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ista | Global Learning Through the Arts

IB DP FILM

Workshop Categories & Selection Guide

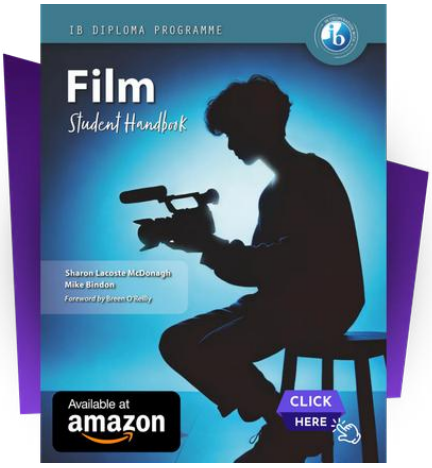
ista FILM

www.istaglobal.org

How does ISTA work with the IB?

Since 2017, ISTA has delivered accredited IB DP Film workshops on behalf of the IB, supporting educators worldwide. Our range of events, products, and services for film teachers and learners now includes the full suite of authorised IB workshops, alongside new ISTA-led programmes. With a global network of professionals, we're proud to help shape the future of film education.

Through a first-of-its-kind collaboration with the IB, ISTA published the first-ever *IB DP Film Student Handbook* in 2025. This essential resource supports students in navigating the course with clarity, confidence, and a deeper understanding of IB film course and assessment tasks. .



Who are ISTA's workshop leaders?

ISTA works with approved and IB trained workshop leaders and in accordance with IB guidelines. All our workshop leaders are either:

- experienced and highly skilled IB DP Film educators;
- or IB DP Film examiners;
- or have been involved in IB DP Film curriculum development.

They are experienced in teaching methodologies, IB pedagogy and in the field of teacher training.

Why learn with ISTA?

ISTA is an officially accredited IB professional development provider delivering high-quality IB DP Arts workshops worldwide. We believe that professional learning should do more than simply inform — it should inspire, challenge, and transform classroom practice.

Unlike other PD providers, ISTA takes a uniquely practical, immersive, and creative approach. Our workshops go beyond theoretical discussion, giving educators the chance to experience film in action through hands-on exercises, collaborative exploration, and authentic classroom-ready activities. Participants don't just learn about the course — they actively engage with the creative processes, assessment tasks, and approaches that define IB DP Film.

ISTA workshops are:

- **Dynamic and experiential**: Teachers step into the role of learners and creators, deepening their understanding through practice rather than passive observation.
- **Rooted in industry practice**: Led by IB-certified facilitators and working professionals, our workshops bridge classroom pedagogy with the realities of contemporary film production and analysis.
- **Curriculum-connected**: Every activity and discussion is directly linked to the IB philosophy, the DP Film guide, and assessment requirements, ensuring immediate relevance and practical classroom application.
- **Collaborative and global**: Participants join a vibrant network of IB educators from around the world, building professional connections and sharing innovative approaches that enrich their teaching practice.

Cat 1

IB DP Film Workshop Categories & Selection Guide

Category 1

The Category 1 DP Film workshop is designed to prepare participants to teach DP Film in a manner that supports the IB mission statement and philosophy.

This workshop is recommended for teachers of IB DP Film from schools that are applying to offer the Diploma Programme, or for new or recently appointed film teachers from IB World Schools. It also provides professional development and support for educators in schools that have decided to, or are considering, applying for IB authorisation. Educators who are new to a school with an existing IB programme or who are interested in joining an IB school are also eligible. No previous knowledge of the IB or DP Film is required.

Participants will practically examine IB Diploma Theatre and will focus on:

- Develop an understanding of the IB mission and philosophy and explore the key principles of an IB education.
- Explore the DP Film guide, syllabus, and the links between prescribed content, assessments, and marking criteria, including practice marking of student samples
- Develop strategies to design and deliver a film course that integrates authentic assessment and prepares students for the assessment tasks
- Share ideas, best practices, and resources for teaching DP Film effectively

Recommended for:

DP Film teachers new to the DP at established IB World Schools, teachers new to DP Film and film teachers from interested or candidate schools preparing for authorization.

Choose Category 1 if you are new to the IB, are in a school applying to be an IB World School or if your situation is similar to any of the following...

I am new to the faculty of a longstanding IB World School and have not taught the IB DP Film programme previously.

I am aware of the IB philosophy and programme structure but am not experienced in teaching or administrating the IB.

I am familiar with the IB subject guide (including assessment procedures, moderation) and would like some guidelines on teaching and learning to build greater confidence before teaching a course.

I have inherited a course and would like to review the subject content before teaching it to suit my own style and expertise.

Cat 2

IB DP Film Workshop Categories & Selection Guide

Category 2

This workshop is designed to provide a forum for experienced DP Film teachers to deepen their understanding of the course, enhance programme delivery, refine assessment practices, and strengthen teaching and learning approaches.

This workshop is intended for experienced Film teachers from IB World Schools. Participants must have either attended a previous Category 1 workshop in Film or have been teaching the DP Film course for more than one year. It provides a collaborative and challenging space for experienced IB educators to focus on assessment, curriculum development, and advanced teaching practice.

The workshop will address key areas of teaching and learning with a particular emphasis on assessment tasks, corresponding criteria, and strategies for preparing students for success. Authentic student samples will be analysed to deepen understanding of how assessment criteria are applied in practice.

Participants will practically examine the assessment components and collaboratively generate useful resources, strategies, and classroom activities to support students in a way that reflects the IB mission statement, the learner profile, and the broader aims of the Diploma Programme.

Recommended for:

Diploma Programme (DP) Film teachers who have prepared students for at least one DP exam session in Film.

Who can take a Category 2 workshop?

✓ *You have attended a Category 1 Film workshop previously.*

OR

✓ *You have been teaching the DP Film course for more than one year.*

Choose Category 2 workshops to develop your expertise in delivering an IB programme. You will have an opportunity to:

- *enhance your understanding of assessment in IB programmes.*
- *make connections between programme frameworks, classroom practice and assessment.*
- *share good practice and approaches to assessment.*

Cat 1 & 2 COMBINED

IB DP Film Workshop Categories & Selection Guide

Category 1 & 2 combined

ISTA offers a combined Category 1 & 2 IB Diploma Programme Film workshop, providing a collaborative learning environment where educators with different levels of experience learn alongside one another while engaging in high-quality IB professional development.

Designed for teachers who are new to the course as well as those wishing to refresh or deepen their understanding, the workshop builds confidence in course design, teaching approaches and assessment. Through differentiated activities and discussions, participants engage with content that addresses both Category 1 and Category 2 learning outcomes while benefiting from the shared experiences of the wider group.

The programme focuses on key aspects of film teaching and learning, with particular emphasis on assessment tasks, criteria and effective student preparation. Authentic student work is used to develop a clear understanding of how the assessment criteria are applied in practice.

When registering, participants select either Category 1 or Category 2. This enables the workshop leader to differentiate learning appropriately, ensuring suitable depth, challenge and support for both newer and more experienced teachers throughout.

Recommended for:

IB DP Film teachers who are new to the course, as well as experienced teachers seeking to consolidate and extend their practice.

Who can take a combined Cat 1 and 2 workshop?

✓ *You have attended a Category 1 Film workshop previously.*

OR

✓ *You are new to IB Film or are looking to teach the IB Film course for the first time.*

You will register for either Category 1 or 2 when you book and receive certification in that category

enhance your understanding of assessment in IB programmes.

make connections between programme frameworks, classroom practice and assessment.

share good practice and approaches to assessment.

Category 3

The Cat 3 workshop is designed to provide a forum for experienced educators to build on and enhance their professional development portfolios.

Participants will engage in an in-depth investigation into particular syllabus areas. Choose Cat 3 to dive more deeply into areas you enjoy and to deepen your understanding and mastery of an area or subject.

Please note

- Category 3 workshops are open to all teachers.
- You ***do not*** need to have attended Category 1 or Category 2 to attend a Category 3.
- You ***do not*** need to be an IB teacher to attend a Category 3 workshop.

Practical Film Production

Our Category 3 Practical Film Production workshop is designed to immerse participants in the art and practice of filmmaking and how to bring it authentically into the classroom.

In this workshop, participants engage in a wide range of hands-on activities to deepen their understanding of how to embed and facilitate practical filmmaking in a learning environment. They explore strategies for preparing students to construct a portfolio of film experiences and participate in collaborative filmmaking tasks, as well as approaches to designing and documenting both teacher-led and student-led film experiments, explorations, and complete film projects.

Practical elements include identifying and applying key film techniques and ideas, forming and managing production groups, planning and organising production workflows, and developing skills for effective screenings. The workshop also addresses methods for documenting process and performance as filmmakers, and how this documentation can be used to reflect critically on the creative journey and evaluate completed projects.

Category 3 workshops are for you if your situation is similar to any of the following...

I have been teaching the DP Film course for years and am very comfortable delivering the core components, designing the course, and working with the assessment criteria.

I do not currently need any PD on delivering the course itself.

I would love an "injection" of new ideas to make me a stronger Film educator and better practitioner.

What film teachers say about our workshops

IB DP Film – Category 1
Hong Kong

Fun, dynamic, and didactic! The whole experience was engaging and hands-on, with plenty of opportunities to collaborate and ask questions.

IB DP Film – Category 2
Toronto, Canada

This experience has completely transformed how I think about teaching film. I now feel highly prepared to implement new approaches with my students.

IB DP Film – Category 3
London, UK

I left with a huge toolbox of practical approaches and concrete resources that I was able to implement immediately upon my return to school due to their high quality and accessibility.

IB DP Film – Category 3
London, UK

This was one of the most valuable professional development experiences I've attended. A perfect balance of practical filmmaking and IB pedagogy.

IB DP Film – Category 2
Toronto, Canada

I felt much more confident about how to support students in collaborative film projects and how to document their process effectively.

IB DP Film – Category 2
Hong Kong

The workshop far exceeded my expectations.

IB DP Film – Category 2
Toronto, Canada

I want to do more workshops like this in the future. It was a brilliant opportunity to deepen my understanding of the IB Film course while gaining real, practical filmmaking skills.

IB DP Film – Category 1
Hong Kong

This was the best professional development I've ever had — everything I wanted was covered and more than I expected.

IB DP Film – Category 3
London , UK

The sense of community built among participants was fantastic, and the collaborative approach made the learning experience even richer.

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We are ISTA

We connect, create, and inspire through the transformative power of the arts.

Founded in 1978, we are a UK-based charity dedicated to empowering young people and those who guide them through exceptional learning experiences in the arts. Working with educators and artists around the world, we challenge students to embrace diverse perspectives, ignite their creativity, and reimagine their place in the world.

At the heart of our work is the ISTA Ensemble Method — a collaborative approach to learning and community building that places young people at the centre. Through story-based inquiry, we seek to deepen understanding, spark dialogue, and inspire change.

We build vibrant communities of learning, partnering with over 240 member schools across the globe. Our bold, non-competitive approach fosters creativity, collaboration, and global connection — preparing young people to thrive in an ever-changing world.

We are the heartbeat of a global movement. At ISTA, the arts are more than expression — they are a catalyst for curiosity, growth, and transformation.

Through dynamic events, specialised training, and innovative resources, we cultivate spaces where imagination flourishes, collaboration is celebrated, and young voices are empowered to lead.

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