

Course outline: Assistant Camera (Focus Pulling and Loading)

The Assistant Camera (Focusing Pulling and Loading) Diploma is a unique course within our industry. The course is divided into three modules (listed below). In order to graduate with your industry recognised diploma you need to complete all three modules, however you can do this over a two-year period and pay per module – allowing you the flexibility to learn at your own pace and to build your educational experience around outside work.

Module One – Working with Alexa Mini and Wireless Follow Focuses (Jan-Mar)

This module provides a complete “back to basics” approach to digital equipment. You’ll be using the Alexa Mini and Alexa Classic and build your knowledge on how the equipment works as well as how to handle the equipment, assemble it, store it and work with outside companies such as Panavision and Arri to ensure you have the equipment ready for the DP and the shoot.

The three-week teaching section (prior to the shoots) allows an opportunity to learn both at the NFTS and at outside companies like Arri, Panavision and Take Two Films. You’ll get the opportunity to work with professional loaders, operators and DoPs and understand how a professional film set works and the various roles in the camera team. There will be practical exercises involving the equipment and you’ll get to work with actors to hone your skills.

At the end of the three-week teaching block you’ll get the opportunity for further on set experience as you work on the Digital Film Projects being made by the NFTS. Each short film is 15mins in length and we produce 8 allowing each of you to get experience working as a team and as 3rd and 2nd ACs – we will also be looking throughout the course for people ready to step up to 1st AC and focus pull on the films.

Module Two - Loading and working with 35mm and Alexa XT and Mini (May-Aug)

This module again provides a complete “back to basics” approach but in this case on 35mm. You’ll get to work with both the Panflex and Arri LT and Studio cameras and understand the inner-workings of the cameras and how to load 35mm. These skills are highly valued in our industry and understanding the labelling, loading, camera report sheets and how to communicate with the Lab is invaluable. You’ll also get the opportunity to do short exercises on 35mm and learn the craft of focus-pulling by eye.

At the end of the three-week teaching block you'll get the opportunity for further on set experience as you work on the Summer Fiction Projects being made by the NFTS. Each short film is 20-25mins in length and we produce 8 allowing each of you to get experience working as a team and as 3rd and 2nd ACs – we will also be looking throughout the course for people ready to step up to 1st AC and focus pull on the films. These films will have a good budget and have in the past meant shooting abroad and with high-level gear.

Module Three - Loading and working with 16mm (Sept-Oct)

This module focuses on 16mm and you'll learn the craft of working on the Arri SR3 and 416 Cameras as well as the Aaton camera. 16mm is a craft which has seen a large resurgence in our industry with many high profile music videos and promos being shot on the medium as well as Oscar-winning films such as '*The Hurt Locker*'.

At the end of the three-week teaching block you'll get the opportunity for further on set experience as you work on the First Year Films being made by the NFTS. Each short film is 20-25mins in length and we produce 8 allowing each of you to get experience working as a team and as 3rd and 2nd ACs – we will also be looking throughout the course for people ready to step up to 1st AC and focus pull on the films.