

JOB PROFILE DIGITAL IMAGING TECHNICIAN (DIT)

DIT is an independent, specialized technician and consultant to the film crew for digital production processes. They support the camera team both in preparation and during filming and act as a link between post-production and the filming location.

Tasks

Together with the Director of Photography (DoP) and the post-production team, they are responsible for creating and monitoring suitable workflows. They may perform a preliminary technical quality check of the footage on location, securing and reviewing the original camera data. While they do not replace the final technical inspection of the footage in post-production, they contribute significantly to production reliability. The goal is to ensure the best possible technical quality in digital filming.

Requirements

A Digital Imaging Technician possesses comprehensive knowledge of industry-standard electronic cameras, storage media, and their specific capabilities and limitations, as well as practical measurement techniques and camera-specific tools for quality control.

They establish the infrastructure for data backup on various storage media during image recording and create the foundation for post-processing workflows and technical possibilities in post-production, such as sample creation and color matching for the desired output format, e.g., HDTV, film, or digital cinema print.

DIT - AREA OF ACTIVITY:

Divided into the production phases of pre-production, filming and post-production, the scope of work of the Digital Imaging Technician includes:

Pre-Production:

- Consulting, planning, testing the (meta)data and look workflow in collaboration with post-production company and with all involved departments (editing, VFX, camera, sound, script supervisor, etc.)
- Testing of camera systems to be used
- Setting up / checking / calibrating the necessary equipment (camera settings, storage media, IR filters, monitors, DIT equipment, etc.)
- Pre-creating looks / color management, and if necessary, conducting look, lighting, costume, and makeup tests in collaboration with the DoP

Filming:

- Verified data backup & creation of detailed data reports / optional LTO backup
- Cross-checking with the script supervisors report to ensure completeness of recorded data
- Technical consulting on set (exposure, focus, camera settings)
- Advising on critical lighting situations (low light, greenscreen, etc.)
- Quality control (visual inspection) of the recorded material (random checks)
- Providing timely feedback of the recorded material
- Colour processing on set: pre-grading or live grading of the footage
- Transcoding footage for the editing suite (proxy files)
- Creating and uploading online dailies
- Ongoing communication with post-production, VFX, and the editing department
- Troubleshooting camera system issues
- see also: https://www.kinematografie.org/berufsverband/bb_dit.php

Post-Production:

- If applicable, dailies colour grading (e.g., live grading CDL) and handover to final colour grading
- If necessary, preparing review copies or creating working copies as requested by post-production company
- Handling footage, including delivering footage to post-production company, delivering footage to data backup, and transfers
- If necessary, returning equipment in collaboration with the camera assistants and/or Data Wrangler (DAT).

Epilogue

There is currently no established job description for this profession. Therefore, in cooperation with the Austrian Association of Cinematographers, aac, this job description was formulated based on current production processes, see <https://www.aacamera.org/berufsbild-dit/> and Austrian Union <https://www.younionfilm.at/filmschaffende/berufsbilder/#Dit>.