PROGRAM AND APPLICATION
FOR THE THREE-YEAR CYCLE OF
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING
2019 – 2022
ZeLIG SCHOOL FOR DOCUMENTARY - BOLZANO, ITALY

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TRAINING

ZeLIG provides professional training in documentary filmmaking. The program is aimed at preparing young people for careers in filmmaking and the audiovisual sector. Specific attention is focused on documentary cinema in all its forms.

The school is located in Bolzano, Italy – a multilingual city, strategically located at the crossroads of Italian, Austrian and German cultures. This gives ZeLIG a distinctly international flavor. Our students and teachers come from around the world, united in their quest to explore, create and further their knowledge of documentary filmmaking.

The program provides the basic skills required by the various professional roles in audiovisual production, along with the opportunity to major in one of three key specialized areas in documentary filmmaking:

- Direction/Project Development
- Photography/Lights
- Editing/Post-Production

DIDACTIC PRINCIPLES

ZeLIG's three-year program does not adhere to any one single school or approach to documentary making. It offers students a chance to compare different filmmaking styles, esthetics and traditions.

Our **teachers** are all highly qualified professionals who actively pursue careers in a broad array of documentary filmmaking areas, and come from a long list of countries. They guarantee students an up-to-date source of information, skills and knowledge of the most recent developments in media, while at the same time provide direct contact with different cultures, styles and formal and content-based approaches. Thus, students gain hands-on access to the various job markets in documentary filmmaking, and that provides graduates with a special edge when it comes to finding work and building a career.

The **use of different languages and a creative immersion in a multicultural experience**: this is what ZeLIG's three-year program strives for, and has been a hallmark of the program since its inception. This approach encourages the creation of networks and the transmission of knowledge from the many to the many.

ZeLIG courses are taught in Italian, German and English. In all ZeLIG activities, students are encouraged to speak in any of the three core languages they feel most comfortable with, the one best suited to expressing their ideas and communicating with others. It's a great opportunity for students to hone their language skills and explore multiple forms of communication, and a gateway to international job markets and the future.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

ZeLIG's three-year program is designed for people interested in all forms of documentary cinema – the entire spectrum of the visual and sound experience. ZeLIG seeks people with passion and talent, who are strongly motivated to make a career out of these gifts.

The program is geared toward people who look at the world with interest and creativity; people who are flexible, who freely express themselves and are willing to take chances. People who can adapt to different roles to make their contribution to an audiovisual production.

Applicants must be hungry to learn, and develop their own creativity and the ability to recognize creativity in others; they must seek to acquire knowledge and technical skills, improve social skills and focus on working in groups.

Applicants must be committed to hard work and responsibility, and be dedicated to learning and growing together – both as professionals and as people.

AIMS OF TRAINING

The aims of training are to provide students with the basic technical skills and know-how to be able to work as professionals upon graduation, in various areas of audiovisual production, and specialized skills and know-how in the three majors offered: Direction/Project Development, Photography/Lights and Editing/Post-Production.

Students who graduate with **a major in Direction/Project Development** will demonstrate a capacity for working autonomously and assuming responsibility, as they contribute creatively to the conception, research and writing of the documentary. They will also have the skills and know-how to create dossiers for film projects, and pitch those projects. From there, they direct the making of films, in terms of narrative and artistic development, and technical direction of the other professionals involved.

Students who graduate with **a major in Photography/Lights** will demonstrate a capacity for translating the idea and subject of a documentary into images. They will also have the skills and know-how to work with directors, or autonomously, as they contribute to the conception of visual ideas for films. They are responsible for the photography of documentaries, in line with the subject and story, from filming phases to post-production.

Students who graduate with a **major in Editing/Post-Production** will demonstrate a capacity for working autonomously and assuming responsibility in the construction of the documentary's story line through the creative use of images and sounds recorded during filming. They are responsible for the editing phase in its entirety; along with directors, they are in charge of the post-production process, and the realization of documentary films based on the techniques agreed upon with the production staffs.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF TRAINING

ZeLIG's three-year program in documentary filmmaking is a full-time obligation. Course attendance is mandatory.

The curriculum includes **3,300 hours of training**. 3,000 of those hours are spent in class; each student also participates in internships of 300 hours.

All activities are organized and planned according to a sequence of training modules. There are introductory, intermediate and specialization modules.

The modules feature lectures, practical experience on the individual level, and group work. There's a special focus on learning together and **active participation in group projects.**

Students are given access to ZeLIG premises and equipment outside classroom hours, for the purposes of **honing their skills** and completing their projects.

The 2019-2022 cycle begins 4. November 2019, and ends July 1, 2022.

First Year

Students acquire the basic elements of analysis and comprehension of audiovisual language and cinematographic grammar. Training is provided in all aspects of planning and producing a documentary film. Course work is carried out in two phases. The first provides a general introduction; the second explores those subjects more in depth. At the end of each phase, students create short documentaries, in groups and on their own.

The first year provides an introduction to the world of documentaries and documentary filmmaking. Students will be evaluated and subsequently assigned majors from the three offered: (Direction/Project Development, Photography/Lights, Editing/Post-Production). The final exam will be overseen by a commission that will assess overall performance and recommend majors for students to pursue during their second and third years.

Module	Course	Classroom Hours
	Phase I - Introduction	
1	History of Documentary Cinema	70
2	Direction I	90
3	Filming Technique and Theory I	60
4	Sound Technique I	30
5	Editing Technique and Theory I	60
6	Audio-Video Technique I	30
7	Show Us What You Can Do – First Year Film	120
Phase II – In Depth		
8	Direction II	90
9	Filming Technique and Theory II	100
10	Editing Technique and Theory II	100
11	Sound Technique II	60
12	Audio-Video Technique II	30
13	Hands-On Work – First Year Film 2	200
14	Organization-Production	30

15	Final Exams	30
	TOTAL	**1100**
	Supplementary Training (optional)	
16	Travel for Purposes of Study	40
17	Independent Work	

Second Year

The second year is divided into "vertical modules", which are different for each major, and focus on developing the skills in each of the three specializations offered; and "horizontal modules", which involve all students, regardless of their majors. As in the first year, seminars that focus on theory are accompanied by hands-on activities, including the making of a short documentary, in which each student participates in a group initiative based on his or her area of specialization.
Upon conclusion of the second year, students take part in internship programs based on their majors.

		Classroom hours for each major		
Module	**Course**	**Direction/ Project Dev.**	**Photography Lights**	**Editing Post-Prod.**
1	Filming Technique	--------	120	--------
2	Dramaturgy in Filming	--------	180	--------
3	Filming Technique	--------	--------	120
4	Dramaturgy in Editing	--------	--------	180
5	Direction Technique	120	---------	--------
6	Dramaturgy in Direction	180	--------	--------
7	Inspiration Days	30	30	30
8	Production Theory and Technique	60	60	60
9	Hands-On Work	480	480	480
10	Organization - Production	30	30	30
	TOTAL HOURS	**900**	**900**	**900**
11	Internship	300 Hours Minimum		

Third Year

Students dedicate their entire third year to the creation of final film projects, which may be of medium or feature length. Such films shall be developed and created based on the following professional audiovisual methods of production: research; writing a project; pitching it; pre-production; budgeting; production; post-production; delivery. Students work in their own areas of

specialization in the creation of at least one film. At the same time, students work together on all the other activities necessary for the successful conclusion of the project.

Upon conclusion of the three-year program, students must pass a comprehensive final exam in order to graduate.

		Classroom hours for each major		
Module	**Course**	**Direction/ Project Dev.**	**Photography Lights**	**Editing Post-Prod.**
1	Final Film Project: Production I		30	30
2	Final Film Project: Development, Writing, Teaser		60	60
3	Final Film Project: Pitching		30	30
4	Seminar: Photography	--------	30	--------
5	Seminar: Editing	--------	--------	30
6	Final Film Project: Directing II	30	--------	--------
7	Seminar: Sound Recording	30	30	30
8	Realization of final film project, with teacher supervision of project development, filming, direction, editing, color grading and sound design.	760	760	760
9	Inspiration Fays	12	12	12
10	Analysis of Film Projects	30	30	30
11	Final Exam	18	18	18
	Total	**1.000**	**1.000**	**1.000**

RECOGNITION AND OPPORTUNITIES

ZeLIG's three-year program in documentary filmmaking is under the aegis of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano's comprehensive agenda for professional training.

Upon completion of the final exam, students are awarded a Professional Training diploma, issued by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, in one of three areas of specialization, and receive certification as documentary filmmakers in Direction/Project Development, Photography/Lights, or Editing/Post-Production.

Graduates possess the skills needed for placement on the job market, which they will apply, autonomously and with responsibility, to specific roles in the documentary filmmaking industry. Graduates are assigned EQF (**European Qualification Framework) Level 5 certification.**

Graduates also possess skills outside their own specific areas of interest, which may be applied to different roles and situations in the production process of films and other audiovisual products.

TUITION

Tuition for ZeLIG's 2019-2022 three-year cycle is € 1,000 per year.

Tuition must be paid upon registration, and upon confirmation of attendance of each successive academic year. The tuition fee is non-refundable.

APPLICATION FOR THE 2019-2022 CYCLE

A maximum of 30 students will be admitted for the training. They must have at least the following requirements:

- High school diploma or vocational qualification
- Language skills: B2 level in two of the three teaching languages (German, Italian, English)

The language skills must be proven by an international language certificate or by another certificate (for example, a university degree in German, Italian or English), and submitted at the latest when taking part in the entrance exam in Bolzano. The language skills are verified during the entrance exam. Emphasis is given to the communicative skills, the expression in and understanding of a language.

The selection process is divided into two parts, an online pre-selection and a second selection on site at the school in Bolzano. The assessment can be made in one of the three languages. An Admissions Commission will asses skills, motivation and aptitude of the applicants.

Phase 1 - Online Preselection

Applicants participate in the online selection process by following the instructions available at the ZeLIG website (www.zeligfilm.it).

The aim of this phase is to preselect candidates through a process that requires them to submit a series of application materials.

Applicants must submit the following materials online (no hard-copy documentation will be accepted):

- The application form, complete with personal information and a declaration of the applicant's qualifications, which will be verified during the on-site exam in Phase 2;
- An essay in which candidates outline their motivation for applying to ZeLIG;
- A brief video in which applicants introduce themselves;
- A project for a documentary film;

- An agreement to abide by the conditions of participation.

The informations about the single tests are in the attachment below 'Application Tests Online Preselection'.

Application deadline: All applications must be received by May 23, 2019.
All applications must have arrived online by midnight of this date. Later applications cannot be considered

The Admissions Commission will assess applicants' Phase 1 documentation and rank applicants accordingly.

Results of Phase 1 preselection will be available no later than 6. June 2019. The top-ranking 50 applicants will be asked to come to Bolzano for the on-site exam.

Phase 2 – Admissions Exam

The exam will take place at ZeLIG, in Bolzano, Italy, over a 6-day period, July 8 – 13, 2019.

The exam has five parts:

- Test of film/audiovisual culture;
- The creation of a visual story;
- Group test;
- Interview.

Content and specific details of each part will be provided on site, prior to the start of each section.

Names of the 30 applicants admitted to the program and of the 10 applicants in the waiting-list will be announced on 13. July 2019.

Applicants that have been accepted must register and pay the tuition fee of € 1,000 no later than 19. July. Proof of payment must be received by ZeLIG by that date.

Should any of the 30 applicants that have been accepted opt to not register, their places may be filled by the applicants next in line, based on the rankings. They will be contacted by 22. July, and must register and pay the tuition fee of € 1,000 by 29. July

Classes at ZeLIG are held in three different languages. It is therefore imperative for the students to have good communication skills (understanding and expression) in all three languages spoken at the school. During the entrance exam, applicants must demonstrate knowledge at B2 level in at least two of the languages.

At the beginning of the training, B2 knowledge in all three languages spoken at the school should be acquired. Exempt are those who have to learn the third language from scratch (ex novo) and who have to show A2 level at the beginning of the study cycle.

Anyone not having sufficient knowledge of one of the three languages is obliged to attend language classes. Failure to do so can result in revocation of the admission.

We would like to point out that at the end of the first study year B2 level has to be attained for all three languages. The language competences are evaluated. Languages at ZeLIG are a chance, a possibility of having better communication skills, especially in documentary filmmaking, and increasing the possibility of finding a job in the audiovisual market.

Classes for the 2019-2022 begin 4. November 2019, and conclude July 1, 2022.

CONTACTS

ZeLIG Secretarial Office (8.30h – 12.00h / 14.00h – 16.30h)
Via Brennero 20/D - 39100 Bolzano - Italy
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ATTACHMENT – APPLICATION TESTS ONLINE PRESELECTION

Part 1 – The Essay

Applicants must write an essay, explaining why they want to attend ZeLIG. Essays must be submitted in PDF format and:

- Briefly describe your academic history and what you feel have been your most important work experiences and your skills acquired;
- Provide your reasons for applying to ZeLIG, including concrete experiences that led you to apply;
- Describe which difficulties you expect in the course of the training and through which competences you will be able to overcome these.

Each description should be no longer than 1,500 characters (spaces not included).

The file and text must contain the name of the applicant.

Part 2 – Documentary Film Project

Applicants must write a proposal for a documentary film project based on the theme **"My Neighbors".**

Applicants are encouraged to interpret the assigned theme in a free and creative manner. The important thing is to describe the film and what happens in it, rather than expound on abstract theoretical issues.

Documentary film projects must contain the following:

- Title and subtitle (if applicable)
- Introduction – Logline – Short Description
  Use one or at most two sentences to succinctly describe the focus of your film and what it's about.
- Synopsis
  Provide a clear description of the story told in your film, the various layers and subplots, and the development of the narrative. Keep in mind that you are being asked to tell what happens in the film, and not for an essay on the theme assigned.
- Main Characters
  Describe the main characters in the film. They may be people, of course, but also other living and even non-living things. Explain their roles, discuss what they do, their relevance and what happens to them. Your description should help anyone reading the project to imagine what your characters are really like.
- Stylistic Approach
  Describe the kind of film you aim to make in terms of style and filmic language. Also tell us the point of view you plan to adopt and which artistic elements you'd like to include.

Your documentary film project must include all the above points and must be **no longer than 3,000 characters** (spaces not included), and submitted as a PDF.

The file and text must contain the name of the applicant.

Part 3 - Video Presentation of yourself

Applicants must record a 2-part video with a **maximum total running time 2 minutes 30 seconds**.

- Part 1 - 1 Minute (max.)
  Show us your skills and potential. The only limit is length. Reveal your artistic personality in this video entitled "This is Me!"

- Part 2 - 1 Minute 30 seconds (max.)
  Film an interview of yourself: use either a head shot or a three-quarter shot. Provide the following information as if you were answering an interviewer's questions:
  - Recount an experience that taught you a lot;
  - Select and give a presentation of an everyday object that in some way represents who you are, and explain why;
  - Tell us about what you expect to get out of the ZeLIG experience;
  - Tell us which satisfaction you hope to gain from your future profession.

Important: Carry out part of the interview in one of the languages you have indicated.

Video presentations must be uploaded onto a delivery platform (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.). Applicants may provide a link (and password, if necessary) for viewing below.

Do not attach video files to this online application form!