

EE British Academy Film Awards

Awards Date: Sunday 11 April 2021

Key changes to rules and processes for 2020/21

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.

BAFTA 2020 REVIEW

BAFTA announced wide-ranging changes to its voting, membership and campaigning processes as it published the findings of its in-depth, independently verified seven-month Awards Review. The changes signal the beginning of a significant cultural shift in BAFTA and challenges the industry to address the serious lack of opportunity and equality.

The Report in full along with the list of over 120 key changes being introduced, is available [here](#)

ELIGIBILITY

Until further notice and for the 2021 Film Awards only, films which were intended for theatrical release may qualify for consideration should they release on an approved commercial VOD platform once the film meets all other eligibility requirements as detailed in the Rulebook. These films will be considered by the Film Committee before being approved as eligible.

The Eligibility period for the 2021 Awards is 1 January 2020 – 9 April 2021 (and 30 April 2020 for Documentary and FNIEL. Note that the eligibility period for the 2022 awards will start on 1 January 2021, so there is a significant cross-over period).

THREE ROUNDS

Voting will now take place over three Rounds; Longlisting, Nominations and Winners, along with the introduction of a new Longlisting Jury and Nominations Jury for the Directing and the four Acting categories

	Round One voting: Longlists	Round Two voting: Nominations	Round Three: Winners
Best Film	All voters vote up to 15 ranked Top 15 are longlisted	All voters vote for 5 ranked 5 nominations	All voters
Outstanding British Film	Opt-in British Film chapter votes up to 20 ranked Top 20 are longlisted of which top 5 are nominated	Jury considers films placed 6-20 and votes for 5 nominations 10 nominations	All voters
Outstanding Debut by a Writer, Director or Producer	Jury	Jury Longlist of up to 12 5 nominations	Jury
Leading Actress Leading Actor Supporting Actress Supporting Actor	Acting chapter votes for up to top 15 ranked. Top 12 are longlisted. Longlisting jury selects final 3 based on those placed 13-22 15 are longlisted	Jury for each category considers 15 longlisted, and votes for 6 nominations 6 nominations	All voters

Director	Directing chapter votes for up to top 20 ranked Top 8 female directors and top 8 male directors are longlisted. Longlisting jury selects final 2 female and final 2 male directors based on next placed 10 films by each. 20 (10:10) are longlisted	Jury considers 20 longlisted titles, and votes for 6 nominations 6 nominations	All voters
Original Score Cinematography Production Design Editing Sound Special Visual Effects Costume Design/Make Up & Hair ** Adapted / Original Screenplay	Music chapter Cinematography chapter Production Design chapter Editing chapter Sound chapter Special Visual Effects chapter Costume Design and Make Up & Hair chapters Screenplay chapter Each chapter votes for up to top 15 ranked 15 are longlisted in each of these categories	Music chapter Cinematography chapter Production Design chapter Editing chapter Sound chapter Special Visual Effects chapter Costume Design and Make Up & Hair chapters Screenplay chapter Each chapter votes for top 5 ranked 5 nominations in each of these categories	All voters
Casting	Casting chapter votes for up to top 15 ranked 15 are longlisted	Jury considers longlist and selects 5 nominations 5 nominations	All voters
Animated Film	Opt-in Animation chapter 6 are longlisted	Opt-in Animation chapter 3 nominations	Opt-in chapter
FNIEL Documentary	Opt-in FNIEL chapter Opt-in Documentary chapter Each chapter votes for up to top 15 ranked / Top 15 are longlisted	Opt-in FNIEL chapter Opt-in Documentary chapter Each chapter votes for top 5 ranked / Top 5 are nominated	Opt-in chapter Opt-in chapter

** Members of the Costume Design chapter and Make Up & Hair chapter vote in both categories

OUTSTANDING BRITISH FILM – INCREASE IN NOMINATIONS

The number of nominations in the Outstanding British Film category will increase from six to ten for the 2021 Awards; to promote, celebrate and support British filmmaking.

DIVERSITY STANDARDS

As introduced for the 2019 awards, all films entered in the Outstanding British Film or Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer must have met any two of the four BFI Diversity Standards, **one to be Standard C**.

Entries should be submitted separately to the BFI for consideration against the standards **as early as possible**, but by 10 November 2020 at the latest. BFI funded films which have already been assessed against the Standards do not need to resubmit an application.

BAFTA's intention in introducing this rule is to encourage better representation and increased inclusivity across the British industry, rather than to exclude any films or film-makers from the awards. Films will not be excluded if they can show (through their BFI assessment) that they have made all best efforts to make the project as inclusive and representative as possible.

For more information about the BFI Diversity Standards, or to submit a film for consideration go to <http://www.bfi.org.uk/about-bfi/policy-strategy/diversity/diversity-standards>.

By 2024, BAFTA intends that not just qualifying British films, but all films entered for the 2024 Film Awards will pass the standards. To achieve this, BAFTA is collating basic diversity information about all entered films for the 2021 Awards via the BAFTA View entry process.

BRITISH FILM CATEGORIES – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A film must have significant creative involvement by individuals who are British (UK passport holders or permanently resident in the UK for at least six years (previously ten) up to and including the eligibility period). If the candidate for nomination is a UK passport holder but is not resident in UK, or if the candidate is a resident but not a UK passport holder they will be asked to be asked a series of questions to demonstrate a commitment to the UK film industry. Entrants will be asked to confirm the following details: country of residence, length of residency, details of the projects the candidate has in development, and for candidates with UK passports based elsewhere, if the candidate has plans to return and work in the UK.

ENTRY FEES

There is a fee per film for entering films for the Film Awards in 2021, which will be payable at the end of completing the Stage Two entry process and films have been approved.

No charge	Outstanding Debut, British Short Film, British Short Animation
£250	Outstanding British, Documentary, FNIEL only
£2,500 *	All others

*There is an appeals process if entrants are not in a position to pay this fee. Please contact awards@bafta.org as soon as possible for further details.

BAFTA VIEW

All films being entered for considered must be made available on BAFTA View within 60 days of release. All films should be available on the BAFTA View portal from the date voting opens in Round One and through each subsequent Round if the film is longlisted or nominated.

We do ask that subtitles be included where possible, for voters with hearing impairments on films on BAFTA view, but also on DVDS, distributor screenings, etc.

CAMPAIGNING

Access to mailing lists

As introduced in 2019, due to BAFTA's data policy in light of the General Data Protection Regulation, entrants who wish to have direct access to BAFTA email mailings lists (and mailing fulfilment houses who wish to have access to postal lists for sending DVD screeners on behalf of entrants) will need to complete a detailed application so that we can assess the security, storage and use of any data provided. Once completed, approved entrants will have the same access and use of lists as previously. This application form will be available mid-October.

Entrants who are not approved for direct access to data can send emails to voters via the membership department. Please see the full rules and guidelines for more detail.

Voters will opt-in to receive DVDs, email invitations to screenings (physical and online), and to receive trade journals during awards season – mailing lists will not be available until this opt-in process is complete.

Email rules

Emails to voters are restricted to one per week per title across all Rounds, with a limit of ten max in Round One. Email invitations to screenings must also be consolidated in Round 1 – full details are in the Rules & Guidelines.

Emails are permitted for distributors screenings and Q&As (physical and online) and if a film has a cinema release and available to members to see; emails are not permitted about DVDs being dispatched (these instead will be listed on the 'screenertracker' page on the members' website; nor about scripts or score.

Screener mailing form

Please note, to keep BAFTA and voting members informed about DVDs being sent out to them, entrants now need to complete the following form before a mailing goes out: <http://bit.ly/ScreenerTracking>.

Invitations to events between the voting rounds

The rule still stands that emails should not be sent during Round One voting if they relate to opportunities to view the film after Round One closes, but now exceptions to this will be considered on a case by case basis, particularly for films which open theatrically in February or March 2021.

Supporting D/deaf and disabled talent - Subtitles and Access Information

Distributors are asked to provide DVDs with subtitles for those with hearing impairments.

Distributors should also ensure that subtitles are available on their films on BAFTA View.

Access information to the screening venue to be included in screening invitations (i.e. wheelchair access etc).

At physical screenings (and Q&A), distributors are asked to provide a minimum of one screening with subtitles, and if hosting a Q&A consider providing a BSL or ASL interpreter.

Information about subtitles and availability of other access, such as audio description, should be included in the email invitation.

For screenings and Q&As hosted online, subtitles and closed captioning should be provided as often as possible. Information that these services are available should be included in the email invitations to members.

ENTRY

Performance

Entrants are now required to indicate if they consider a performance as Leading or Supporting on the entry form. BAFTA will largely adhere to the category selected by the entrant but will also monitor entries and reserve the right to change the category where, in the opinion of a small external group, under the auspices of the Film Committee, the performer has been entered into the incorrect category.

A longlist of fifteen candidates will be selected by the Acting chapter and a longlisting jury in each of the performance categories, and the nominating jury in Round Two will select six nominations (an increase from five) in each category.

Headshots of performers are now also required.

Voting in the four performance categories will become a chapter vote in Round One and Round Two, in line with all other craft categories.

Directing

A longlist of ten female and ten male directors will be selected by the Directing chapter and a longlisting jury, and the nominating jury in Round Two will select six nominations (an increase from five).

Casting

Introduced for the 2020 Awards, the casting category will be open to all voters in Round Three (previously a jury vote).

Appeals & Statements

Any appeals and supporting statements should be submitted by the Stage Two entry deadline (14 December 2020).

Please direct any queries with regards to the Rulebook, Entry Form, appeals and statements to awards@bafta.org