Camera Department

POSITIONS IN THE CAMERA DEPARTMENT
Check out this chart for all of the positions under the camera department, as well as others.

WHO DO YOU KNOW?
The film industry relies heavily on a who knows who basis. Be sure to keep track of any contacts you have made along the way and reach out to them for any opportunities. Also always keep in mind that your reputation will travel quickly in this business, so always approach each opportunity with a high level of professionalism. More often than not, if you perform well on a job, you will not have difficulty finding work.

MAKE A SHOWREEL
For a cinematographer, and other positions requiring operating the camera, your show or demo reel will be one of the most important factors in your resume and a way to showcase your previous work.

TIPS
How to Make a Filmmaker’s Showreel
3 Tips for a Cinematography Reel

EXAMPLES
Cinematography Showreel Examples

INTERNSHIPS
Brooklyn College Film Department posts internships on the Infohub that are more curated than what you will find online, however don’t rule out your own sources. Note that most internships are offered in return for school credit, which must be registered and paid for as a course, so check with the department.

Internships are a great way to progress into paid work. More often than not an intern who performs well will make contacts for another job. Show up early and actively listen to instruction. Stay off your phone and be prepared for any task.

Always maintain a level of professionalism during an internship or working opportunity. Familiarize yourself with on set protocols and etiquette. Guide to Film Set

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS
Brooklyn College as well as many outside agencies host many workshops related to the film industry. Generally there are people who are currently working in the business or will be able to answer questions you have and give you a better idea of the options out there.

The BC Infohub has page for workshops, but they are many more out there if you look for them.
CONSIDER A GRADUATE PROGRAM

Film school is a great place to collaborate with your peers and create new projects as well as expand your film knowledge with introductions to new methods and ideas.

What’s the cost per year?
› Can you get loans?
› A Scholarship?
› Grants?

How many years?
› 4? 2?
› In which year will you be able to take film focused courses?

Do you have a lot of general education courses?
› Do you need to take the GRE/SATs?
› What else does the application involve?

Are the professors accomplished?
› What are their credits?

Do they keep office hours?
› Do they have Hollywood connections?

Are their alumni flourishing?
› Are they working inside the

What’s the class size?
› Do you have one-on-one time with the professors?
› What courses are offered?
› Directing?
› Shorts?
› Features?
› Specific Genres?
› Writing?
› Features?
› Shorts?
› TV?
› Editing?
› Avid / Final Cut?
› Path to professional certification?
› Animation?
› Production?
› What do you make and when?
› What kind of equipment is available to students?
› Do they continue to update their filmmaking equipment?

What are their plans for the years you attend?
› Do they have an internship program?
› Are they in Los Angeles or New York? Or an International equivalent where production happens?
› How do they place alumni in jobs?
› Do you make a Graduate Film / Senior film?
› What’s the average budget?
› Do they give grants?
› Do you have to raise your own money?
› Will you need a job while you’re a student?
› Do they offer grants for that?
› Teacher Assistant Positions?
› How will this school get you where you want to be?
› Will this degree get you connections?
› Will you be able to get a job?

SOCIAL MEDIA & JOB POSTINGS

BC Film Department Info Hub
TV & Film Resources
NYC Camera Assistants
Production Junction
NYC Film Crew Calls
Local Zero Heroes New York
NYC Filmmakers Group
NYC TV & Film Production FB Community
EntertainmentCareers.net
IATSE LOCAL 600 INTERNATIONAL
CINEMATOGRAPHERS GUILD

The International Cinematographers Guild represents the most talented camera professionals and publicists in the world. The technicians and artisans in our union are the creators of the visual images on the big screen, the television screen and our computer screen.

DECIDING WHEN TO GO UNION

The right time to join is when you have access to union work and you are a part of a crew network that can help sustain that momentum during the year. The wrong time to join a union is after one or two union gigs that were one-off projects with no potential for future employment in a town where it is rare to see a film or network TV show come by.

BENEFITS

› Unions negotiate higher salaries
› Better working conditions
› Offers health insurance
› Offers retirement saving plans and pension
› Union negotiate contract terms on behalf of members