

The Scottish are coming!

Could you take on Forest Whitaker as Next King of Scotland? Or do you fancy yourself as Helen Mirren's lady in waiting?

Well, in the words of that other famous Oscar nominee, Cinderella: "A dream is a wish your heart makes"

There are hundreds of Scottish courses available and the range is as diverse as careers in the film industry.

Aspiring actors can find out more about full-time courses available at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) in Glasgow and Edinburgh's Queen Margaret's University College. Past graduates include Robert Carlyle, Billy Boyd and Ashley Jenson. Others, like Kelly MacDonald, learned the trade through amateur drama classes. And there are also part-time evening courses in acting, vocal skills workshops and even semi-professional actors casting masterclasses.

Then again, acting is only part of the film-making process.

The Last King of Scotland not only starred one Scot, James McAvoy, but was directed by another, Kevin MacDonal. MacDonal was also responsible for 2003's climbing docudrama, *Touching the Void*. And budding soundtrack composers have two Scottish role models - Patrick Doyle's score for *Sense and Sensibility* won an Oscar in 1996, while the music for 2004's *Ray* was written by RSAMD graduate Craig Armstrong.

However, these successes pale in comparison to those of Iain Neill. A graduate of Strathclyde University, Neill is now executive vice-president of the film camera-making company Panavision and has won an incredible 11 Academy Awards for scientific innovation since 1990 - the world record for individual Oscars.

There are loads of Scottish courses in vocational arts such as writing for film, video skills, composing, digital editing, make-up artistry, and animation. And when the credits roll at the end of a film, there's an unsung cast of thousands, from electricians and caterers, to carpenters and costume designers.

Many of these courses may be eligible for up to £200 funding from ILA Scotland so those of you who want to be the next Ewan MacGregor, or his personal hairstylist go to the [Course Search](#) page or call our helpline free on **0808 100 1090**.

The next step, though, is up to you. As Ewan's *Star Wars* co-star, Yoda, might say, "Do or do not. There is no try."