



Certificate in **Documentary Film**

Duration: 6 Months
Part Time program

Starts: November 2026

Location: Airavat Picture House, Kathmandu with Practical sessions in Dhulikhel

The Part-time, **Certificate in Documentary Film** is a flexible education program exploring the vivid world of reality storytelling in cinema. It encourages participants to look beyond the obvious, as they interrogate personal reasoning to observe the world beyond the binary.

As one of the fastest growing sectors, Documentary is a vibrant medium presenting new opportunities in visual media. The increase in online demand for Documentary makes it amongst the fastest growing contents including in Nepal. Its scope for cinema enthusiasts looking for a career in film is positioned to be rewarding.

Documentary filmmakers are makers of stories much more than random collage of moving images. Documentary stories are pieces of personal creative choices made by the maker to express their observation of the world around. This aspect of close connection with people and identities makes documentary cinema unique and a very personal medium. The Certificate in Documentary Film is the only program of its kind available on documentary cinema in Nepal.

The course provides development of personal practice and foundation skill exposure to work professionally in groups and as a solo creator.

Who is it for?

The Certificate in Documentary Film is aimed at young students, aspiring young filmmakers and creative practitioners who may not meet conventional educational frameworks.

Minimum qualification for the Certificate course is SEE. Participants are however encouraged to complete at least 12 years of high school education prior to applying. Applicants under 19 years do not qualify for the program.

Graduates should expect to start career as assistant creative positions with media studios or work independently. These could include positions of assistant editor, assistant to cinematographer, assistant director among others. They may also start a solo career making short documentaries.

The certificate will open way for successful entry and success in further visual media education. The certificate does not provide academic credits.

Certificate Modules

This Certificate in Documentary Film is a foundation level program. It introduces learners to key aspects of photography and film principles and their practical application. Learners will spend time working on individual and group projects, with frequent group presentations. It has been designed for people with limited experience in film/ photography.

Core topics of the certificate program include:

- Foundation of Photography
- Storytelling in still images

- Cinema Foundation with film history
- Documentary film foundation
- Cinematography, Editing and Scripting for Documentary
- Filming with people
- Documentary Production skill
- Group Film project

- Film Festival Organisation
- Basics of Film programming and Curating
- Community Site Production * (optional)

Participants of the certificate partake in the organisation of a film festival at Airavat Picture House. This includes a major part of the learning exposure to audience engagement, festival film programming, filmmaker communications among other held through the festival.

The certificate includes an optional one month field site practice held in Udayapur where participants can work closely on number of community stories and document people's lives.

Schedule

The Certificate in Documentary Film is held thrice a week, it includes a weekend day. Held entirely from the Airavat Picture House in Kathmandu, the venue gives participants access to large number of film collections and books on cinema to explore. Certain practical workshops on photography, landscape documentation, environment filmmaking will be held at Docskool Dhulikhel.

Technical Skills

Learners gain several technical skills on documentary and filmmaking in general. Softwares skills provided include

- DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere (video editing)
- Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Audition (Sound production)
- Canva and Wordpress
- Camera Operation
- General Grip Handling and Operation of lights for Documentary

Continued Learning Opportunity

Participants of the certificate program can continue this program to complete a 12 month Diploma in Documentary Film and Community Media.

The specialised Diploma will include Individual project production, advanced skill trainings on Colour grading, Sound design, Radio Production and Thematic workshops on several social topics with Advanced Documentary workshops.

Trainers

The Documentary Certificate is led by Docskool's in-house faculty alongside visiting filmmakers and technical experts.

Lead Advisor

Kshitiz Adhiraj is a documentary filmmaker, photographer working since 2003. He mostly works on project development for new documentary and fiction projects through script consultation and production support to South Asian filmmakers. He has hosted documentary workshops in Nepal, Sri Lanka, North East India and Uganda. Kshitiz studied film at the Lasalle College of Arts, Singapore

and was a MA Research fellow with the Netherlands Film Academy. He studied photography with Falmouth University - Institute of Photography and with the Dhaka based Drik Picture Library. Kshitiz works with different film festivals as an advisor for film workshops and as South Asia focal person. He leads the Queer Film Festival Kathmandu (2023) and Something Like a Film Festival (2011). His latest documentary, 'Comrade Sharma and Me' is slated for release in 2026.

Co-facilitator

Sashul Shrestha graduated from the Docskool – KU Training on Cinema in 2011. He is a film editor and post production consultant specialising in CGI and Animation. Sashul graduated in Fine Arts from Lalit Kala College, Kathmandu and had experience with several animation studios prior to his journey with Docskool. Since 2013 he has focussed on training young filmmakers. He is an alumni of the Cinema Restoration Training by Federation of International Film Archives and Cinema Beyond Borders program, Netherlands.

Tuition Fee

The Certificate in Documentary Film is a paid course offered by Docskool. Course fees are highly subsidised. Most participants will receive between 25 – 50% scholarships. The average tuition fee paid is 75,000 Rs.

Standard tuition fee for the Certificate in Documentary Film is 150,000 Rs. Tuition fees for the one year Diploma in Documentary Film and Community Media is 220,000 Rs.

Tuition fee does not include a fully refundable security deposit of NRs. 25,000. Logistic costs for one month community site work is optional and is not mandatory.

Equipments, Facilities

The program will provide equipments for group documentary projects. Cameras are available for in-house workshops. The facility provides access to two Editing Suites with Mac and Windows settings. Additional editing equipments are available depending on the student flow.

Airavat Picture house is a 30 seater alternative cinema used as the classroom for this course. The location provides learning opportunity within the cinema setting with access to wide number of films. Viewing rooms for group and individual film research is available on campus. Over 100 books on cinema and cultural studies are available for learners. The campus also has a Black and White photography dark room used by the program.

Participants for the Certificate are expected to have a personal laptop able to edit general HD video's. It is advisable that participants have a DSLR camera with standard lens capable of shooting video along with a sturdy tripod (contact for model suggestions).

A cafeteria is available in the premises that serves lunch and tea.

Examination, Certification

Requirements for the Certificate is met through completion of all photo and film work and mandatory participation at fortnightly appraisal sessions. Learners submit short written or presentation work as documentary review and research on selected films. There will be no written examination for this course. Graduates receive a Certificate in Documentary Film provided by Docskool.

To Apply

Submit the following documents to dandabari.school@gmail.com

- 10 Recently taken photographs
- 2 video samples of 3 minute each
- Personal CV with video Presentation introducing oneself and interest to apply

Submission Deadline: 30 August, 2026

Only 15 Seats available

About Docskool

Docskool is a collective of filmmakers setup as a film screening room in 2008. Docskool provides visual media fellowships, hosts film festivals and conducts art residencies for filmmakers and visual media artists. Docskool's work supports young and mid career filmmakers.

Docskool is a non profit NGO. All benefits from this course support similar trainings and maintenance of Docskool's cinema resource facilities in Kathmandu and Dhulikhel.

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