



FAQ

SOA ACADEMY ONLINE

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Get your answers

UNREAL ENGINE COURSE

Welcome to SOA Academy!

In this document you can find useful information that may answer to all your questions and doubts about SOA Academy's online courses. Please, read this pdf carefully and if you still need info, contact us! We'll be glad to solve all your remaining doubts.



FAQ

SOA ONLINE COURSES: UNREAL ENGINE



Software requirements

Software used during the lessons:

Windows 10 64-bit

3ds Max 2021.3

Unreal Engine 4.26.0

Quixel Mixer 2020

Microsoft Visual Studio 2019 (project packaging)

Minimum Software requirements

Windows 10 64-bit RS5 (Build 1809) or later

3ds Max 2018+ or similar DCC

Unreal Engine 4.22

Quixel Mixer 2020

Quixel Bridge 2020

Recommended Software

Windows 10 64-bit RS5 (Build 1809) or later

3ds Max 2021.3 or similar DCC

Unreal Engine 4.26.0

Microsoft Visual Studio 2019 (only for packaging the project)

Quixel Mixer 2020

Quixel Bridge 2020

Hardware requirements

Minimum hardware requirements:

16GB RAM

Quad-core processor 2,5GHz or faster

256GB SSD

Dedicated graphics card, GTX series or similar AMD card

3 button mouse

Recommended hardware requirements:

32GB RAM

Quad-core processor 2,5GHz or faster

512GB SSD

Dedicated Graphics Card, RTX series or similar AMD card

3 button mouse

VR headset (to test the VR build) if available

An ideal PC for Unreal Engine 4 is a Gaming Desktop PC or a Gaming Laptop.

Although we don't recommend it, if you are using a non-gaming Laptop make sure to have a dedicated graphics card with at least 4GB of VRAM and 16GB of RAM.

Can I use MacOS or Linux to follow the course?

Yes, but keep in mind that 3ds Max is only available for Windows platforms, so you need a different DCC for the modeling and unwrap sections, Blender/Maya or Houdini are a possible choice. Unreal Engine has support for MacOS and Linux but we won't be able to help you with OS-specific problems or questions. Also the Real-Time Ray-Tracing is only available on Windows machines, for now, because it uses a dedicated API.



Course structure: details on videos & live webinars

How is the course structured? Is it live or recorded?

Our online courses are made up of two parts: some recorded videos which become instantly available upon purchase of the course and some live webinars which are scheduled on specific dates. Every course is associated with a specific date for the live webinar. When you purchase the course, you get access to that specific session.

What's the difference between a webinar and an on-demand course?

On-demand courses are pre-recorded and available at any time. Webinars are online live lessons with our teachers. Webinars are always sold together with pre-recorded (on-demand) videos.

How long can I access the pre-recorded videos I've purchased?

Pre-recorded videos are available forever from the date of your purchase.

Will I have to be online to follow the live webinar?

Since the webinars are live lessons, you'll have to be online to attend them (otherwise you can see the recordings later).

When are the live classes? Which dates?

Live classes are in the afternoon (Italian timezone) to give the chance to all people in different timezones to watch them live. The dates varies according to each batch. Please check them in the course schedule on our website.

I couldn't attend the live session of the webinar. Can I get the recordings? How long will such recordings be available?

All live webinars will be recorded and shared with the participants of the batch. You can download the registration and watch it later. Please note that the recordings will be available only for a limited time during which you'll have to download them. After that time, they'll be cancelled and no longer accessible on our servers.

I missed one of the live webinar, can I attend it on another date?

No, if you missed the live session, you can watch the recordings but won't be able to access another live (for that topic) at a later date.

What platform are you using for the live sessions?

All webinars are streamed via our Zoom platform. You'll receive credentials before the live starts.

How long do the lessons last? How many hours/days should I work on them?

The length of lessons varies as some may last only a few minutes and others may be longer.

Are the live classes lasting a full day?

No, live webinars are lasting only 2/3 hours each and are scheduled one per day. In general in the afternoon (Italian timezone).

I've chosen the best course for me, what do I have to do now? How can I apply?

Make sure the dates of the webinars are good for your schedule and add the course to your cart. Pay for the course and you'll receive all information to access the platform and take the course in the booked time.

What platform are you using for the live sessions?

All webinars are streamed via our Zoom platform. You'll receive credentials before the live starts.

Unreal Engine course

I'm interested in Blueprints. Will they be taught in the Unreal online course?

Blueprints are part of the topics in the online courses but they'll not be covered in depth. If you're interested in Blueprints you may consider the inclass course, which looks at them with more accuracy. To master blueprints, a good previous knowledge on the software is highly recommended.

Is the Unreal course on 4.25 or 4.26?

The course is on the version 4.26. You can still use the 4.25 version, but you won't be able to follow some of the lessons that are focused on the new features in 4.26.

What's the difference between an in-class and an online Unreal Engine course?

In the online course some topics aren't taught in depth. In particular, the modules on Substance Designer (custom smart materials), Gaea (landscape creation), in-deep Technical (optimization and rendering) and in-deep Blueprints aren't covered in details. If you're interested in these topics, please refer to our in-class Unreal Engine's course.

Will I get 3 full projects in the Unreal course?

Yes, with the Unreal course, you'll get 3 full projects to download and practice.



In the Unreal course, is there a module on Revit?

No, the main software used is 3ds Max. Revit may be added in the future.

What modeling software is used in the Unreal course? Is it compatible with software other than 3dsMax?

The software used for modeling during the course is 3ds Max. You can use any other DCC of your choice (Blender, Maya, Houdini, Modo, Rhino, SketchUp).

Are there any 3d models, textures, assets required for the course? If yes, will they be provided with the recorded videos or during the live sessions?

All assets, models and materials needed for the course will be provided with the recorded videos

Schedule

How long are the live webinars?

Live webinars on Unreal last about 3 hours each.

How many live webinars are there in the Unreal Engine course?

The Unreal course includes 5 live webinars:

- 1 for modeling & unwrap;
- 1 for lighting;
- 1 for materials;
- 1 for blueprints;
- 1 for project reviews).

Where do the courses take place?

All online courses take place on our Zoom platform. You'll receive the credentials to access after making the payment.

What time are the webinars scheduled?

The live webinars are usually scheduled in the afternoon (Italian timezone). You'll receive a notification with the exact timeframe.

Are the live classes lasting a full day?

No, live webinars are lasting only 2/3 hours each and are scheduled one per day. In general in the afternoon (Italian timezone).



Discounts & cancellations

Are there any discounts available?

No, there aren't any discounts available unless stated differently.

Are there discounts if I purchase more than one course?

No, there aren't any discounts available unless stated differently.

Are there discounts for former students of SOA Academy?

No, there aren't any discounts available unless stated differently.

Can I cancel my purchase and get a refund?

No, purchases can't be cancelled and no refunds are available. We assume that if you purchase the course, you've read and accepted our Terms & Conditions. This implies that since with the purchase you get instant access to the contents, no refund can be provided.

Payments

Can I pay via PayPal?

No, we only accept payments via credit/debit card.

Can I pay via bank transfer?

Please, contact us.

Is VAT applied if I buy the course as a company in the European Union?

VAT isn't applied to companies in the EU. To have it removed from the cart, please put your VAT ID in the correct field.

I put my VAT ID but I still have to pay VAT. Why?

Only companies who are registered in the vies don't pay VAT. All other companies have to pay for it. If you are registered and still get an error, please contact us and we'll help you solve it.

Can I split the payment in two installments? Since the payment is made via credit card on the website, it can't be split in different parts. You'll have to make one unique payment to purchase it.



I can't complete the payment. I got an error. What shall I do?

Please make sure you have enough money in your card to make the purchase. Don't make multiple attempts at the same time or you may be charged multiple times. Contact us if you have any problems with payments.

If I book, when I need to pay?

To book the course you have to pay for it. The payment is automatic and via credit card. If you don't complete the purchase, you won't get the access to the course contents. Only 20 seats are available per batch.

Other

Is the ArchViz Masterclass also offered online?

No, it isn't.

Why isn't the ArchViz Masterclass offered online?

The Academy team likes being in contact with the students to instantly solve any kind of problem that might arise. We also think that a face-to-face course is the best way to establish a good relationship with the guys who, in the end, become part of the Academy family. This is the reason why we decided to keep the Masterclass an in-class personal experience.

What is the language of the courses? Online courses are all available in English unless specified differently.

How many seats are there in each batch?

In every online course, we can have 20 persons. Once we reach the maximum number, bookings will be closed and a new live session on different dates will become available.





SOA Academy

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