

BAFTA NEW RULES FOR THE 2025 FILM AWARDS

A summary of new rules can be found below, please see <http://awards.bafta.org/entry> for full rules & eligibility requirements and campaign regulations.

Eligibility

The Awards year, during which films must be released theatrically in UK, runs from 1 January 2024 to 14 February 2025 for all films, except for those eligible for Documentary and Film Not in the English Language (FNIEL), which can be released up to and including 21 March 2025.

There is a new higher release requirement (Best Film threshold) for films qualifying for Best Film. Films must be theatrically exhibited publicly for the first time to a paying audience on at least 50 commercial screens in the UK for at least seven days e.g. 50 sites WPOR (widest point of release) or the equivalent of at least 350 screenings. This is for films qualifying for Best Film only. All films qualifying with this release will be automatically included in competition for Best Film.

Voting

Director - the Director longlist intervention of the women/men director balance is being retained but both the longlist jury and the nominating jury is now removed. The longlist will be to a maximum of 11, in line with other categories (reduced from 16), with nominations remaining at six.

In Round One - Longlisting: the Directing chapter will vote for up to their top 10 ranked, of which the top women and men directors, directors who identify as non-binary and mixed-gender directing teams (within the voting results range of the top 10 women and men directors) will be longlisted to a maximum of 11, with gender parity upheld between women and men directors.

In Round Two – Nominations: the Directing chapter will vote for up to their top six ranked. There is no change to Round Three voting (the winner will be selected by all voters).

Performance

The longlists across the four acting categories will be selected by the acting chapter with the final places selected by the longlisting jury, and voting for the nominations will be by the acting chapter.

In Round One – Longlisting: the Acting chapter vote will vote for up to their top ten ranked, of which the first seven in the longlists for Leading Actor, Leading Actress, Supporting Actor and Supporting Actress will be automatically longlisted. The final three places in the Longlist in each category will be determined by the longlisting jury (a subgroup of the Film Committee), selected from those ranked 8-13 in the chapter vote (*this previously was those placed 8-15*).

In Round Two – Nominations: the Acting chapter will vote for up to their top six ranked. There is no change in Round Three voting – the winner will be selected by all voters.

Outstanding British Film

A new points system, with a minimum number of points for candidates for nomination, HODs, cast, and production, etc, so the eligibility process removes any ambiguity and is more transparent.

Qualifying films must meet BFI's Diversity Standards. While this continues to be a transition phase, allowances will be made where films do not meet the newer mandatory elements. A presentation explaining the new mandatory elements is available [HERE](#). There is a minimum accepted response requiring entrants to fill at least fill in a response for mandatory elements within each Standard they wish to meet. This includes Standard E - Accessibility, where all entrants should articulate relevant policies and processes as well as any general accessibility interventions. The

aim is for Standard E and the other new mandatory elements to become a requirement for the 2026 Awards.

Entries should be submitted separately to the BFI for assessment against the Standards ideally by 1 October 2024. Note that a film which previously met the Standards by successfully applying to a relevant funding body (BFI, BBC Film, Film4, Doc Society) does not need to be assessed again. Please note that if a film was assessed when it received BFI development funding, entrants will need to ensure that the film is submitted again, as these are not full production stage assessments. In addition, if a film was assessed for awards season last year or assessed for any other reason, entrants should also enter the film's DS reference number. Entrants can request the DS reference number from the BFI Diversity Standards team. For more information about the BFI Diversity Standards, or to submit a film for consideration go to <http://www.bfi.org.uk/diversitystandards>.

It is anticipated for all films qualifying for the IFTC (Independent Film Tax Credit) will automatically qualify for Outstanding British Film.

In Round One, the opt-in chapter will be dissolved, and all voting members will be encouraged to vote in Round One, watching eligible British films on theatrical release, at festivals, FYC screenings, and on View.

Outstanding Debut

The following points have been removed from the Outstanding Debut section of the rulebook as they are no longer required:

- At the discretion of the Film Committee, previously ineligible debut films in the last three years (due to no distribution) which would now qualify with the new festival clause may qualify
- At the discretion of the Film Committee, filmmakers who have had their previous film in festivals only (and therefore did not qualify previously) may qualify with their second film if it is released theatrically within the eligibility period

Opt-in Categories

The opt-in chapters will be dissolved in Outstanding British Film, Animated Film, Documentary, and Film Not in the English language; and members will be invited to opt-in afresh for Animated Film, Documentary, Film Not in the English Language and Shorts.

These newly formed opt-in chapters will vote for the longlists and nominations in the Animated Film and Film Not in the English Language categories, and the longlist for Documentary (the Documentary jury intervention in Round Two will continue).

In the final round of voting, the full voting membership will select the winner in these previously opt-in categories (previously it was only the members each opt-in chapter which voted for the overall winner in each category).

Children's & Family Film

Previously presented at the BAFTA Children's Awards, the category is for *"Films of any genre with a specific inter-generational appeal to children, young people and adults. Theatrically released live action, animated or documentary films may fall into multiple genres including (but not limited to) action, adventure, comedy, drama, and fantasy. Films with a certificate of U, PG or 12A may be considered"*

This will be a jury only category through the three voting rounds. Similar to the Animated Film category, the number of films longlisted will be between five and eight, and nominations will be between three and five at the discretion of the Film Committee and dependent on the number of entries.

Documentary

The definition has been refined for this category; *an eligible feature Documentary can be defined as a predominantly non-fiction film intended for theatrical release. Documentary footage is classed as photographed in actual occurrence, but may also include animation, archive footage, stills, stock footage, stop-motion, re-enactment and/or other techniques. It should deal creatively with artistic, cultural, economic, historical, political, social, scientific and/or other themes. Dramatised factual subjects will not qualify.*

The Documentary opt-in chapter profile in Round One is being redesigned to allow for specialist voting, and to optimise the Documentary voting process, ensuring that both the chapter and category best reflect the work of documentary filmmakers and sector in the coming years. The documentary jury will remain in place in Round Two, selecting the final three nominations to add to the two selected by the opt-in chapter in Round One, and the full voting membership will select the overall winner.

Original Score

A new Original Score Music Breakdown form must be completed and uploaded, along with the Cue Sheet and Music Tracker before the Stage One deadline. Films which contain more than 20% of pre-existing themes from previous scores in a franchise/sequel/ prequel are not eligible.

Screenplay

The candidates for nomination is now extended to include those writers with 'story by' credits.

British Short Animation & British Short Film

A new Qualifying Festivals List has been introduced for this category. Campaigning is not permitted for either of these categories, and new regulations have been introduced around campaigning infringements.

Jury

Further information about the role of the jury and jury chairs has been added to the Rulebook.

BAFTA View

BAFTA View is now open for entries, and will open for members late August. The following schedule outlines the requirements for when films should be made available on BAFTA View for the coming awards season. All films are made available as soon as possible, ideally within 60 days of UK release, specifically:

- Films released in the UK between 1 January and 30 June should be uploaded asap to BAFTA View between 23 August and 15 September 2024.
- Films releasing between 1 July and 30 November 2024 should be uploaded to BAFTA View as soon as possible, ideally within 60 days of release in the first instance, and by the date round one voting opens (6 December 2024)
- Films releasing 1 December onwards must be uploaded to BAFTA View by 20 December 2024.

BAFTA offers 5.1 audio and 4K resolution on BAFTA View, and has a preference that films are made available with these specifications if possible. BAFTA also provides a minimum expected file specification for all films. Both of these technical specifications are available at awards.bafta.org/entry

Descriptive Subtitles

All films must be made available with descriptive subtitles within ten days of the regular film being available on View, without exception. Films which are not available with descriptive subtitles must be appealed to be approved as eligible.

EERSA

A new separate entry form for submissions for consideration for the EE Rising Star Award will go live early August. Entrants, publicists and representatives can submit directly to BAFTA, within specific parameters and guidelines of eligible candidates.

Campaigning

FYC emails for virtual screenings only will no longer be permitted once the film is available on View. Instead, FYC emails to virtual Q&As will be permitted in Round One and Round Two (replicating the Round Three rule).

The rule of one mail, per title, per list, per week will continue, and entrants are permitted to issue a mail to confirm that their film is available on View, and on general release.

Access to the mailing lists will be limited to approved organisations and mailing houses only. Contact BAFTA via the new campaigning@bafta.org email on all queries regarding FYC, mails, regulations, etc.

Entrants are permitted to prioritise documentary voters in their RSVPs to screenings of documentaries in Round One. Entrants are also permitted to prioritise the members of all films' respective Viewing Groups in their RSVPs prior to the film being published on BAFTA View.

Voting members will also have the option to provide a separate/different email address to receive FYC invitations.

Separate FAQs and Templates documents are also available, separate to the main Campaign Regulations.

Masks

BAFTA masks may now be purchased by the relevant studio/distributor for display purposes only, for – Best Film, Outstanding British Film, Animated Film, Children's & Family Film, Documentary and Film Not in the English Language.