Cinematography Program

Duration: 4 Months
Level: Beginner to Advanced
Mode: Online / Offline

Module 1: Camera Fundamentals

Topics Covered

- Camera Types (DSLR / Mirrorless / Cinema Cameras)
- Exposure Triangle (Aperture, Shutter, ISO)
- Frame Rates & Resolution Basics
- Focus Techniques (Manual / Autofocus)
- Lens Types & Focal Lengths
- Camera Settings for Different Scenarios

Tasks Assigned

- Practice manual exposure settings
- Shoot a focus-pull exercise
- Compare footage across different lenses
- Document camera settings for 3 lighting scenarios

Session Outcome

Students gain confidence operating a camera manually across a range of shooting conditions.

Module 2: Lighting Fundamentals

Topics Covered

- Lighting Basics (Key, Fill, Backlight)
- Natural vs Artificial Lighting
- Lighting for Interviews
- Lighting for Scenes & Mood
- Working with Reflectors & Diffusers
- Colour Temperature & White Balance

Tasks Assigned

- Set up a 3-point lighting interview
- Shoot a scene using natural light
- Practice a mood-lighting exercise
- Correct white balance across mixed lighting

Session Outcome

Students can set up basic lighting configurations for interviews and narrative scenes.

Module 3: Shot Composition & Framing

Topics Covered

- Rule of Thirds & Framing Basics
- Camera Angles & Perspective
- Depth & Leading Lines
- Headroom & Lead Room
- Composition for Different Formats
- Visual Storytelling Through Composition

Tasks Assigned

- Shoot a composition exercise using framing rules
- Build a shot list for a short scene
- Practice different camera angles for one subject
- Analyse composition in reference films

Session Outcome

Students understand how composition supports storytelling and can apply framing principles confidently.

Module 4: Shot Planning & Storyboarding

Topics Covered

- Understanding a Script/Brief
- Shot Lists & Shot Types
- Storyboarding Basics
- Coverage Planning
- Continuity Basics
- Pre-Production Checklists

Tasks Assigned

- Break down a script into a shot list
- Create a storyboard for a short scene
- Plan coverage for a dialogue scene
- Prepare a pre-production checklist for a shoot

Session Outcome

Students can plan a shoot in advance with a clear shot list and storyboard.

Module 5: Gimbals, Stabilisation & Camera Movement

Topics Covered

- Gimbal Basics & Balancing
- Types of Camera Movement (Pan, Tilt, Tracking, Dolly)
- Handheld vs Stabilised Shooting
- Drone/Aerial Basics (Overview)
- Movement for Storytelling
- Common Movement Mistakes

Tasks Assigned

- Balance and operate a gimbal
- Shoot a tracking/dolly-style sequence
- Practice handheld vs stabilised comparisons
- Plan movement for a short sequence

Session Outcome

Students can use stabilisation tools and camera movement purposefully in their shots.

Module 6: On-Location Production Workflow

Topics Covered

- On-Location Safety & Setup
- Working with Talent & Crew
- Directing on Set
- Managing Time on a Shoot Day
- Backup & Data Management
- Working with Sound on Set

Tasks Assigned

- Participate in an on-location shoot exercise
- Manage a mock shoot-day schedule
- Practice on-set data backup workflow
- Coordinate a scene with talent

Session Outcome

Students experience a full on-location shoot workflow from setup to wrap.

Module 7: Post-Production Handoff & AI Tools

Topics Covered

- Preparing Footage for the Edit
- File Organisation & Naming Conventions
- Basic Colour Notes for Editors
- AI Tools for Pre-Visualisation
- AI-Assisted Shot Planning
- Working Between Camera & Edit Teams

Tasks Assigned

- Organise and label footage from a shoot
- Prepare colour and shot notes for an editor
- Explore an AI pre-visualisation tool
- Hand off a shoot package to a mock edit team

Session Outcome

Students understand how to prepare and hand off footage professionally for post-production.

Module 8: Showreel, Freelancing & Career Growth

Topics Covered

- Building a Cinematography Showreel
- Portfolio Platforms for Filmmakers
- Freelancing as a Camera Operator
- Building Industry Contacts
- Resume & Interview Preparation
- Personal Branding for Filmmakers

Tasks Assigned

- Build a cinematography showreel
- Publish work to a portfolio platform
- Draft a freelance rate card
- Prepare a resume and portfolio pitch

Session Outcome

Students graduate with a showreel and the practical grounding to work on real productions or freelance shoots.

Final Capstone Project

Students must complete:

- 1 Short Brand/Promotional Film Shoot
- 1 Lighting Setup Exercise
- 1 On-Location Shoot Exercise
- Cinematography Showreel
- Portfolio Presentation

Enrol Now

Ready to build your career in Cinematography? Join a practical, agency-based training programme with real projects, portfolio development and placement support at 100X Digital Academy.

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Seats are limited each batch — get in touch to enrol.