

catalyst

/ Creative Human Development

Summer Short
Courses 2027

Monday 28 June
→ Friday 23 July

Institute for Creative Arts
and Technology

Karl-Marx-Str. 101, 12043 Berlin
catalyst-berlin.com



Make space for creativity this summer in Berlin

Build skills, confidence and momentum on our range of Summer short courses. Our intensive short courses are led by industry experts and prioritise hands-on learning. That means you'll learn by making, experimenting, receiving feedback and iterating. You'll be practicing real-world creative skills while connecting with an international community of artists, at our iconic campus in Europe's creative capital.

The **Psychology of Creativity** and Creative **Industry & Entrepreneurship** – short courses sit within our School for Creative Human Development, one of Catalyst's four schools sharing campus, community and culture. You will also meet students exploring other artistic disciplines within our Schools for Music & Sound, Film & Visual Media and Acting. Everyone is here for the same reason: a wish to learn new skills and meet like-minded makers. The creative industries don't operate in isolation and we reflect that reality.

Why Study at Catalyst?

Learn from practicing artists and researchers

Your tutors are working professionals: researchers, coaches, artists and facilitators actively navigating the creative field. They bring lived experience into every session and a genuine passion for passing it on. Programme Lead Cordele Glass holds a BA in Applied Developmental Psychology from UCLA and an MA in Positive Developmental Psychology from Claremont Graduate University, and is an award-winning experimental electronic producer. Who better to guide you through the science and practice of creativity?

An international community of creative practitioners

You will be studying alongside students from over 70 countries, all at Catalyst because they take their creative development seriously. On a campus buzzing with every kind of artist, the conversations and connections you make here may be as formative as the coursework itself. The filmmakers, musicians, sound designers and screenwriters you'll meet in the shared spaces between sessions are also looking to collaborate.

Learn more than theory

This is not a lecture course. Every taught framework is put to work in your own creative practice. You will leave with a portfolio of real projects, a reflection practice you can take forward and a clearer understanding of how and why you work the way you do.



Our city speaks for itself

Clubs, galleries & street culture

Berlin offers unparalleled creative infrastructure. The city offers a dizzying array of art galleries, including foundations presenting the work of Germany's most influential artists, historic galleries exhibiting the work of international masters and contemporary galleries with multi-media experiences. Art floods its way into the club scene too, with temples of techno occasionally doubling up as exhibition spaces.

You can visit a range of experimental galleries for inspiration or just walk the streets and soak in the graffiti. Corner shops have been known to transform into temporary dance floors. Berlin is an endless inspiration and actively shapes us through its relentless energy.

You'll study during Berlin's most vibrant season

Our campus is in the heart of the city. Discovering the city's international food scene. Swimming in lakes just outside the city. Watching sunset from Tempelhofer Feld. Berlin is a city that caters to all your needs and desires.

After an intense month of creation, we celebrate with a showcase and closing party. Expect performances, screenings, DJ sets, installations, dancing. You'll leave with fresh output, new skills, an international network and lasting memories.

Photos taken last summer by students for our [disposable camera project](#)





/// Psychology of Creativity

You're a creative practitioner, coach, or someone deeply curious about creativity itself. This course explores evidence-based psychological theories of creativity through direct application rather than traditional lectures. You'll engage with topics hands-on, applying insights to your own creative practice. Through experiential activities, collaborative exercises and personal reflection, you'll discover how creativity develops across a lifespan, impacts wellbeing, and shapes communities. No previous psychology experience required—you'll find your own limits and apply practices matching your personal style.

This course is right for you if:

- ✓ You're a creative practitioner curious about the psychology behind your process
- ✓ You're a coach wanting evidence-based frameworks for supporting creative clients
- ✓ You want to understand flow, play and how creativity develops across lifespans
- ✓ You prefer experiential learning over traditional lectures
- ✓ You're ready to apply psychological insights directly to your creative practice

Course Schedule

The course alternates between workshop days (learning new topics, engaging activities, planning applications) and application days (creating in your own style, trying out new approaches). Topics include:

Week 1	Creative Lifespan Development: developmental systems theories, the creative brain and developmental neuroscience, stages of creative development from early foundations to sustainable mastery.
Week 2	Optimal Experience & Peak Performance: play, curiosity and imagination, flow states, mindfulness and attention, deliberate practice, professional creativity and burnout prevention.
Week 3	Expressive Arts, Health & Wellbeing: neuroaesthetics, eco-art and nature-based practice, colour psychology, sound and health, creative writing for self-discovery, movement and embodied expression.
Week 4	Creative Leadership & Global Impact: psychological safety, trust and feedback, leadership and followership, group flow, cross-cultural collaboration, values, purpose and storytelling.

Course Outcomes

- ★ Use systems thinking to consider multiple developmental factors in your creative process
- ★ Harness flow and play in creative work while building skills confidence
- ★ Create and collaborate with more self-care, compassion and psychological safety
- ★ Implement neuro-aware and embodied practices in your creative processes
- ★ Articulate and foster the most meaningful elements of your own creative process



/// Creative Industry & Entrepreneurship

You have a creative practice and developed skills, and you're ready to bring your work to market with more structure and confidence. This course explores the economic side of professional creative life through practical workshops on global creative economies, market literacy and professional infrastructure. Apply what you learn to your own offer, shaping an actionable business plan with clear steps towards your own definition of creative success. You don't need a finished business idea to join, only a creative practice and a sense of the product or service you'd like to offer. You'll learn to pitch your plan and prepare for higher-stakes conversations with clients, employers, investors and funders.

This course is right for you if:

- ✓ You've recently completed a BA or MA and are working towards your professional creative career
- ✓ You're early in your creative career and want more guidance and structure
- ✓ You have an established creative practice but haven't yet professionalised it the way you'd like
- ✓ You're considering a move from freelancing into an organisation, or the other way around
- ✓ You want practical business knowledge designed around creative work, not a generic MBA

Course Schedule

Each day begins with a check-in on your business plan and the work from the previous day, with feedback from the rest of the cohort. Workshops are followed by time to apply each topic to your own plan.

Week 1	Creative Economies: fundamentals of global economic exchange, the history of arts funding, analysis of global creative sectors, trends shaping the future of the creative economy.
Week 2	Market Literacy & Value Creation: branding, storytelling and attention capital, consumer psychology and market research, practices and mindsets for creative entrepreneurship.
Week 3	Professional Infrastructure: employment, freelancing, partnerships and networks, finance, taxes and funding options including grants, creative business case studies.
Week 4	Sustainable Creative Practice: motivation and self-leadership, recognising and avoiding burnout, pitch preparation, final business plan pitches.

Course Outcomes

- ★ Understand how the creative economy is structured and where your work fits within it
 - ★ Identify your niche and connect with the people who find your work most valuable
 - ★ Articulate your professional story clearly and compellingly
 - ★ Choose a business model that aligns with your goals, skills and values
 - ★ Apply practical financial knowledge to build towards stability, while staying motivated and avoiding burnout
 - ★ Pitch your business plan with confidence in a professional context
- You won't be studying alone

Summer Short Courses running at the same time

During the same four weeks, our campus will be brimming with students on ten other specialist short courses across music, film, video games and acting. These are the courses to choose from:

MUSIC & SOUND

Electronic Music Production

Transform creative ideas into finished tracks using Ableton Live, hardware synthesisers and drum machines. Beginner level.

MUSIC & SOUND

Studio Recording

Learn professional recording and engineering in a real studio environment. Explore Pro Tools, microphones and signal flow. Beginner level.

MUSIC & SOUND

Music & Sound for Experimental Gaming

Explore new approaches to music, sound design and storytelling in games and hybrid media. Beginner/Intermediate.

MUSIC & SOUND

Mixing & Mastering Electronic Music

Elevate your mixes with professional depth, clarity and warmth. For producers ready to take the next step. Intermediate/Advanced.

MUSIC & SOUND

Advanced Sound Design

Develop a stronger sonic identity through modular synthesis, granular processing and experimental techniques. Intermediate/Advanced.

ACTING

Screen Acting

Develop your on-camera presence and technique in a working studio environment, led by professional actors. Beginner level.

FILM & VISUAL MEDIA

Filmmaking

Develop your craft across stages of production; from pre-production and cinematography to editing and sound. Beginner level.

FILM & VISUAL MEDIA

Screenwriting

Write original scripts through structured workshops, peer feedback and industry-informed storytelling techniques. Beginner level.

FILM & VISUAL MEDIA

Unreal Engine & Environment Design

Build immersive real-time environments for games, film and digital art using Unreal Engine. Beginner level.

FILM & VISUAL MEDIA

Documentary Photography

Develop a documentary photography practice and storytelling instincts through intensive fieldwork in Berlin. Beginner level.

All summer courses culminate in a shared closing showcase. Expect performances, screenings, DJ sets, photo exhibitions and installations from students across every discipline. You leave with new output, new skills and an international network built across a month of shared creative work.

Browse all summer courses: catalyst-berlin.com/about/summer-course-programme

Entry Requirements and How to Apply

Course cost

All Summer Short Courses cost €2,005 + €495 enrolment fee.

Course dates

Monday 28 June – Friday 23 July 2027

Entry Requirements: Age

We don't have an upper age limit, but we do have a minimum age: 18. To join us you must be 18 years old by the first day of your study programme.

Entry Requirements: Language

All our courses are taught in English and applicants must demonstrate a level equal to IELTS 6. We do not ask for official exam results, but we will assess the standard of English in your application and support materials. We do not require German language skills.

Entry Requirements: Education

No education requirement – only relevant experience for the intermediate and advanced courses.

Admissions Timeline

Summer Short Course applications are normally processed within 2 weeks.

Final deadline

31 March 2027 - early enrolment deadline (150€ discount)

21 May 2027 - final deadline (subject to availability)

Multi-Course Discount

Enrol in both a Summer Short Course and a degree course with us within two years, and receive a discount of €500 off the total tuition fee.

Application Form

The Summer Short Course application form is just one page. You must submit your personal and contact details, as well as a short statement of motivation (250-300 words). If you're applying for one of our intermediate or advanced level summer courses, be sure to tell us about your previous experience with the subject and related software, if relevant.

Don't Wait To Create This Summer

Catalyst – Institute for Creative Arts and Technology
101 Karl-Marx-Straße
12043 Berlin, Germany