

Visual Effects Course Syllabus - IRIS Academy

Module 1: Introduction to VFX & After Effects

Overview of VFX in film, ads, and digital media
Interface, panels, and workspace setup
Composition settings & timeline basics
Importing & organizing assets

Module 2: Core Animation Principles

Keyframes & interpolation (linear, bezier, easing)
Layer properties (transform, opacity, anchor point)
Pre-compositions & nesting
Motion paths & speed graphs

Module 3: Masks & Mattes

Creating & animating masks
Track mattes (alpha & luma)
Rotoscoping basics (Roto Brush, Refine Edge)
Isolating elements for compositing

Module 4: Effects & Presets

Built-in After Effects effects library
Color correction & stylization effects
Blur, distort, generate & noise effects
Using presets for quick workflows

Module 5: Compositing Techniques

Layer blending modes
Green screen removal (keylight & chroma key)
Motion tracking & stabilizing shots
Match moving & integrating elements into live footage

Module 6: Text & Motion Graphics

Text animation basics
Using animators & presets
Lower thirds, title sequences, kinetic typography
Shape layers & vector animation

Module 7: 3D in After Effects

3D layers & cameras
Lights & shadows in 3D space
Parallax & depth in compositions
Intro to Cinema 4D Lite integration

Module 8: Advanced VFX Workflows

Particle systems & simulations
Fire, smoke, rain, and explosion effects
Time remapping (slow motion, speed ramps, freeze frames)
Expressions for automation (wiggle, loop, parenting)

Module 9: Rendering & Output

Adobe Media Encoder integration
Export settings for web, film & broadcast
Alpha channel exports for compositing in other software
Best practices for project archiving

Module 10: Final Project

Creating a short VFX sequence or commercial
Combining motion graphics, compositing & effects
Peer critique & improvements
Showreel preparation for portfolio