



Project Lab FAQ

What is Project Lab?

Project Lab is a new series of short, project-based, online courses offered by CalArts Extended Studies. These courses are designed specifically for people who want personalized guidance from working professionals on a career-relevant, portfolio-ready project. Participants earn a certificate demonstrating their accomplishment.

Tell me more!

We received a lot of feedback from learners who have taken courses with us on [Coursera](#) and [Kadenze](#). Specifically, people told us they appreciated the short, flexible, and low-cost learning options available to them on our partner platforms but they were ready for something more challenging. Also, plenty of students wanted something we couldn't offer in our online offerings until now: *personalized feedback from an instructor*.

Project Lab courses are designed specifically to fill those needs. These courses are offered on CalArts' own online platform, class sizes are capped at 20 students, *and* an instructor will give you feedback on your work every week. Project Lab courses are partly self-directed, which helps us keep the overall cost low.

What courses are offered at this time?

We're offering courses in the field of graphic design, specifically publication design, type design and typography in context. In future we hope to expand Project Lab offerings to include a wide variety of subjects, depending on demand.

Can anyone participate?

Absolutely! We designed these courses specifically for people who are balancing busy work schedules and want expert feedback on a short, focused project. You need to be at least 18 years of age to participate. These are intermediate-level courses so having a bit of experience in the subject matter will help you succeed.

What is the time commitment? Do I need to attend any live sessions?

Each course is about 6 weeks long but the course content is largely self-directed. Plan on spending 3-6 hours per week completing coursework or project milestones. There are no live sessions, but there are set deadlines for submitting assignments for feedback. You'll need to stick to these to successfully complete the course.

What do I need to take a Project Lab course?

You'll need access to a desktop computer or laptop (smart phones are not enough to complete assignments) and an internet connection. Some courses have specific software or material needs as well as recommended prerequisites. Please read the course description carefully before you enroll to make sure you're prepared to take it.

How can I earn a certificate?

You are eligible to earn a shareable, digital certificate from CalArts Extended Studies upon successful completion of the course and project. The type of certificate awarded depends on the level of proficiency or mastery you've demonstrated in your project, as follows:

Type of certificate	Level of achievement
Certificate of Achievement with Distinction	Project <i>exceeds</i> instructor's standards
Certificate of Achievement	Project <i>meets</i> instructor's standards
Certificate of Completion	Project <i>does not meet</i> instructor's standards

You will receive your certificate by email upon successfully completing the project and course. Certificates will be withheld if a student has not completed the course and/or their performance is unsatisfactory.

Are these courses for credit?

Project Lab courses offer CEU credits, which are useful if you're an educator looking for professional development credits or want to show your employer. Project Lab courses do not earn academic or transfer credit.

When does the course start? How much do they cost? Where can I find more information?

[Navigate to our page on the Extended Studies website to read more.](#)