

catalyst

2027

BACHELOR OF ARTS / HE CERTIFICATE

Acting

Become a captivating presence on stage
and screen

Overview

Where you'll learn

How you'll learn

What you'll learn

How to Apply

Teaching Institution: Catalyst – Institute of Creative Arts and Technology

Final Award Title: Certificate of Higher Education (1 year)
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (3 years)

Location: Berlin

Course start: September 2027

Mode of study: Full time

Language of instruction: English

Awarding Institution: Plymouth Marjon University

Overview

Become a captivating presence on stage and screen

The Acting BA (Hons) trains you for stage and screen at the same time, and it starts with performing. In Year 1 you are in front of an audience or a camera almost every week, working with new scripts, new directors and a different team each time. The year ends with a series of public performances.

Most people who apply here have already been performing. School productions, years of dance training, a conservatoire, a local theatre company or community club. Some have been circling it for years without committing. What changes here is method and scale: professional studios, a theatre, tutors who work in the industry they are teaching, and a cohort who turn up for each other's work.

Much of the first two years is about method. You work through the acting techniques of the twentieth century as practical tools rather than history, and through Uta Hagen's object exercises, which build a performance out of observation and the character's own reasons. The aim is a way of reaching emotion that still works on the eleventh take and that you can put down when you leave the room. Voice and movement workshops run throughout, building your acting skills holistically.

The programme also trains you to make work, not only to be cast in it. In Year 1 you write a script with yourself as the lead. In Year 2 your cohort becomes an acting company and stages a play, handling costume, set, make-up and marketing between you, with a tutor directing. In Year 3 you can spend the year building a 30-minute solo piece of your own, run an ensemble, devise original work and design a workshop. Graduates can fulfil creative briefs and develop their own projects professionally.

Across the three years you learn vocal technique, then build a voice reel for commercials, documentary, video games, animation and audiobooks, with weight given to your native language or any other language you work in well. Our students come from over 70 countries – and for many that is a second market in which to bring your skills to.

By the end of the Bachelor's, you'll have:

- A portfolio of filmed and live work, including a showreel and stage credits.
- A repeatable technique for character work, script analysis and screen performance, and the vocabulary to talk about what you are doing and why.
- Have a trained voice and movement practice, plus a professional voice reel in the languages you work in.
- Experience of making your own work: writing, devising, producing and performing a solo piece.
- Experience of working with directors, writers, composers and film crews, including the ones who trained alongside you.
- A clear sense of your own range and where it is strongest.
- The mindset to keep developing your craft and navigating a creative career.

"I love that we're treated like we are already working in the industry. I think that aspect of the school is one of the most important parts because you learn the hard way what needs to be done and what you can expect when stepping out with a degree in your hand."

Julie Kjær, filmmaker and Acting alumna



Where you'll learn

Our creative campus

The programme sits within Catalyst's School of Acting, on a 4,500m² campus shared with the Schools of Music & Sound, Film & Visual Media and Creative Human Development. You'll work in dedicated acting studios, our theatre, voice recording suites, cinema, a green screen studio, sound stage and post-production suites. The music studios and our student-run Etikett Radio are also here on campus.

Collaboration is built into the curriculum. Actors are casted by our film production students. Music students score those films. And VFX students use actors for visual projects. Over 70 nationalities work across the campus, giving you plenty of creative inspiration and resources to work with.

[\[Click here to book a campus visit →\]](#)

“Berlin does not just have many faces, but many characters. And, of course, as an actress, it is characters that most inspire me. The vibe created by the people here is what makes the city so unique. It is a melting pot with room for everyone inside.”

Anne-Louise Christiansen, Acting alumna



In Berlin

The programme is taught in English, which is one of the reasons students come to Berlin. You study in a working language that travels and in a city with opportunities.

Berlin's theatre runs from the Berliner Ensemble, where Brecht worked, to the Volksbühne and HAU Hebbel am Ufer, which programme some of the most argumentative contemporary performances in Europe. Each February the Berlinale takes over the city with the European Film Market and Berlinale Talents, one of the five most significant film events in the world alongside Cannes, Venice, Toronto and Sundance. Smaller platforms matter as much: the Berlin Music Video Awards, Grrl Haus Cinema, the Quatsch Comedy Club and Comedy Cafe Berlin, and a contemporary dance scene that includes the Berlin State Ballet.

How you'll learn

Our learning method

There are no traditional exams at Catalyst. Every project is assessed through the work itself, which means progress is measured by what you make, how you develop it and how you respond to critique. This rigorous method of iteration allows you to build a serious creative practice grounded in deadlines, self reflection and experiential knowledge.

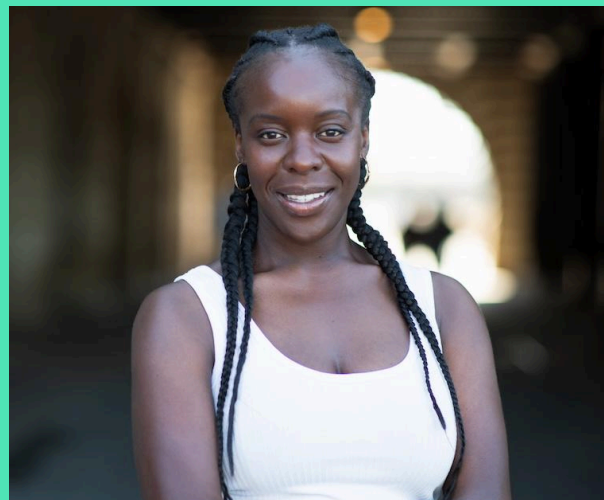
The method is practice-based, and it is built around performing so often you fully embody the work. Year 1 comes at you fast: high-pressure briefs, new teams, new scripts, a different director each cycle. During Year 2, the projects grow in scale – learning all the work that surrounds productions. By Year 3 you are running your own.

What you make is yours. The curriculum sets challenges rather than prescribing outcomes, so your interests, background and the questions you are actually asking determine the work you finish with. That body of work is what opens industry doors.

Your Programme Lead

Rachael Nanyonjo

Rachael is an international stage director and choreographer working across new writing, music theatre, opera and film. As a director and storyteller, physicality is integral to her creative process. Her work on five productions in London's West End has received prizes and critical acclaim.



[\[Click here to see more programme tutors→\]](#)

We've got you every step of the way

Your tutors are practising actors, directors, performers and filmmakers, working in the industry alongside teaching it. They will ask difficult questions about your choices rather than hand you a reading of the part.

Weekly development class is your home room, running through all three years. You meet weekly with your advisor and your class group, review where each project stands and talk about how you are working, not only what you produced.

Our **technical team** is part of your day-to-day experience. They set up lighting and sound for stage work, troubleshoot during rehearsals so the time stays productive, handle equipment rentals and support student-organised productions and events.

Our **wellbeing team** is visible, approachable and part of everyday campus life. They are available for; confidential counselling; coaching for creative blocks, anxiety, conflict and life transitions; help accessing medical resources and referrals; and group workshops covering self-development, collaboration, boundaries, communication, self-awareness and leadership.

Skills that outlast any one job

The acting industry keeps changing shape. So the emphasis throughout, in the critique sessions, the tutorials and the rehearsal room, is on what carries you through that: self-direction, resilience, critical thinking and learning through iteration and reflection.

You will learn to perform for stage, screen and recorded media, to use voice and movement to build character, to work with classical and contemporary texts, to devise original work and to adapt across genres and formats. But the durable part is judgement: knowing what a scene needs, what you need, and how to keep working when nobody is casting.

[[Click here to learn about our student experience →](#)]

A typical week at Catalyst

This example week is taken from February, 2026.

Monday

Showcase (3 hour workshop)

Rehearsal for the end-of-year Showcase, adapting a compilation of scenes from film and television for the stage with your advisor. The scenes are chosen to sit at the edge of what you can currently do.

Acting for camera (3 hour workshop)

Blocking for camera, working your eyeline and playing with shot sizes, with the focus on relating to your scene partner and holding a close-up.

Tuesday

Voice Reel (2 hour workshop)

Build your voice over for advertising, documentary, video games, animation and audiobooks

Physical Theatre (2 hour workshop)

Learn about your body, the space around it and how movement carries meaning when there is no text to lean on.

Wednesday

Free creative time

Your own time to research, write, scout locations, shoot, cut, review lesson notes or crew on somebody else's film.

Thursday

Acting Technique (2 hour workshop)

Study and practice the methods of the most influential figures in twentieth-century technique.

Showcase (3 hour workshop)

This week's second rehearsal block.

Profile, Industry, Casting (2 hour workshop)

Your showreel, headshots and how to present a portfolio, plus casting workshops on approaching an audition and preparing a self-tape.

Friday

KiloFilm Production (7 hour shoot)

Collaboration with Film Production students on-set for their assignments.

Saturday

Free creative time

Our campus is open on Saturday during the semester if you need to pick-up some equipment or make use of an editing suite.

Please note: programme timetables and content are subject to change.



What you'll learn

Course structure & learning outcomes

The complete Acting programme unfolds over three years:

Year 1 challenges you with high-pressure briefs to perform on stage or screen. You'll rotate new teams, scripts and directors and take part in several public performances.

Year 2 expands your practice with more ambitious projects. You'll form an acting company, perform original work and reimagine classic pieces for new audiences.

Year 3 puts you on the runway to your career, refining your skills while giving you practical industry experience. You'll complete a Graduation Show and a solo performance ready for presentation on stages around the world.

You can study this programme either as a full three-year BA degree or the first year only as a one-year HE Certificate. Please note that the following curriculum is non-binding and subject to change.

Semester One	Semester Two
SYNC1: Create (20 CATS) SYNC2: Craft (20 CATS) SYNC3: Explore (20 CATS)	SYNC4: Form (20 CATS) SYNC5: Shape (20 CATS) SYNC6: Locate (20 CATS)
Development & Theatre History	
Voice I	Voice Reel
Movement	Physical Theatre
Acting for Camera	Acting Technique
Scriptwriting & Production	Industry
	Showcase
	Critical Thinking & Academic Writing

Year 1 – HE Certificate

Throughout the year, you'll gain a professional and creative toolkit enabling you to:

- Practise and develop foundational skills in the craft of acting.
- Practise your skills in front of the camera.
- Develop your critiquing skills.
- Practise foundational principles in training your vocal skills.
- Learn about potential routes in the industry and what you need to do to begin.
- Develop your own style and build a profile.
- Perform in a showcase in front of a live audience.

Year 1 Workshops

Development

The heart (and head) of the acting programme in which you build a strong foundation for your practice both academically and as a class group through feedback and weekly check-ins. Projects for each module will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the craft of acting and advisors will guide you through the specifics of each project, helping you shape your ideas into impactful pieces of work. In these sessions, you'll learn about acting, but also about yourself as an artist.

Theatre History

Explore the traditions that have shaped performance for millennia. You'll dig into the history, conventions and techniques of a theatrical era, style or movement from before 2000. What made those performers tick, and what can you borrow for your own practice? You'll present your findings in a 15-minute session, with a short performance.

Voice I & Voice Reel

In the first semester, voice class is all about learning to use the instrument of your voice through exercises and warm-up routines, learning how to express yourself and care for your voice. One key project casts you in a scenario as a voice coach auditioning for a client. To secure the role, you'll create an instructional video demonstrating a vocal warm-up that addresses real vocal challenges while staying engaging enough to watch daily. While the client is fictional, the vocal techniques, clarity of instruction and on-camera presence are real and directly transferable to professional coaching work. The second semester focuses on marketing your voice, building your skills and using it

to create voice overs for advertising, documentaries, video games, animations and audio books.

Movement I & Physical Theatre

Workshops centred around your body, how it relates to the space you're moving in and how it conveys meaning in performance. Learn the basics of fitness, awareness, choreography and performance presence.

Acting for Camera I

Practice a range of skills and methods for camera performance. Master the techniques of blocking for camera, using your eyeline and playing with different shot sizes. The focus will be on relating to your scene partner and nailing a close-up.

Scriptwriting & Production

"Why would actors learn to write scripts?" you might ask. We believe in graduating actors that are not only employable, but also self-sufficient. You will learn the basics of writing scripts for film and television and create a script for yourself as the lead character.

Acting Technique

A very practical history lesson of the most influential figures in acting technique of the 20th century. You will learn fundamental techniques, schools of thought and practical approaches to the work of being an actor. Enact this new knowledge through exercises and script work, from analysis to performance.

Industry

This workshop is all about you as a professional, developing a sense of how you relate to the industry and the world outside of Catalyst. You will learn to create your own showreel, learn about headshots and how to present your portfolio, and you'll be given a series of casting workshops so you can learn how to approach an audition with confidence.

Showcase

Collectively put on a show for a private invited audience, adapting a compilation of scenes from film and television for the stage with the guidance of your advisor. Work with scenes that push you to the edge of your comfort zone so that you grow as an actor as much as possible.

Critical Thinking & Academic Writing

Learn to formulate clear arguments, structure essays and produce critical theatre reviews that analyse artistic choices, context and audience impact, while recognising the theatrical history that informs the work on stage. You'll engage with scholarly sources, APA referencing and situate your arguments within broader social and ethical frameworks.

Portfolio, Industry & Casting

Develop a sense of yourself as a professional and how you relate to the industry beyond Catalyst. Learn to create your own showreel, master headshots and portfolio presentation, and work through a series of casting workshops so you can walk into any audition with confidence.



Year Two – HE Diploma

The course content in your second year will focus on:

- Adjusting to increased pace and expectations in line with industry standards.
- Finer details of planning in performance.
- Developing critical reflection of both your own practice and various techniques within acting.
- Refining your showreel and profile with higher quality endeavours.
- Exploring the acting from a variety of different angles and roles.
- Taking on a role as a company member in a live production

Semester One	Semester Two
BIND1: Company (40 CATS) BIND2: Define (20 CATS)	BIND3: Solo Initiation (40 CATS) BIND4: Venture (20 CATS)
Development	
Acting for Camera	
Voice & Text	Vocal Professional
Choreography	Physical theatre
Company	Sketch Comedy
	Acting Technique

Year 2 Workshops

Development

This year, Development delves deeper into the specifics of creativity and collaboration. You'll continue with practical projects that require you to think at an advanced level about concepts and techniques which expand your capabilities as an actor, artist and performer. In Semester A you'll conduct an experiment where you use collaborators to test out acting techniques, applying the scientific method to acting work. During Semester B you'll pitch a biopic of a cinema icon, combining traditional and AI-assisted research, and perform a monologue based on your chosen character.

Acting for Camera II

Build upon existing techniques, bringing you closer to authentic acting, while exploring a more diverse range of tools and techniques specific to character building. Through practice, you will develop a personal and creative process for approaching screen acting, gain critical reflection skills of both your own work and that of other actors, and deepen your understanding of the casting process and how to prepare for auditions and self tapes. You'll learn Uta Hagen's Object Exercises, rooting your practice in everyday observations, then put the exercises into practice through scene study.

Live Performance – Company

Work on a play together as a company to bring it to life on the stage. This module is about all of the facets of putting on a show and truly is learning by doing. Everything from costumes, to marketing, to set design and make up will be handled by you collectively. You will, of course, have a tutor as director, but other than that the success of the show is on your shoulders collectively.

Movement II – Choreography

Dive deeper into the art of movement, rhythm and storytelling. In this advanced class, you'll tackle a more complex routine, challenge your creativity and refine your ability to embody character, styles or scenes from the silver screen. Prepare to push boundaries, elevate your performance excellence, and continue to hone your choreography skills.

Voice & Text – The Vocal Professional

Refine your vocal instrument through singing, breath control, enhancing clarity and minimising heavy accents. Craft a voice reel that places significant emphasis on leveraging your native language or other languages you excel in. Deepen your vocal prowess and storytelling abilities to create captivating content for commercials, video games and animations.

Solo Initiation

Conceive, devise, and perform a compelling 12-15 minute solo piece for a panel of tutors, laying the groundwork for your extended 30-minute performance in Year 3. You'll forge a clear artistic vision, map the emotional and narrative beats of your story, then rehearse and refine it into a dynamic performance that shows off your range, control and ability to hold an audience alone on stage. Explore diverse performance modes, embrace creative risk and discover the performer you're becoming.

Year Three – Bachelors Degree

- Developing, promoting and performing a 30-minute solo performance.
- Working alongside your cohort in a graduate show.
- Overseeing a portfolio of multiple projects of your own making.
- Investigating a niche audience for your work.
- Looking outward and forging a specialised path into industry for yourself.
- Exploring and refining both individual and group work at greater depth.

Semester One	Semester Two
PUSH1: Frame (20 CATS) Research and Development	PUSH3: Launch (20 CATS) Project Launch
PUSH2: Invent (40 CATS)	
Option I - PUSH4: Process (40 CATS)	
Option II - PUSH5: Dissertation (40 CATS)	

PUSH1: Proposal

Learn to effectively articulate your creative work in diverse and compelling ways. Throughout this module, you will explore the art of discussing your projects from multiple angles. This journey encompasses three distinct approaches: formally presenting your work in a written proposal, verbally pitching ideas, and visual presentation for a group project. As you navigate three concurrent projects, you'll gain the expertise to articulate and promote each of them in three unique, formal manners.

PUSH2: Portfolio Projects A, B & C

This module develops the practical execution of your creative ideas. For Portfolio Project A, you'll participate in ideation sessions, nurturing your capacity for innovative thinking. Portfolio Project B will see you deep in rehearsals, refining your performance skills. Portfolio Project C will demand both your talent and consistent contribution collaborating as a group. This phase will test your organisational skills and time management abilities.

PUSH3: Portfolio, Third Year Screening & Graduation Show

This phase is about bringing your projects to their final, polished state. You'll organise a screening event to showcase your collective work, managing the post-production necessary to compile your projects into a cohesive, professional portfolio. You'll also take part in staging a collaborative graduation play, a project developed with your classmates with one of your tutors directing, culminating in a public performance that marks the transition from training to professional practice.

PUSH4: Theatrical Solo (Option I)

An intensive, year-long project investigating the art of theatrical solo performance. This is your opportunity to shine as a solo artist and craft a compelling, provocative piece of live theatre, exploring the nuances of storytelling, modes of performance, character development and stage presence. You'll experiment with various performance styles, engage in critical self-reflection and receive detailed feedback from peers and supervisors. By the end of PUSH4, you'll have a 30-minute solo performance in your repertoire, ready to leave a lasting impact on stages in Berlin, Europe and beyond.

PUSH5: Dissertation (Option II)

A large-scale research and investigation project culminating in a 10,000-word (+/-10%) written thesis. Define a topic or area that you're passionate about and explore it with as much depth as possible, demonstrating an ability to understand the ideas of others, form your own ideas and opinions and present them coherently in a long-form essay.

Additional workshops

Leading Actors & Non-Actors

An intensive semester-long course on becoming a confident creative leader. Through practical training in facilitation, directing and collaborative performance-making, you'll develop the skills to lead ensembles, devise original work, design engaging workshops and guide creative processes with both actors & non-actors – making you employable across performance, directing, teaching, community arts and independent practice.

Camera, Casting and Industry

As you approach the end of your training, this semester prepares you for the years ahead. While you'll still spend considerable time in front of the camera, the focus now shifts to presenting yourself to directors, casting directors, industry professionals and potential collaborators. This is the ultimate step in refining your public-facing portfolio, showcasing your hard work and growth during your three years at Catalyst.



How to apply

Get to know us better:

Virtual Open Days → Get a virtual overview of what we're all about, held over Zoom.

In-Person Open Day → Get a first-hand feel of our school and community.

Campus Tours → Come see our facilities weekly at one of our weekly tours.

Virtual Taster Workshops → Join a programme-specific info event or masterclass

Admissions Open Hours → Book your one-to-one application support on-demand.

Admissions Guide:

1. Course fees & payment plans
2. Early enrolment bonus
3. Funding opportunities
4. Application deadlines
5. Visa requirements
6. How to apply

1. Course fees & payment plans

We believe creative education should be accessible, transparent and free from hidden costs. Our tuition plans are flexible – you decide to pay monthly, per semester, annually or in full with discounts. Extended payment options let you spread costs beyond your programme.

2027-28 / Plan type	Standard fee	Early Enrolment Bonus €1,000/Year	Duration	Notes
By semester	€6,000	€5,500	3 years / 6 sem.	Annual enrolment fee €895
Annually	€11,640	€10,640	3 years	3% discount by paying each year upfront. Annual enrolment fee €895
Total tuition upfront	€33,120	€30,120	One-time	8% discount by paying total tuition upfront. Annual enrolment fee €895
12 instalments per year	€1,083	€1,000	3 years	Annual enrolment fee €895
Extended yearly	€9,540	€8,790	4 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee for the fourth year.
Extended instalments	€855	€793	4 years	Payments continue 1 year after graduation. No enrolment fee for the fourth year.

Enrolment fee

This non-refundable fee of €895 per study year is due before the start of each academic year and secures your place. No enrolment fee is charged in the post-graduation year if you choose an Extended Payment Plan.

Extended payment plans

In addition to single or installment payment options, we offer Extended Payment Plans. This spreads tuition payments over an additional year, resulting in smaller monthly payments that continue for one year after graduation.

Enrolment confirmation & billing

- Enrolment fee: due within 14 days of receiving your offer.
- Billing cycle: tuition installments begin 1 July 2027 and are billed on the first of each month until your chosen plan ends.

2. Early enrolment bonus

Apply by our **early enrolment deadline** to secure your place, save €3,000 off your total BA tuition (€1,000 per study year).

- **Visa-required applicants:** apply by 26 February 2027
- **EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants:** apply by 31 March 2027

Please note that to be eligible for the **early enrolment bonus**, you must pay the enrolment fee within the two week deadline as presented in your offer letter.

♥ Apply before the new year for an extra goodie!

Whatever your applicant category, apply by 31 December 2026 to secure a guaranteed spot and a free hoodie when classes start, on top of your early enrolment bonus above.

3. Funding opportunities

As an accredited higher education provider, our students are eligible for a variety of national and international financial aid schemes. This includes the German state funding stream BAföG, which is open to citizens of Germany, EU countries and some non-EU citizens too. Depending on which country you are a citizen of, this may also open up funding from other programmes supporting further-education. **Read more about the various funding opportunities on our website.**

4. Application deadlines

Visa-required applicants

- Priority: 26 February 2027 (includes early enrolment bonus)
- General: 30 April 2027 (subject to processing time and availability)

EU/visa-exempt or post-arrival applicants

- Priority: 31 March 2027 (includes bonus & guaranteed spot on preferred course)
- General: 4 June 2027 (granted on a rolling basis)
- Late: until 31 August 2027 (subject to availability)

5. Visa requirements

- **Visa-required:** If you require a visa before entering Germany (e.g. citizens of India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, China, Turkey), you must apply at a German embassy before arrival. After enrolment, we send you a guide which helps you through the visa application process. Visa processing can take 3–6 months, so early application is essential.
- **Post-arrival visa:** If you're from a country that allows visa-free entry (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea), you can enter Germany without a visa and apply for your student residence permit after arrival. After enrolment, we send you a guide to help you secure an appointment.
- **Visa-exempt (EU/EEA/Switzerland):** If you're a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland, you don't need a visa or residence permit to study in Germany.

6. How to apply

Our application process is straightforward – just follow these seven steps:

1. **Check deadlines** – especially if you need a visa to enter Germany or financial support.
2. **Check entry requirements** – including age, English language level and educational qualifications. You can [find these on the Admissions FAQ page](#) on our website.
3. **Prepare your work sample(s)** – When you're ready to apply, you'll need to upload your work to an online platform (such as Vimeo, Youtube, Tumblr, Soundcloud) so that we can review it online. We do not accept file download links. For each work, you'll also need to add a short description in the application form (telling us the inspiration behind it and how you made it).

For Acting we ask you to:

We want to see you performing on screen. Pick one monologue from our 2026 audition selection*.

Rehearse it and when you're ready, record it. We're interested in your potential as an actor, which means we're not focusing on the production values. In other words, don't worry too much about the background or camera quality.

We review every tape submitted to us and after we have reviewed yours, we will contact you by email about the second round of the audition process. If you make it to this round, you will be asked to submit another audition tape (and sometimes a third) in response to feedback from our Acting department.

Include a Written Statement of motivation telling us why you'd like to join our community at Catalyst (450-500 word PDF), including:

- Why did you choose this course and what do you hope to achieve during your studies?
- What are your ambitions for your creative career?
- What has influenced your creative path so far?
- What obstacles have you faced on this journey and how can we help you face any challenges in school?

*monologue scripts are available directly on the application form or can be **downloaded as a PDF here**.

4. **Submit your application** at catalyst-berlin.com/apply, including personal and educational details, a motivation statement, your work sample(s) and supporting documents such as transcripts or proof of language ability.
5. **Wait for our response** – we'll be in touch within around two weeks. Sometimes we'll ask for follow-up information or invite you for an interview. Keep an eye on your inbox.
6. **Confirm your place** – once you receive an offer letter, secure it by paying the enrolment fee within 14 days.
7. **Get ready for Berlin** – once your enrolment fee is paid, you're officially enrolled. Next you'll set up your payment plan, receive your welcome pack and access preparation materials for your studies. We recommend finding accommodation as soon as you're sure that you're studying with us, and arriving one month before your classes begin. The welcome pack has lots of information to help you find accommodation and get settled in Berlin.

Get in touch. We're here to help.

Reach out to our Admissions team by email at admissions@catalyst-berlin.com or book a call [here](#).

