of Germany's most important media hubs.

A third of German TV programs are produced here. Several notable TV and radio stations, numerous renowned film and TV production companies and more than 70 print and digital publishing companies are based in the city and draw a creative and artistic crowd to Cologne.

Over 55,000 people work in the region's media industry. Not a day goes by without a camera crew filming somewhere on the streets of Cologne, and this has in fact become an element of urban life in Germany's TV capital.

## The School

Located in a part of the city that is in transition from an old industrial area to a new hub of the creative industry, ifs internationale film-schule köln is consistently ranked as one of the best film schools in Germany. This evaluation is based on its outstanding student support, excellent teaching and project work, and several film awards, including a Student Academy Award.

In cooperation with the TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, the ifs offers Bachelor's degree programs in Screenwriting, Directing, Creative Producing, Cinematography, Editing Picture & Sound, VFX & Animation and Production Design, M.A. programs in Film and Entertainment Producing, as well as international M.A. programs in Serial Storytelling, Digital Narratives and 3D Animation for Film & Games. In addition, the school offers several further education programs for media professionals that provide training in a wide variety of disciplines.

The school is a member of CILECT, the International Association of Film and Television Schools, and maintains partnerships with a global network of film schools and universities.

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## Summer School Screenwriting

*An intense and enjoyable introduction to the art of visual storytelling for film and TV.*

This three-week Summer School course aims to support aspiring writers in developing their creative writing skills in the area of screenwriting. In an enjoyable, supportive setting and through a combination of theory, practice and collaborative exercises, an international group of participants learns about all key aspects of this craft, ranging from premise, theme and topic to characters and character orchestration, from plot to scene structure, and from setting to subtext. Formal aspects like screenplay formatting, text forms and industry conventions are touched upon as well as tools and devices that help writers tell stories visually.

All of these aspects, however, are never seen as stand-alone entities, but viewed as means supporting writers in finding and conveying the stories they want to tell.

Any theoretical input is immediately applied to writing exercises before the participants eventually enter into the story development of their own original short film script.

## Learning Outcomes

The Summer School Screenwriting supports writers in finding and voicing their vision, providing them with useful tools and essential screenwriting skills. In the end of the three-week course, participants will have developed a screenplay for a short film or a written work of comparable scope.



Photo: ifs

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## Course Structure

### Week One

- Topics:
- Introduction
  - Finding your voice and expressing yourself through stories
  - Screenwriting essentials (part I)

Format: Lectures, workshops & exercises

### Week Two

- Topics:
- Screenwriting essentials (part II)
  - Story development – short film script

Format: Lectures, workshops, writing & script consulting

### Week Three

- Topics:
- Story development – short film script
  - Feedback and conclusion

Format: Writing & script consulting

## Lecturers



### **Keith Cunningham** *Head Lecturer*

Screenwriter and head writer Keith Cunningham consulted on dozens of projects, led hundreds of seminars, and trained thousands of writers, directors, producers, and commissioning editors. His screenwriting and teaching career profits from his insights as a psychologist and specialist in creativity with years on set as a cameraman and lighting gaffer. The author of “The Soul of Screenwriting: On Writing, Dramatic Truth, and Knowing Yourself” has taught at AFI New York, the Director’s Guild, the Writer’s Guild in L.A., and numerous institutions, companies, and broadcasters all over the world. Keith Cunningham has been a guest lecturer at the ifs for over 15 years, and served as Substitute Professor of Serial Storytelling from 2016-2017. In addition, he headed the Writer’s Room Lab at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Heidelberg (DAI).



### **Alkioni Valsari** *Assistant Lecturer*

Alkioni Valsari is a Greek director, screenwriter and script consultant. She earned her BA in theatre studies with honors at the University of Wales and her MA in theatre directing at Rose Bruford College in London. She was part of the Royal Court Young Writers Programme in London, and has attended filmmaking workshops in Athens at the School of Cinema and screenwriting at ifs internationale filmschule köln. She has directed theatre productions in Greece and the United States and taught theatre directing. In 2013, she wrote and directed her debut short film “A Sound Story”. In 2014 she moved to Germany where she worked in film production, and her short screenplay, “Tapetenwechsel”, won many awards in festivals. In a workshop on script consulting with Dr. Linda Seger in 2018 she discovered her talent for guiding writers which has since become a further field of expertise.



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## Dates

Application Deadline:	May 13, 2021
Announcement Jury Decision:	May 27, 2021
Start of Program:	August 16, 2021
End of Program:	September 3, 2021

## Application & Requirements

This program is open to aspiring writers from various backgrounds, e.g. high-school students, current undergraduate students, post-graduate students, or media professionals from other fields. As the Summer School Screenwriting will be held in English, applicants need to have English language skills of B2-level or higher.

## Registration Documents

- Registration form (fully completed and signed)
- CV (English language)
- Idea-outline for a short film (1 page)
- Copy of student ID (when requesting student discount rate)

Please find the registration form at the end of this document.

## Fees

Regular Participants:	1200 euros
Students:	950 euros
ifs Alumni and ifs Students:	850 euros

## Financial Support

Participants may be eligible to obtain financial support to cover the program fee through the Grant Voucher of the Continuing Education Grant. This Voucher is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as well as the European Social Fund of the European Union. Please note that the Grant Voucher must be available at the time of invoicing.

For more information see [www.bildungspraemie.info](http://www.bildungspraemie.info)

## Contact

Carolin Große Hellmann | Head of Serial Storytelling /  
Further Education Screenwriting | [screenwriting@filmschule.de](mailto:screenwriting@filmschule.de)

***“Three intense and awesome weeks!”***

(Patrick Heinelt, director)

***“Great Experience!  
It will influence my future life!”***

(Ralph Polinski, director)

***“I’m very grateful to have had  
the opportunity to learn so much –  
not only about the world of screenwriting  
but also about myself.”***

(Emilia Stein, student)

***“I really enjoyed the three weeks!  
I learned so much about screenwriting,  
especially how to use your emotions  
and memories as a way to tell your stories.  
Also that screenwriting is about  
loving all your characters.”***

(Peter Neugebauer, ifs MA Serial Storytelling student)

***“This course really changed my perspective.  
I will never forget the things I learned here!”***

(Tim Dude, student)

## Registration Form

I hereby apply for admission to the  
»Summer School Screenwriting« with Keith Cunningham  
(August 16 – September 3, 2021)

## Personal Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ For Students and ifs Alumni: Study Program (when requesting discount rate)

Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Position (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Billing Address:**  Personal Address  Company Address

Street / No. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code / City \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number / Mobile Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you first hear about the ifs / the Summer School Screenwriting?

I hereby authorize the ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh to send me information via email or post about future study and further education programs as well as other activities of the ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh. I also agree that the aforementioned personal data may be processed and used for such purposes also after the end of the seminar. I can revoke this consent at any time without any reason and without reprisal. The ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh guarantees that it will safeguard data privacy without any restriction and that my personal data will not be transmitted to any third parties.

For the ifs data protection notice, please see: [www.filmchule.de/en/ds](http://www.filmchule.de/en/ds)

## Obligation Declaration of the Applicant

I hereby declare that in case I am admitted to the »Summer School Sreenwriting« my participation in the program shall be subject to the »General Conditions for Study Programs and Further Education Programs at ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh« included with this Obligation Declaration. The participation fee is due with registration for the summer school and invoicing by the ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh. I hereby undertake to pay a cancellation processing fee – up to 30 days prior to the event: no charge; 29-15 days before the event 20% of participation fee; 14-5 days before the event 50% of participation fee; 4 days before the event 100% of participation fee – should I decide not to participate in this program after having been accepted. I am aware that this Obligation Declaration does not in any way entitle me to participate in the program.

I confirm that I have read and understood the information and instructions regarding the application procedure and requirements. I confirm that I have also read and understood the above-mentioned conditions for participation and the »General Conditions for Study Programs and Further Education Programs at ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh« included with this Obligation Declaration, and I fully accept them and agree to abide by them.

I further declare that I agree that my application documents will not be returned to me and that they will be destroyed after completion of the application assessment procedure. The ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh reserves the right to archive one copy of the application form for its records.

Place, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# General Conditions for Study Programs and Further Education Programs at ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh

## 1 Scope

The "ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh" (hereinafter referred to as "ifs") provides young filmmakers with initial and further training for the film and television industry. For this purpose ifs offers workshops, study programs, and other further education programs (hereafter referred to as "Program" or "Programs").

These "General Conditions for Study Programs and Further Education Programs at ifs internationale filmschule köln gmbh" (hereafter referred to as "General Conditions") regulate the relation between ifs and the participants and students of the Programs (hereinafter referred to as "Participant/Student" or "Participants/Students"). The General Conditions shall apply in the version valid at the time of conclusion of the contract between ifs and the Participant/Student (hereinafter referred to as "Contract"). Any deviating provision shall only be deemed valid, if ifs has expressly agreed in writing. This also applies to any waiver of this written form requirement.

In cases of any inconsistency between the Contract and these General Conditions, the regulations stipulated in the Contract shall prevail.

## 2 General provisions

### 2.1 Contract Period/Contents

2.1.1 The duration of the contract shall be determined by the Contract between the Participant/Student and ifs.

2.1.2 ifs represented by its managing directors or representatives appointed by the managing directors, shall lay down program times, submission deadlines and other terms that shall be binding for the Participant/Student and shall notify the Participant/Student thereof in writing in a timely manner. The outline, structure and contents of the Programs shall be specified in the program description, which the Participant/Student shall receive at the start of the Program.

2.1.3 All stated contract times and deadlines by ifs shall be binding on the Participant/Student. The attendance of the Participant/Student is compulsory. In rare cases this duty of compulsory attendance includes classes on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and public holidays. Any unjustified absence, even if only temporary, shall entitle ifs after admonishing the Participant/Student to declare extraordinary termination of the Contract.

2.1.4 In case of failure to comply with the defined submission deadlines and other contract times without excuse or in the event of other absence without excuse or approval ifs is entitled to extraordinary termination of the Contract. In the event of repeated non-compliance, ifs shall also be entitled to declare extraordinary termination of the Contract without warning and without notice period.

### 2.2 Inability to Attend

2.2.1 The Participant/Student must obtain the prior consent of ifs for any absence – even if only temporarily – and for the anticipated duration of the same. If the Participant/Student is absent due to illness, Participant/Student must notify ifs immediately on the day of absence. In case of longer absences due to illness, the Participant/Student must submit a medical certificate indicating the anticipated duration of the illness, no later than the end of the third calendar day after the period of absence has begun. Should the illness last longer than indicated in the medical certificate, further medical certificate must be submitted within three days of the date the Participant/Student was initially supposed to return. In all cases of absence the Participant/Student is responsible to catch up its omissions.

2.2.2 If a medical certificate has not been submitted within 14 days after the beginning of a Participant's/Student's absence, the absence will be considered unexcused.

### 2.3 Press and Public Relations Work, Naming, Data Protection, Confidentiality, Development of Topics

2.3.1 The ifs shall be entitled to distribute and make available to the public images/photos of the Participant/Student in its own publications and/or on web pages/Social Media of the ifs, as long as no conflicting legitimate interests of the Participant/Student exist. The aforementioned applies to such images/photos, which have been taken during ifs events and/or during the Program and/or to images/photos which have been provided by the Participant/Student, and also after termination of the contractual relationship between ifs and the Participant/Student.

At the specific request of ifs, the Participant/Student shall be available to a reasonable extent for press conferences and other public relations appointments.

2.3.2 The Participant/Student and ifs mutually empower each other to quote the name of the other party even after termination of the Program for their own advertising purposes. There is no obligation in this respect. This naming empowerment may be cancelled without giving any reasons.

2.3.3 The ifs is only entitled to store, process or communicate to other Participants/Students of the Programs, lecturers, or staff of the ifs the personal data of the Participant/Student (e.g. name, address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, date of birth, academic degree and area of study), as long there is a direct context with the participation of the Participant/Student in the Program.

2.3.4 During the duration of the Contract and also after expiry thereof the Participant/Student undertakes to observe strict confidentiality concerning any business and corporate secrets of the ifs that may become known to the Participant/Student.

2.3.5 For reasons of clarification, ifs emphasizes that topics developed by the Participants/Students in the course of the Programs, which are below the status of a work as per section 2 of the German Copyright Act are not protected by copyright. Therefore, ifs is not liable for other Participants/Students and/or other persons involved in the Program and/or third parties seizing and developing these topics. Thus, it cannot be excluded that it comes to doubling of topics.

### 2.4 Attendance Fee/Tuition Fee

The attendance fee/tuition fee is laid down in the Contract and must be paid after receipt of the invoice into the bank account specified in the invoice. The ifs is entitled to exclude a Participant/Student from the Program until complete payment of the attendance fee/tuition fee, or to terminate the Contract extraordinarily after expiry of the payment deadline, thereby enabling third parties to participate in the Program.

### 2.5 Cancellation of the Program

2.5.1 If the Program fails to take place completely or in parts, a proportionate refund of the attendance fee/tuition fee shall only be made by ifs, if ifs is responsible for the full or partial cancellation of the Program. The ifs shall only be liable for deliberate intent or gross negligence.

2.5.2 In the event of partial or predominant absence of a Participant/Student, in particular, if the Participant/Student is responsible for such absence, a refund of the attendance fee/tuition fee is excluded. The ifs may in individual cases decide otherwise at its own discretion, the Participant/Student has no claim to such exemption.

### 2.6 Production

All productions carried out with the support of ifs are to follow the production guidelines handed out to the Participants/Students at the beginning of the Program.

### 2.7 Contract Termination

2.7.1 Notwithstanding the extraordinary termination right, the Contract shall terminate upon completion of the Program without requiring further declaration.

2.7.2 Each party has the right to terminate the contractual relationship extraordinarily without notice for a compelling reason. In particular, in those cases when a Participant/Student is unable to complete the Program due to grave personal reasons, the Participant/Student has the right of extraordinary termination. The ifs has right of extraordinary termination, in particular, in cases of sections 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.4 and with regard to Programs that are study programs in cases of section 3.5. The termination requires the written form.

2.7.3 All Programs that are workshops and further education programs are excluded from ordinary termination. For all Programs that are bachelor and master study programs section 3.5 applies.

### 2.8 Property/Liability

2.8.1 All teaching materials and other documents made available to the Participants/Students by ifs shall remain property of ifs. The Participants/Students shall take due care of the teaching materials etc. and shall return them immediately and to its full extent to ifs upon request or at the latest after termination of the Contract.

2.8.2 The ifs shall only be liable for damage and loss of objects owned by the Participant/Student or which have been in the possession of the Participant/Student, if ifs acted grossly negligent or deliberately.

### 3 Special Conditions for Study Programs

3.1 The provisions of this section apply exclusively to all Programs which are bachelor and master study programs at ifs (hereinafter referred to as "Study Program" or "Study Programs").

3.2 The Student must take intermediate exams during the Study Program and final exams at the end of the Study Program. Scope and process of these exams are laid down in detail in the ifs examination regulations. The Student must pass the intermediate exams to continue with the rest of the Study Program.

3.3 The tuition fee must be paid at the beginning of each semester of the Study Program after receipt of an invoice.

3.4 Records of attendance may be set out for courses of the Study Programs. They can be found in the current course directory. Determined times and deadlines are binding for Students.

3.5 Notwithstanding the right of extraordinary termination as per section 2.7.2 both parties are entitled to terminate the Contract at the end of each semester with a notice period of one month in advance. The termination must be in writing and must indicate the reasons for the termination. Thereby the parties have to orientate on section 51 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia.

In addition to the examples for reasons of extraordinary termination listed in section 2.7.2, ifs is particularly entitled to declare extraordinary termination of the Contract after admonishing the Student, if the continuation of the Study Program is infeasible for ifs due to a repeated failure of the Student. In particular, the continuation of the Study Program is infeasible for ifs, if the current achievements of the Student do not allow an expectation of successful participation in the Study Program any longer as a result of a repeated breach of Student's duties arising from the Contract.

If a Student decides to terminate the Study Program before the end of the current semester, ifs decides at its own discretion about a proportionate refund of the tuition fee for the current semester.

### 4 Final Provisions

4.1 If any individual provisions of these General Conditions and/or of the Contract are or become null or invalid or contain errors of form or omissions, the validity of the remainder of these General Conditions and of the Contract shall not be affected thereof.

4.2 The contractual relations between the parties shall be governed by German law. Insofar as legally permissible, the parties hereby agree that Cologne shall be the exclusive place of performance and jurisdiction for all disputes arising from these general conditions and/or the Contract.