

# Big Fish School of Digital Filmmaking

## Language policy

While the *Language Policy for higher Education* recognizes the right to receive education in the official language(s) of the learner's choice, the policy nevertheless stipulates this facility for public educational institutions. Big Fish is a private higher education institution.

Taking into account the ongoing need for development of dictionaries and scientific/technical language development for instruction in most of the African languages, Afrikaans and English are still the dominant languages of instruction, particularly in technical fields, a category into which filmmaking falls.

Big Fish has a policy of instruction in English for the following reasons:

1. Our learners are recruited from all nine provinces, so many disparate home languages are represented, making it unviable to instruct in any language other than English.
2. Similarly, our lecturers are from varied cultural backgrounds.
3. The nature of our subject matter is technical.
4. As English is the global business language, and learners submit their films to international film festivals, we hope that technical instruction in English will afford them a better opportunity to compete at a global level. That said, Big Fish encourages documentary film production in a language of their choice with English subtitles.