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FTII direction course pass-outs can make movies for Films Division

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IN a first of its kind initiative, the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) has tied up with the Films Division in Mumbai to help 2006 batch of students in direction get a foothold in the industry. The FTII and Films Division have reached upon an agreement wherein the students, if they wish, can produce a documentary with the assistance of the Films Division.

The session of the 2006 direction batch, that will pass out in 2012, has been delayed owing to various issues. FTII director DJ Narain said, "The option to make the documentary film for the students is not mandatory. It is optional and they can make the film after completing their final project at the FTII. Though students of the direction batch struggle to get their first movie after passing out, students of other departments usually find work while studying at the institute. Through this move, we will be able to give them a starting point in Mumbai."

Narain said the needs of the Films Division and the FTII are similar. "They have to make documentaries films and are constantly in need of talented film-

makers. After a discussion with the Director-General of the Films Division Bankim Kaadia, we reached upon the joint agreement," he said.

Now, any direction course pass-out from the 2006 batch can approach the Films Division with a script that he or she has chosen to make a documentary on and the Films Division will let the director make the film for them for which he will get a fee of Rs 15,000. The Films Division will provide the technical assistance and the equipment needed for making the film.

FTII Registrar PraKash Magdums said, "Though it is the first of a kind venture and as of now will be available only for the 2006 direction students batch, we will make it a permanent feature from next year." Narain said while the thought is very primary they do plan to approach production houses from Bollywood to conduct campus interviews so that they can pick up directors or students from other departments for their movies. In addition, we also will have plans to tie up with the National Films Development Corporation (NFDC) and other government agencies so that our students can produce films for them."

While as of now there is no proposal for any of the students prior to the 2006 batch to come and avail this benefit, Narain said the possibility is not shut out completely. "We will hold talks with ex-student body GRAFTII to scout possibilities in this direction," he said.