Bachelor of Arts in Digital Filmmaking
Portfolio Guidelines

The Digital Filmmaking programme has limited places each year and selection is very competitive.

Only applicants who are successful in the portfolio review, interview and entry test will be offered a place in the programme.

Applicants are required to submit a a showreel or portfolio that demonstrate their creativity, visual storytelling ability, and cinematic thinking. As a guideline, the portfolio should focus on one main showreel or a small collection of related scenes or sequences. The work may include narrative scenes, motion visual pieces, experimental videos, or storyboard based sequences. The portfolio may also include supporting visual material such as photographic sequences or storyboards that show visual awareness, composition, lighting, and storytelling.

Upon review of the portfolios, the successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview.

Submission Checklist

- A 300 word **WRITTEN STATEMENT** that explains why you want to study Digital Filmmaking, the types of stories or themes that interest you, your creative influences, and your future goals in film or media.

- **ONE** application exercise chosen from the options provided in the following pages.

- A **SHOWREEL** or **PORTFOLIO** that demonstrates your creative skills and interest in Digital Filmmaking. This may include narrative scenes, motion visual pieces, experimental videos, or storyboard based sequences from professional work or personal passion projects.

- Portfolio and showreel work **MUST BE YOUR OWN** and not copied.

Presentation of Portfolio

- All written and visual materials must be presented in one PDF, with a maximum file size of 20MB. **The PDF must include a link to your showreel or video portfolio**.

- The file must include your name and CPR.

- Each project, sequence, or video must include a title, the year it was created, and a detailed description explaining the concept and creative process behind it. Even if the project's language is Arabic, the description must be written in English.

- Include your most recent work and focus mainly on completed pieces.

- If you include storyboards, shot lists, or visual plans, they should be clearly labelled and well presented.

- All work must be presented neatly and professionally. Do not include incomplete, damaged, or poorly presented material.

Application Exercises

As part of your showreel or portfolio submission, you are required to complete **ONE** of the application exercises provided in the following pages. These exercises are designed to assess your visual storytelling ability, creative thinking, and cinematic awareness.

You may choose any of the three exercises. The selected exercise should be submitted together with your written statement and your showreel or portfolio.

Exercise 01

Visual Narrative

Create a narrative sequence of exactly 10 still images using original photographs, stock images, or a combination of both. The sequence must tell a clear emotional story without the use of dialogue, captions, or text. The images should feel visually cohesive, and there should be a noticeable shift or surprise in the middle that changes how the story is understood.

This exercise will be used to assess your ability to construct a visual story, create meaning through image sequencing, and control mood and pacing without relying on words.

Exercise 02

Visual Commercial Concept Proposal

Choose a local Bahraini product, brand, or service and develop a visual concept for a commercial. The concept may be presented as either one still image advertisement or a 30 second video advertisement.

Submit a written proposal of approximately 250 words explaining the idea, message, and target audience, and how the concept would be communicated visually. If you propose a video, briefly outline the beginning, middle, and end. If you propose a still image, explain why the chosen moment communicates the message effectively.

This exercise will be used to assess your ability to develop a visual concept, think about audience and messaging, and communicate ideas clearly through imagery and storytelling.

Exercise 03

Moment of Change

Create a short video between 30 seconds and 1 minute that shows a character before and after a small but clear change. There should be no spoken dialogue or on screen text.

The change should be communicated through the character's actions, framing, and pacing.

This exercise will be used to assess your ability to tell a simple story visually, show cause and effect, and communicate emotion through performance, camera work, and editing.

Application Process

- You will submit your showreel or portfolio, written statement, and completed application exercise as instructed by registration. The registration team will communicate the submission deadline and method.

- The Digital Filmmaking team will review all submissions. Applicants whose submissions meet the required standard will be invited to attend an interview.

- An offer of place will depend on successful completion of the submission review, interview, and Bahrain Polytechnic entry requirements

Useful Hints

- Make sure your submission is well organized and clearly presented. The way your work is structured reflects how you think as a filmmaker.

- Focus on showing your strongest visual storytelling rather than trying to include many different types of work. A small number of strong scenes, sequences, or concepts is more effective than a large collection of weak or unfinished material.

- When submitting a showreel or video portfolio, make sure the work is clearly edited, easy to watch, and visually intentional. Camera work, lighting, sound, and pacing should support the story or idea.

- Submit work that reflects your own creative voice and interest in filmmaking rather than copying existing styles or trends.