

British Short Film and British Short Animation

Rules and Guidelines 2020/21

CONTENTS

- A. INTRODUCTION2
- B. TIMETABLE2
- C. ELIGIBILITY3
- D. OTHER BAFTA AWARDS CEREMONIES.....5
- E. RIGHTS CLEARANCE.....5
- F. ENTRY6
- G. SCREENING MATERIALS.....7
- H. VOTING7
- I. LONGLISTS, NOMINATIONS AND WINNERS.....7
- J. CLIP USAGE8
- K. BAFTA LOGOS9
- L. CONTACT9
- M. APPENDIX A - QUALIFYING FESTIVALS LIST 10
- N. APPENDIX B - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION..... 12

A. INTRODUCTION

The British Academy Film Awards are presented annually to recognise, honour and reward individuals for outstanding achievement in film.

These rules and guidelines only apply to the two short film awards, British Short Film and British Short Animation. Rules and guidelines for the feature categories are [available separately](#).

B. TIMETABLE

2020	
Monday 2 November	<p>**UPDATED** British Short Animation & British Short Film – Initial deadline for submission of entry forms and upload of films to BAFTA Entry Site at 17:00</p> <p>British Short Film entrants applying for a festival exemption – deadline for submission of entry forms and upload of films to BAFTA Entry Site at 17:00</p>
Friday 20 November	<p>**UPDATED** British Short Animation & British Short Film – Final deadline for submission of entry forms and upload of films to BAFTA Entry Site at 17:00</p> <p><i>Entries should also have been submitted to the BFI for consideration against their Diversity Standards by this date</i></p>
2021	
Thursday 4 February	Jury Longlist announcement
Tuesday 9 March	Nominations announcement
Thursday 25 March	Opt-in chapter vote for winner in both categories opens
Wednesday 7 April	Opt-in chapter vote for winner in both categories closes
Sunday 11 April	EE British Academy Film Awards

Due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, all rules pertaining to eligibility for the 2021 Film Awards as listed below are for the 2021 Awards only, and are subject to change, based on BAFTA's best practice policies and national guidelines as determined by the UK government.

C. ELIGIBILITY

The short film categories are open to films which have significant creative involvement by individuals who are British (UK passport holders or permanently resident in the UK for at least six years up to and including the eligibility period).

The British shorts awards are to celebrate and safeguard the British film industry, so both candidates residing in the UK for at least six years (without a passport), and UK passport holders living outside of the UK will be asked to demonstrate a commitment to the British film industry. Entrants will be asked to confirm the following details about the candidates for nomination: country of residence, length of residency, details of the projects the candidate has in development (including the producers involved) – and for candidates with UK passports based elsewhere, if the candidate has plans to return and work in the UK.

To be eligible, films must have British individuals credited in the majority of the following areas:

- Director(s)
- Producer(s)
- Writer(s) (if applicable)
- Majority of other Heads of Department/key creative roles
- Majority of key cast (live action fiction films only)

If none of the candidates for nomination (Writer, Director or Producer) are British the film will only be eligible in exceptional circumstances.

Films must have been completed between 1 June 2019 and 20 November 2020. No exceptions will be made.

The maximum running time, including end credits, is 40 minutes.

Films may be fiction or non-fiction.

Films must be able to be viewed theatrically (i.e. we can accept a single take fixed-view version of a VR film).

Films in a language other than English must be submitted with English subtitles. Where possible, a version of English language films should be uploaded with subtitles for voters with hearing impairments.

Entries that are part of a feature film, a music promotional video or an advertisement are not eligible.

Previously entered films are not eligible.

British Short Animation

Any animation meeting the eligibility criteria above may be entered into British Short Animation.

Animations do not need to screen at a qualifying festival.

British Short Film - Qualifying festivals requirement

Films entered into the British Short Film category must qualify via BAFTA's qualifying festivals [see [QUALIFYING FESTIVAL LIST](#)]. The festivals are split into two sections; to qualify, films need to have been accepted into at least one festival from Section A OR at least two festivals from Section B.

Films can enter if they have received confirmation they have been programmed at a qualifying festival, even if the screening has not taken place at the point of the entry deadline.

Films can also enter if the qualifying festival has been postponed, moved online or cancelled due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. Entrants will be asked for proof of acceptance at a qualifying festival; this includes where a qualifying festival has been impacted by COVID-19.

Films should be submitted in the first eligibility period in which they qualify.

If your film has screened or been accepted at a number of festivals not included on the list, it may still be accepted at the discretion of BAFTA's Film Committee. If you wish to apply for a festival exemption, please contact awards@bafta.org before entering, detailing the festivals your film has been accepted at.

Diversity Standards

All shorts entered in the British Short Film and British Short Animation categories must submit a BFI Diversity Standards assessment form to qualify.

To submit your film for consideration, please complete the BFI form, linked on the [BAFTA Entry Information](#) page.

The submission deadline is 20 November.

The BFI Diversity Standards Shorts criteria are [here](#).

Note, there is no entry requirement that the short meet or pass the standards for the Film Awards in 2021, however to qualify, the BFI Diversity Standards assessment form must be completed.

BAFTA and BFI are looking for British shorts to meet the spirit of the Diversity Standards, and to do as much as they can within the cast, crew size and budget they have. With BFI, BAFTA will be tracking how British short-filmmakers are engaging with the Diversity Standards, with the intention to make passing an entry requirement for 2022.

BAFTA's intention is to encourage better representation and increased inclusivity across the British industry, rather than to exclude any films or filmmakers from the awards.

For more information about the BFI Diversity Standards, go to <http://www.bfi.org.uk/about-bfi/policy-strategy/diversity/diversity-standards>. If you have any questions, please contact julia.brown@bfi.org.uk.

Final decisions on eligibility rest with BAFTA's Film Committee or its representatives

D. OTHER BAFTA AWARDS CEREMONIES

BAFTA also presents awards for television (the Virgin Media British Academy Television Awards and the British Academy Television Craft Awards), for games (the British Academy Games Awards) and awards for work made for children (the British Academy Children's Awards).

Television

Dramas, documentaries and animations with running times of between 3 minutes and 20 minutes may be eligible for both the Short film categories of the EE British Academy Film Awards and the Short Form Programme category of the Virgin Media British Academy Television Awards, but cannot be entered for both. In this case, the first exhibition (anywhere in the world) will be used to define which awards the work should be entered into: films that have been first shown at a film festival should be entered into the Film Awards, programmes that were first shown on television or an online broadcast platform should be entered into the Television Awards.

Content which originates from a broadcaster will generally be expected to be entered into the Television Awards regardless of its first exhibition. If this applies to your film please contact awards@bafta.org with details of the commissioning process to determine eligibility.

If your film was programmed to be shown at a film festival which has been impacted by COVID-19, and has subsequently been broadcast on television or an online broadcast platform, please contact awards@bafta.org with details to determine eligibility.

Animated short films first shown on television or an online broadcast platform may be accepted for entry for the Film Awards if they have been screened at either a recognised animation festival or a film institution. If this applies to your film, please contact awards@bafta.org with details of the screening/s to determine eligibility.

Children's

Live action short work that is eligible for the British Academy Children's Awards should be entered for the appropriate category in those awards, rather than the British Short Film category.

Animations that are intended for children can be entered for both the British Short Animation category and any relevant eligible categories for the Children's Awards.

E. RIGHTS CLEARANCE

BAFTA aims to create a packaged programme of the eight nominated short films following the nominations announcement in March 2021; due to the uncertain climate, the form this will take will not be confirmed until nearer the time. Please note, inclusion in the package will not be a requirement for nominated films.

Upon entry, entrants will be asked to confirm that all necessary rights (including but not limited to music (copyright, master and sync), original source material and performance) are cleared for festival or online screenings (or clearable within a two-week period in the event of being longlisted).

Entrants may be asked to confirm that all rights have been cleared/available at longlist stage, and to provide any evidence BAFTA reasonably requires to confirm that such rights are cleared/available. If an entrant foresees a potential issue with this, please contact awards@bafta.org before entering.

F. ENTRY

Films may be entered by companies or individuals with a direct association to the film who can give the necessary permissions ('entrant').

Entry for British Short Film and British Short Animation is via completion of an entry form on the BAFTA Awards Entry Site ([entry.bafta.org](https://www.bafta.org/entry)).

There is no fee to enter for British Short Film and British Short Animation awards.

As part of the entry form, the following information must be provided:

- Film title
- Synopsis
- Logline
- Running time
- Film completion date
- First public exhibition details
- Genre
- Festival screening details
- Writer, director and producer details (including nationality, country of residence and further detail for those without UK passports)
- Key crew and cast details (including nationality and country of residence)
- Production details (production company information and where key elements of the production took place)

In addition, the following materials must be uploaded:

- The film as a video file [see [TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION](#)].
- Where possible, a second video file of the film with subtitles should be uploaded (for English language films), for voters with hearing impairments
- A copy of all credits given on-screen in the film's opening and closing credit rollers and/or cards (in Excel or pdf format)
- A music cue sheet (a template is available at awards.bafta.org/entry)
- Three high resolution production stills for use in the brochure and online if nominated (optional)
- For British Short Film only: proof of acceptance or screening at the requisite number of BAFTA's qualifying festivals [see [QUALIFYING FESTIVALS LIST](#)]
- For British Short Animation entries first shown on television only: proof of acceptance or screening at a recognised animation festival or film institution

Entry forms must be completed in full and received, along with all supporting materials by the final entry deadline: 20 November 2020, 17:00. If the form is not completed in full, BAFTA cannot guarantee the accuracy of credits listed for voting or nomination, or that a film will be accepted as eligible.

Final, exhibited on-screen credits are used to determine the eligibility of candidates for nomination and should be referred to when completing the entry form.

On entering a film, entrants must declare any potential rights problems which (if nominated) might preclude clips from the film being used as part of the Awards broadcast, or from the whole film being screened.

Films withdrawn after the final entry deadline (Friday 20 November) cannot be entered in any subsequent year.

BAFTA accepts no responsibility for entrants missing deadlines or for films being entered into incorrect categories and is not liable for errors in listings that are the result of incorrect information being submitted on the entry form

G. SCREENING MATERIALS

Due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, until further notice BAFTA does not plan to host a theatrical screening of the films for the jury, as it has previously. Filmmakers whose films have got through the preliminary longlisting stage will be notified of any change to this plan, based on BAFTA's best practice policies and national guidelines as determined by the UK government.

Despite this, we ask that entrants ensure they have a QuickTime ProRes version of the film and a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) available from January 2021, if requested.

No festival or award information, e.g. laurels, should be included in either file, and they must be identical in content to the film screened at the qualifying festival (if applicable).

H. VOTING

The preliminary longlist for the British Short Film category is decided by a longlisting group, which any BAFTA film voter can opt in to. The final longlist and nominations for British Short Film are decided by a jury.

The longlist and nominations for the British Short Animation category are decided by a jury.

Winners for both categories are decided by the Shorts chapter; any BAFTA film voter can opt in to the chapter.

The films will be made available on BAFTA's viewing and voting site for BAFTA members and jurors to view (via stream or download). By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that BAFTA has the right to make the film available to BAFTA members and jurors for voting purposes only.

No campaigning of any kind is permitted in either short film category.

I. LONGLISTS, NOMINATIONS AND WINNERS

Ten films will be longlisted for the British Short Film award, and five films will be nominated. Six films will be longlisted for the British Short Animation award and three will be nominated. BAFTA may choose not to present either award or to present fewer nominations or fewer films on the longlists.

A maximum of four individuals may be credited as candidates for nomination (the individual nominees if the film is nominated). Eligibility for candidates for nomination is limited to the director(s), writer(s) and producer(s); if there are more than four people credited in these roles, the individuals with the greatest creative contribution should be listed.

The nominations for each category will always be listed in alphabetical order by film title. The winners' press release and list is the definitive source of award winners' information.

All individually named nominees will receive a certificate of nomination. All individuals named as award winners will receive a BAFTA award and a winner's certificate.

The award may not be reproduced or used in any commercial manner unless prior permission has been obtained from BAFTA. The BAFTA award remains the property of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, to remain in the care of the recipient or his/her descendants. Should the award leave the care of the recipient or his/her descendants, BAFTA reserves the right to purchase the mask back for a fee of £1. The award must not be sold on to any third party.

Award winners unable to collect their BAFTA award(s) on the night of the ceremony must arrange collection from BAFTA within 12 months of the ceremony.

BAFTA does not issue replicas of the award; in light of this fact, production companies of winning films may purchase a duplicate winner certificate so that they can have a record of their involvement in a winning film.

Only films that confirmed and published as being longlisted, films that are nominated or films that win may refer to BAFTA in advertising and publicity materials.

All decisions made by BAFTA and its juries are final and no correspondence will be entered into as to why particular entries were or were not longlisted or nominated

J. CLIP USAGE

Clips from nominated films will be shown at the EE British Academy Film Awards ceremony and these clips may form part of the television and online broadcast of the ceremony in the UK and around the world.

BAFTA commits that it will not select any clip which could be construed as a 'spoiler' for any viewer who has not yet seen the film, but otherwise requires the freedom to select suitable clips to illustrate the craft or the individual nominated and to complement the clips selected for the other nominated films/individuals.

Part of BAFTA's charitable remit is to promote excellence to as large an audience as possible. In order to fulfil this, BAFTA intends to make clips of the nominated films available to the public on BAFTA's websites and social media channels.

BAFTA will send the entrant a clip license to sign to confirm which clips are to be used and where.

By entering a film for consideration, the film's owners are deemed to have conveyed to BAFTA the right to choose excerpts from the film at BAFTA's sole discretion for incorporation into the worldwide television broadcast of the ceremony and on the BAFTA website and associated websites (including, but not limited to, www.bafta.org/awards, www.youtube.com/BAFTAonline, www.guru.bafta.org, [@BAFTA](http://www.facebook.com/BAFTA) and @BAFTAGuru, and other related BAFTA Twitter channels) for non-commercial purposes in the context of the Awards for one year from April 2021.

Upon entering a film via <https://entry.bafta.org/> for EE British Academy Film Awards consideration, the entrant will be asked to confirm the following:

- That he/she has the authority, on behalf of the film and filmmakers, to agree to grant the above licence
- That he/she agrees to grant the above licence

If you foresee any problems with the granting of this license, please contact awards@bafta.org before entering the film.

If a film is nominated, for editorial and timing reasons BAFTA's co-production company, Whizz Kid TV, may contact the entrant directly to ask for HD clips for use in the ceremony. We would be grateful if you could comply with all requests in a timely manner. The technical specification for the HD clips is:

- Frame rate of 25fps, as per UK broadcast requirements.
- For content originally created at 24fps, to convert to 25fps the clips should be subjected to a 4% speed increase and the audio pitch should be shifted to correct the speed up
- If this is not available, entrants should supply the clips at their native frame rate (usually 24fps or 23.976fps) so the production company can do the conversion themselves
- We ask that entrants do not send clips converted from 24 to 25fps by repeating a frame every second, as the change is noticeable on playback and not broadcast quality

K. BAFTA LOGOS

All requests for logos should be made via www.bafta.org/media-centre/logos

Entrants may use the 'EE British Academy Film Awards', 'BAFTA Nominee' or 'BAFTA Winner' logos online, in print and in broadcasts only once a film has been nominated for or won an award. Logos are not available for films that have been longlisted.

Logos are available from BAFTA before the nominations announcement for advance artwork preparation, but may only be used if the film receives a nomination or wins an award.

Cropping or altering the artwork in any way is prohibited.

Each instance of logo use must be approved by BAFTA, with proofs of the logos in situ provided via www.bafta.org/media-centre/logos.

L. CONTACT

<p>Imogen Faris Film Officer Tel: +44 (0)20 7292 5840 / awards@bafta.org</p>	<p>General enquiries, including entry and rules</p>
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M. APPENDIX A - QUALIFYING FESTIVALS LIST

All films submitted into the British Short Film category must have been accepted into:

- At least one festival from Section A or;
- At least two festivals from Section B

If your film has been screened at a number of festivals not included on this list, it may still be accepted at the discretion of BAFTA's Film Committee. If you wish to apply for a festival exemption, please contact awards@bafta.org before entering, detailing the festivals your film has screened at.

We understand a number of the festivals on this list have made significant changes to their plans due to the COVID-19 situation, either moving online, postponing until further notice or cancelling. Short films which have been programmed at BAFTA Qualifying Festivals remain eligible for the British Short Film award, even if the festival has been moved online, has been postponed or cancelled. Entrants will be required to upload proof that the film had been programmed by the festival prior to the impact of COVID-19.

Section A

AFI Docs Film Festival	Jun	www.afi.com/afidocs
American Black Film Festival	Aug	https://www.abff.com/
Angers Premiers Plans	Jan	www.premiersplans.org
BAFTA Cymru – film nominated	Oct	http://bafta.org/wales
BAFTA Scotland – film nominated	Nov	http://bafta.org/scotland
Berlin International Film Festival	Feb	www.berlinale.de
BFI London Film Festival	Oct	www.bfi.org.uk/lff
BlackStar Film Festival	Aug	https://www.blackstarfest.org
British Independent Film Awards – film nominated	Dec	www.bifa.org.uk
Camden International Film Festival	Oct	https://pointsnorthinstitute.org
Cannes Film Festival (excluding Short Film Corner)	May	www.festival-cannes.org
Chicago International Film Festival	Oct	www.chicagofilmfestival.co
Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival	Jan - Feb	www.clermont-filmfest.com
Cork International Film Festival	Nov	www.corkfilmfest.org
CPH: DOX	Mar	https://cphdox.dk/en/
DOK Leipzig (International Leipzig Documentary and Animated Film Festival)	Oct - Nov	https://www.dok-leipzig.de/en/home
Edinburgh International Film Festival	June	www.edfilmfest.org.uk
Foyle Film Festival	Nov	www.foylefilmfestival.org
Frameline Film Festival	Jun	https://www.frameline.org/
Hot Docs Festival (Canadian International Documentary Festival)	Apr - May	www.hotdocs.ca
IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam)	Nov - Dec	www.idfa.nl
IFFR (International Film Festival Rotterdam)	Jan - Feb	https://iffr.com/en
Iris Prize Best British Short Film nominee	Oct	www.irisprize.org
Leeds International Film Festival	Nov	www.leedsfilm.com
Locarno Film Festival	Aug	www.pardo.ch
Melbourne International Film Festival	Aug	http://miff.com.au
Molodist International Film Festival	May - Jun	https://molodist.com/
New York Film Festival	Sep - Oct	https://www.filmlinc.org/abo
Open City Documentary Festival	Sep	https://opencitylondon.com/

Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival	Aug - Sep	https://outfest.org/
ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York	Mar - Apr	https://reelabilities.org/newy
Sheffield Doc/Fest	June	www.sheffdocfest.com
Slamdance	Jan	www.slamdance.com
Sundance Film Festival	Jan - Feb	www.sundance.org/festival
SuperFest Disability Film Festival	Oct	http://www.superfestfilm.co
SXSW Film Festival	Mar	https://www.sxsw.com/festiv
Sydney Film Festival	Jun	http://sff.org.au
Telluride Film Festival	Aug - Sep	www.telluridefilmfestival.org
Toronto International Film Festival	Sep	https://www.tiff.net/tiff/
Tribeca Film Festival	Apr	www.tribecafilm.com/festival
True/False Film Festival	Mar	https://truefalse.org/
Venice Film Festival	Sep - Oct	www.labiennale.org/en/cine
Visions Du Réel	Apr - May	https://www.visionsdureel.ch/

Section B

Aesthetica Short Film Festival	Nov	www.asff.co.uk
Aspen Shortsfest	Mar - Apr	www.aspenfilm.org
Belfast Film Festival	Apr	https://belfastfilmfestival.org/
BFI Flare (London LGBTQ+ Film Festival)	Mar	www.bfi.org.uk/flare
Bilbao International Documentary and Short Film Festival	Nov	www.zinebi.com
Bolton Film Festival	Oct	https://www.boltonfilmfestival.org
Brest European Short Film Festival	Nov	www.filmcourt.fr
Cambridge Film Festival	Oct	www.cambridgefilmfestival.org
Curtacinema - Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival	Oct - Nov	www.curtacinema.com.br
DokuFest (International Documentary and Short Film Festival)	Aug	https://dokufest.com/2019/
Encounters Short Film and Animation Festival	Sep	www.encounters-festival.org.uk
Flatpack Festival	May	https://flatpackfestival.org.uk
Flickerfest International Australian Short Film Festival	Jan	www.flickerfest.com.au
Galway Film Fleadh	Jul	https://www.galwayfilmfleadh.com
Glasgow Short Film Festival	Mar	https://glasgowfilm.org/glasg
Go Short (Netherlands)	Apr	www.goshort.nl
Hamburg International Short Film Festival	Jun	http://festival.shortfilm.com
Hamptons International Film Festival	Oct	http://hamptonsfilmfest.org/
Krakow Short Film Festival	May - Jun	https://www.krakowfilmfestiv
LA Shorts International Short Film Festival	Jul	www.lashortsfest.com
Leuven International Short Film Festival	Nov - Dec	www.kortfilmfestival.be
Loco London Comedy Film Festival	Jul	http://locofilmfestival.com/
London International Documentary Festival	Nov - Jun	www.lidf.co.uk
London Short Film Festival	Jan	http://shortfilms.org.uk
Norwich Film Festival	Nov	https://www.norwichfilmfestiv
Oberhausen International Short Film Festival	May	www.kurzfilmtage.de
Oska Bright Film Festival	Oct	https://oskabright.org/
Palm Springs International ShortFest	Jun	www.psfilmfest.org
PÖFF Shorts (Black Nights Film Festival)	Nov	http://shorts.poff.ee
Raindance Film Festival	Sep	www.raindance.co.uk
Rhode Island International Film Festival	Aug	www.film-festival.org
Scottish Queer International Film Festival	Oct	http://www.sqiff.org/

S.O.U.L. Fest	Aug	https://www.soulfilm.co.uk/
Tampere International Short Film Festival	Mar	www.tamperefilmfestival.fi
TriForce Short Film Festival	Nov	https://tfsff.com/
UK Jewish Film Festival	Nov	http://ukjewishfilm.org/festiva
Underwire Festival (UK)	Sep	www.underwirefestival.com
Uppsala International Short Film Festival	Oct	www.shortfilmfestival.com
Vienna Shorts	May	https://www.viennashorts.co
Winterthur International Short Film Festival	Nov	http://www.kurzfilmtage.ch

The qualifying festivals list is continually updated and may change without notice

N. APPENDIX B - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Entry site (entry.bafta.org) built-in video platform

The BAFTA entry site aims to provide the best possible viewing experience for the entrants' content. In order to achieve this, we request that you provide a high-quality version of your file. Our video specification is below.

	Specification
File format	.mp4 / .mov
Audio codec	Stereo audio (one audio stream with two channels L and R)
Bit rate	15 – 20 mbps (or as high as possible)
Aspect ratio	Must be 16:9 (i.e. Full HD: 1920x1080)
File size	Up to 15GB

Please upload your video(s) as soon as possible so any playback issues can be resolved. After your video has uploaded, please go to the video management page, play the file back, and contact awards@bafta.org if you have any other questions or problems with uploading.

BAFTA accepts no liability for any file created to the wrong specification and is therefore not available to be streamed. It is the entrants' responsibility to make sure the file is created to the correct format, to check the video transcodes and confirm the video is associated with the correct entry.