

Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris

In 1999 the federal chancellor Gerhard Schröder and French president Jacques Chirac founded the Franco-German Film Academy with the aim of broadening and deepening cooperation between the two countries in the field of film.

The Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris of the Franco-German Film Academy started holding courses in autumn 2001. The one-year training programme for young European producers and distributors conveys extensive practical content in the areas of story development, financing, production, distribution, sales and marketing for the European film market. The training is geared to a new generation of young producers, whose aim is to work in international productions, distribution and sales, as well as in editing or in European film institutions.

Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris also accepts applications from candidates from countries not belonging to the members of the EU's MEDIA sub-programme.¹ This new departure is intended to allow young, non-European beginners the opportunity to expand or polish their skills for professional activity mainly in Europe.

The programme is made up of seminars, presentations and case-studies in which speakers report directly from their everyday working life (producers, distributors, promoters, script-writers etc.). At the end of their training, participants produce nine short films together with ARTE and SWR, the film academy and La Fémis as Franco-German coproductions.

In the 2017/2018 academic year, applications by only English speaking applicants will be accepted. Nevertheless, a knowledge of German is not only desirable, it is compulsory. Candidates are expected to attend preparatory German classes and language classes during the theoretical part of their training, in order to improve their skills. The first two programme sections in Ludwigsburg and Paris will be either interpreted simultaneously (German into English or French into English) or will be held directly in English.

The aim of the programme is to set up a network of young producers based in Europe who will work together beyond their year of study and also across national borders. They will be enabled to do so on the basis of their study of the French and German film industry and their acquired knowledge of the respective mentality.

The graduates of Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris have organised themselves in the alumni association Atelier Network, that has built up a considerable network of young European workers in film. This network enables the European exchange of information, experience, contacts and job offers. Graduates will together develop cross-border film projects. The members of the association will also considerably benefit from networking within the Franco-German Film Academy with the initiatives Minitraité, Franco-German Film Encounters and Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris.

Graduates of Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris will work successfully in many areas of the film sector, including as independent film producers (Detailfilm, Ovalfilm, Belle Epoque Films, Les Films de la Butte, ...): Alternatively, they will be employed with well-known production companies and in sales and distribution (Hanway Films, Coproduction Office, DCM, Wild Bunch Germany, The Match Factory, Beta Cinema,...).

¹ More information on the countries of the Creative Europe MEDIA sub-programmes at: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/library/eligibility-organisations-non-eu-countries_en and http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/tools/creative-desks_en.html

The programme will be led by Roman Paul and Gerhard Meixner (Razor Film) on the German side and Christine Ghazarian (La Fémis) on the French side.

The training course

The programme is made up of seven successive blocs:

October to Christmas	Ludwigsburg, Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
January	Paris/Angers, La Fémis
February	Berlin, Berlinale+London, National Film&Television School
March	Ludwigsburg, Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
April	Distribution placement
May	Paris/Cannes, La Fémis
June to August	Short film production, La Fémis or Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg

The curriculum is based on the following pillars:

- Seminars and workshops
- Case studies
- Personal project work
- Festival visits
- Short film production

Seminars and workshops

Seminars and workshops in the fields of story development, financing, film law, production, sales and marketing will be led by well-known speakers with practical experience. That way participants can gain valuable contacts to the film industry and state institutions during the year-long course of study.

Attending the "American Independent Cinema" programme during the Berlinale with U.S. instructors will allow participants to look over the borders of the European market and to broaden their horizon in interacting with the system in the United States. Both instructors and participants will together look for parallels and differences between the European film and the American independent film.

At the beginning of June participants must submit a written study of distribution and pass an oral examination. They will receive a certificate of participation.

Case studies

Several case studies will be undertaken on the basis of hands-on projects. They will extend over all stages in film-making from the script to distribution. Production-specific areas will be dealt with in the phase of a project in which these questions are relevant. In addition, the participants will have the opportunity to view the feature films in question.

Participants will accompany the release of a film in several European countries and study its distribution. On the basis of a recent film, each participant will be required to produce a piece of written work bringing out the differences and points in common connected with issuing this film in the two countries.

Information will not be conveyed in an abstract style but always in connection with real-life projects and/or films. The aim is to analyse the situation of different European countries, their production logistics, box-office takings, evaluation strategies etc.

Personal project work

At the end of the post-graduate year, the participants will work in pairs to produce nine short films in coproduction with ARTE and the SWR. During the year, the teams will already develop projects with the script and direction students at the two film universities (La Fémis and Filmakademie). These short films will then be shot and completed in June/July/August in Ludwigsburg and Paris. The producer teams will consist of one participant each of different nationalities. The development and production of short films will ensure a greater integration of the participants at Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris into the two film universities and be a means of practising production under realistic conditions with external partners and clients. The finished products will first be presented at festivals then broadcast on ARTE.

Visits to festivals

During the study year, participants will attend the festivals of Angers, Berlin and Cannes. The benefit of going to Angers will be to encounter recent French film-making, as well as young French producers and directors. At the Berlinale, meetings will be organised with directors and producers and also with representatives of the European film industry. In Cannes, participants will get to know the structure and functioning of this premier world festival. One of the focal themes in Cannes will be the film market.

Please note: All dates, trips and programmes listed here are subject to change.

General conditions

Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris is a course of continuing education, not a university degree programme. Participants therefore do not have formal student status, unless they are enrolled at another university (please take your status into account when arranging your health insurance).

Costs

The course fees in 2016/2017 were €1500, plus costs for accommodation in Ludwigsburg, Paris and London (€2900) (*subject to change in the 2017/2018 course year*). The Atelier will organise and cover the cost of accommodation for excursions and festivals. It will also organise and subsidise accommodation in Ludwigsburg/Stuttgart, Paris and London on a pro rata basis (included in the €2900).

The course fee and share in accommodation costs must be paid before you start the programme at the film academy.

It is possible to obtain a scholarship, further information will be sent to you after you receive your notice of acceptance.

Language skills

In order to take part in the programme, all participants must speak French AND German or English, and be willing to learn German and French during the year through regular instruction. After admission, participants must take a language test. If their German or French skills are inadequate, they will have to attend a compulsory four-week crash course (at their own expense). This course takes place in September before the regular programme begins.

During the first quarter in Ludwigsburg, additional language instruction will be offered in small groups. In the first few months, the classes will be supported by simultaneous interpreters. As of the

time in Berlin (Feb 2018) it will be expected that the participants speak both languages and can follow the classes without translation. Some classes will be held only in English.

A maximum number of 18 applicants will be selected.

Admission requirements

Participants should not be older than 30 years of age. They should have a university degree and have already worked in the film and media sector (degree certificate and references from employers must be submitted). Practical experience is a prerequisite. The programme is particularly designed for young lawyers, business management and humanities graduates who work in the film industry and would like to supplement their specific skills with intensive and specific training in the field of film production.

Please mail your application, accompanied by the following electronic documents, to Anne Christine Knoth (max. 3 MB):

1. Application form
2. Tabular CV with photo
3. Letter of motivation for your participation in Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris and your idea of the professional pathway you will embark on after the programme (max. 1 DIN A4 page)
4. A portrait of a real, well-known producer (max. 2 DIN A4 pages)
5. Description of a film released for cinemas in the last 24 months and that greatly impressed you (max. 2 DIN A4 pages)
6. Copy of high school diploma (A levels etc)
7. Copy of degree certificate
8. Proof of at least 6 months practical experience in the film industry and at least 4 weeks set experience (placements etc.)
9. Proof of proficiency in German or English (e.g. TOEFL, Cambridge Certificate, time spent abroad)
10. Scan of identity card or travel document (passport)
11. Optional: A file/link with 2-minute film (extracts, work samples, montages)

German-speaking candidates and English-speaking applicants without sufficient French or German should send their application to Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. French-speaking candidates should send their application to La Fémis.

Candidates will be invited to a selection interview on the basis of the written applications. The interviews with the German-speaking applicants will take place at the end of June in Ludwigsburg.

The closing date for applications is **31 May 2017**.

If not chosen the first time, candidates may apply for admission one more time only.

Contact persons

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