Supinfocom École d'Animation
Valenciennes and Arles, France

Contact: supinfocom@supinfocom.fr
Website: supinfocom.fr

Key courses:
- Foundation Animation (3 years)
- Advanced Animation (3 years)

The Supinfocom school of animation is widely regarded as one of the best in the world. The school has a reputation in the 3D animation sphere that’s unmatched by just about any other institution. Established more than 20 years ago, Supinfocom prides itself in instilling a passion for beautiful images and a taste for narration. With two campuses in France, the school has also recently expanded with a new media building in India. All locations offer a three-year foundation course in animation, which can be extended by a further two years with the advanced programme. The faculty consists of working professionals, who teach in world-class facilities featuring the latest technology. Supinfocom also has a new Digital (Greenhouse) building planned (to be completed by September 2013), which among other things will feature a 450-seat amphitheatre with 3D projection.

CalArts California Institute of the Arts
California, USA

Contact: admissions@calarts.edu
Phone: 626-395-4300
Website: calarts.edu

Key courses (undergraduate):
- BFA Experimental Animation (4 years)
- BFA Character Animation (4 years)

Key course (postgraduate):
- MA Experimental Animation (2 years)

Established in 1961 by Walt and Roy Disney, CalArts has a long-standing international reputation for excellence in animation production. CalArts educates the next generation of professional artists in a learning environment founded on excellence, experimentation, critical reflection and independent inquiry. Programmes in experimental and character animation are offered, both of which include training in 2D as well as other areas, such as 3D techniques and animation history. With first-class facilities, the latest technology and strong ties to companies such as Pixar and Disney, students are exposed to comprehensive curricula using the most up-to-date tools and techniques of the industry. Both programmes welcome regular guest speakers, some of whom are the school’s alumni, including Tim Burton. The school also runs annual portfolio days, which are attended by representatives from the major animation studios.

University of Hertfordshire
Hertfordshire, UK

Contact: +44 1707 284555
Website: herts.ac.uk

Key course (undergraduate):
- BA (Hons) 3D Digital Animation (3 years)

The University of Hertfordshire is becoming more and more recognised for its excellence in animation training. The undergraduate animation degree offered at the university is a specialist three-year course that focuses on the technical and creative skills needed to become a professional 3D artist. Situated in North London, the school has excellent training facilities featuring the latest software and up-to-date hardware, making it one of the UK’s major media villages.

The school has a long history of work placements in industry, supplementing the taught university curriculum with real-life-on-the-job experiences. This is actively encouraged throughout the student’s degree period. The teaching approach focuses mainly on project work and learning the software with on-the-job workshops and lectures. Students can also expect to carry out regular assessed presentations throughout their studies.

Gnomon School of Visual Effects
California, USA

Contact: infognomon.com
Phone: 310-656-0060
Website: gnomon.com

Key courses (postgraduate):
- Animation and Visual Effects (10 weeks)
- Character Animation (10 weeks)
- Creature Animation (10 weeks)

Gnomon School of Visual Effects offers classroom-based ten-week-long courses, which range from beginner level to expert, and are taught by instructors with extensive production experience. The entire curriculum has been developed by some of the most recognized CG professionals working in industry, including members from DreamWorks, EA and Sony Pictures Imageworks.

The intensive training courses mimic the daily workings of a production studio pipeline to immerse students in an environment similar to the one they hope to work in. The school is a highly respected and well-equipped institution, with students learning the latest industry-relevant software and techniques, leading to a recognised qualification from an industry-approved and accredited certificate programme.