

Samaco Academy

FAQ's

Who is the instructor?

Executive Producer, Franco Sama, is a veteran independent film producer who has successfully executive-produced over 35 films. He is the CEO of the Los Angeles-based production company, Samaco Films, LLC, and is also a co-founding partner and Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) of Greenlight Entertainment Group, based in Sydney, Australia.

What is covered in the curriculum?

This program is specifically designed to “de-mystify” the art of securing funding for feature films with budgets of \$1M-\$20M. Residency Filmmakers will learn how to understand the film business from the “investor’s perspective, masterfully implement sound, sustainable funding strategies, navigate complex investor objections, overcome systematic funding deficits, access capital gains tax reduction opportunities for investors, the benefits of utilizing convertible notes, contingency financing, gap and mezzanine financing, tax credit financing, and debt vs. equity financing. Additional topics include “Biggest Mistake(s)” made by first and second-time filmmakers, managing casting proposal expectations,

Who is eligible to apply for the Samaco Films Film Financing Academy Virtual Residency?

The Residency is open to anyone who demonstrates a strong desire to be educated in the exciting, yet sometimes daunting, arena of independent feature film financing. This includes writers, producers, directors, executives, actors, and hyphenates.

Do I need to have a completed screenplay and be actively seeking funding to be eligible for the program?

Although most candidates have completed screenplays do, in fact, have one or more screenplays that they hope to develop into fundable films, this is not a requirement. An interesting and viable story idea, synopsis, or treatment is all acceptable; however, the core requirement is a sincere interest in understanding proven funding strategies.

Do I need to live in the United States to be eligible for the program?

Absolutely not. Because this is a Virtual Online Residency, anyone from anywhere in the world can apply.

What Time-Zone are the sessions held in?

The Residency meets every Wednesday evening between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Each session includes 90 minutes of class time and concludes with an additional 30 minutes reserved for questions and answers, totaling two hours per session.

How do I become “Accepted” to become a Resident?

All potential candidates must complete and submit the Residency Reservation/Application along with a \$99.00 Reservation/Application Fee. The Samaco Films team will evaluate each candidate’s application to determine eligibility. Although we will review all of your past work as part of our assessment, completing a short or feature film is not required.

If I am not accepted, will I receive a refund for my Residency/Application Fee?

Yes. Any applications that are not accepted will receive a 100% refund of their application fee.

Why are there only 15 Residency Positions available?

The primary reasons why we have intentionally limited the Residency to a maximum of 15 Filmmakers per cycle. The first is that we create an intimate learning environment, ensuring that each individual receives the level of attention they deserve.

How and when will I know if I have been accepted into the Residency?

You will be notified via email within 7 business days of receipt of your application.

What payment methods are accepted for tuition, and is a payment plan available?

All major credit cards are accepted for tuition payment. Payment methods include Apple Pay, Venmo, and PayPal (which also offers “Pay Later” and “Monthly Installment” options).

How much is the tuition for the Residency?

The tuition for the Residency is \$1,500.00 [USD]; however, for all accepted applicants, the balance due will be reduced to \$1401.00, as the initial Residency Reservation/Application Fee will be deducted from the actual *tuition as a reimbursement*.

When is my full tuition payment due?

Full tuition payment must be submitted no more than 5 business days from receipt of your “Acceptance Letter”.