

British Short Film and British Short Animation

Rules and Guidelines 2024/25

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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

2024	
Friday 27 September (12:00)	<p>British Short Animation & British Short Film – First deadline for submission of entry forms and upload of films to BAFTA Entry Site for films qualifying between 1 June 2023 and 30 September 2024</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</p>
Friday 18 October (12:00)	<p>British Short Animation & British Short Film – Final deadline for submission of entry forms and upload of films to BAFTA Entry Site for films qualifying between 1 October and 18 October 2024</p> <p><i>Entries should also have been submitted to the BFI for consideration against their Diversity Standards by this date</i></p>
2025	
Friday 3 January	Longlist announcement
Wednesday 15 January	Nominations Press Announcement
Wednesday 22 January	Final voting round opens (10:00)
Tuesday 11 February	Final voting round closes (18:00)
Sunday 16 February	BAFTA Film Awards

All times are BST/GMT unless otherwise stated.

C. ELIGIBILITY

Films must be completed between 1 June 2023 and 18 October 2024. No exceptions will be made.

Films qualifying between 1 June 2023 and 30 September 2024 should submit by the First deadline, and films qualifying between 1–18 October 2024 should submit by the Final deadline (see Timetable). Films should be submitted by the deadline in which they qualify. Shorts not qualifying via any of the Qualifying Festivals must contact BAFTA by the First deadline to apply for festival exemption.

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

Films may be fiction or non-fiction.

These categories are open to short 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).

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

- Director(s)
- Producer(s)
- Writer(s) (excludes documentary)
- Majority of other Heads of Department/key creative roles
- Majority of key cast (excludes documentary)

When assessing eligibility, a points system is applied to determine if the short qualifies as British. Points are applied for the candidates for nomination (Director, Writer (if applicable) and Producers), HODs, key cast, etc. The expectation is that the majority of candidates for nomination (Writer, Director or Producer) will be British, and will reach more than 50% of the available points for Candidates. If none of the candidates for nomination (Writer, Director or Producer) are British, the film will be deemed not eligible. Appeals may be considered.

Of the overall points for the production, any short which has 50% of the available points is considered to be borderline and will be reviewed internally by the awards team and an appeal or further information may be required. Any shorts which have less than 50% of the overall points available points are considered to be ineligible.

The British shorts awards are to celebrate and safeguard the British film industry, so both candidates for nomination 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. For candidates who have not lived in the UK for six years or more, Government permits, global talent visas and residency status may be used to appeal, should the film be borderline with regards to British involvement.

Entrants will be asked to confirm and prove 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. If a film's eligibility is based solely on creative involvement from a British filmmaker living outside of the UK for more than six years, it is not automatically eligible. The filmmaker will need to demonstrate a commitment to the UK film industry; in addition, the film must have been produced or majority co-produced by a British production company/companies or is in receipt of at least 51% of its production budget from British sources,

Entrants are asked for details of the production company's policy on bullying and harassment, and on sustainability. Having these policies is not a requirement of entry.

Entrants will also be asked for details on the gender identity of the candidates for nomination, as well as key cast and crew.

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, we strongly encourage a version be uploaded with descriptive subtitles.

Entries that are part of a feature film, a music promotional video, an advertisement, or an unsold TV pilot are not eligible. If the film is part of a campaign (for a not for profit or otherwise), please contact awards@bafta.org with details of the creative process to confirm eligibility before entering.

Previously entered films are not eligible.

Please note that shorts can only be submitted into either British Short Film OR British Short Animation.

British Short Animation – Qualifying Festivals requirement The British Short Animation Qualifying Festival List has been introduced this year. Films entered into this category should qualify via a minimum of one BAFTA Qualifying Festival [see [British Short Animation Qualifying Festivals List](#)]. Whilst this is not mandatory for this year, entrants are asked to provide full information regarding at which festivals their film have been programmed. Note that qualifying via a BAFTA Qualifying Festival will be a mandatory requirement for future awards.

British Short Film - Qualifying festivals requirement

Films entered into the British Short Film category must qualify via a minimum of two BAFTA qualifying festivals [see [British Short Film Qualifying Festivals List](#)].

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.

If the 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.

Note however, that filmmakers are only eligible to apply for a festival exemption if they have had an opportunity to qualify via festivals. If an entrant applies for a festival exemption and is unsuccessful, the film will not be eligible in any future awards years, regardless of subsequent screenings at qualifying festivals. All shorts filmmakers are therefore encouraged to make use of the festival route prior to entry and prior to applying for festival exemption as this could disqualify the film in future years.

Note that BAFTA will not provide feedback if the film is not selected via the festival exemption route.

Diversity Standards

All shorts entered in the British Short Film and British Short Animation categories must submit a BFI Diversity Standards assessment form to the BFI to qualify. To submit the film for consideration, please complete the BFI form, linked on the [BAFTA Entry Information](#) page. The BFI Diversity Standards Shorts criteria are [here](#).

See the Timetable for the submission deadline to the BFI Friday.

Note, there is no entry requirement for shorts to meet the Standards for the Film Awards in 2025 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 the BFI, BAFTA will be tracking how British short-filmmakers are engaging with the Diversity Standards, with the intention to make passing an entry requirement in the future.

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>. Any queries or concerns regarding the form should be addressed to diversitystandards@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 BAFTA Television Awards and the BAFTA Television Craft Awards), for games (the BAFTA Games Awards), BAFTA Cymru and BAFTA Scotland.

Shorts qualifying to the BAFTA Cymru and BAFTA Scotland awards may also be eligible and submitted to the Film Awards.

Television

Content with a running time of between 3 minutes and 20 minutes may be eligible for both the Short film categories of the BAFTA Film Awards and the Short Form category of the BAFTA 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 the film being submitted please contact awards@bafta.org with details of the commissioning process 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 the film being submitted, please contact awards@bafta.org with details of the screening/s to determine eligibility.

E. RIGHTS CLEARANCE

At BAFTA, we're passionate about supporting and showcasing the next generation of new talent and each year, our aim is to make the nominated shorts available on BAFTA's [YouTube channel](#) as a playlist for a limited time around the awards period in 2025. This enables BAFTA to promote the shorts and the filmmaking teams behind them to our mailing lists and on our social media channels, which have a combined reach of over 1.5 million. BAFTA would require the film for a two-week period and can offer a nominal fee of £100.

In addition, as part of our ongoing partnerships with the BFI and the British Council, we would like to include the nominated films in the BFI National Archive and the British Council Touring Package. In the event of a nomination, we would be in touch with entrants with full details and to seek permissions.

Please note, inclusion in this showcase 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 the '2025 British Short Film' and '2025 British Short Animation' entry forms on the BAFTA Awards Entry Site (entry.bafta.org).

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

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

- Film title
- Synopsis / Logline
- Running time
- Film completion date
- First (festival) screening date
- First public exhibition details – type and date
- Genre
- Target Audience (for research purposes only)
- Festival screening details
- Writer, director and producer details (including gender, nationality, country of residence and further detail for those without UK passports)
- Key crew and cast details (including gender, nationality and country of residence)
- Production details (production company information and where key elements of the production took place)
- Confirmation that BFI have been contacted regarding a Diversity Standards Assessment
- Whether the entrant is aware of of the BAFTA [Short Film Toolkit](#)

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 descriptive subtitles should be uploaded
- 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)
- Two poster images (or key still) – one portrait and one landscape (Portrait images must be at least 320Wx480Hpx with a ratio of 2:3. Landscape image must be at least 275Wx155Hpx) No festival laurels or reviews are permitted
- Three high resolution production stills for use online if nominated (optional)
- For British Short Film: proof of acceptance or screening at the requisite number of BAFTA's qualifying festivals [see [BRITISH SHORT FILM QUALIFYING FESTIVALS LIST](#)]

- For British Short Animation: proof of acceptance or screening at the requisite number of BAFTA's qualifying festivals [see [British Short Animation Qualifying Festivals List](#) (if applicable)]
- For British Short Animation entries first shown on television only: proof of acceptance or screening at a recognised animation festival or film institution
- A copy of the production companies bullying & harassment policy (if available)
- A copy of the production companies sustainability policy (if available)

Entry forms must be completed in full and received, along with all supporting materials by the final entry deadline. If the form is not completed in full, BAFTA cannot guarantee that the film will be accepted as eligible, or the accuracy of credits listed for voting or nomination. 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 cannot be entered in any subsequent year.

Late entries will not be accepted.

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. VOTING

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

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

The films will be made available on BAFTA's viewing and voting site for BAFTA members and jurors to view. 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 festival or award information, e.g. laurels, should be included in the uploaded film file, and must be identical in content to the film screened at the qualifying festival(s) (if applicable).

No campaigning of any kind is permitted in either short film category – this applies to the filmmakers, cast, crew, production company, film school, distributor, funding body, etc (the "entrant"). Campaigning includes but is not limited to:

- Direct communication with members asking them to vote a particular way
- Lobbying members to vote for a particular film
- Utilising social media platforms to encourage BAFTA members to vote for a particular
- Asking members to break the BAFTA members' Code of Conduct by publicising what they are voting for in either of these categories

Campaigning can result in the short's removal from the longlist and/or nominations list. If there are any concerns regarding campaigning, please contact awards@bafta.org.

H. 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 preliminary longlists are shared confidentially with the jury only. The longlist and nominations for both categories is announced alongside the feature categories. 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 (mask) and a winner's certificate.

The award mask 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 their descendants. Should the award leave the care of the recipient or their 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

I. SHORTS TOOLKIT

BAFTA's free-to-access Short Film Toolkit, by BAFTA, BFI NETWORK (through National Lottery funding) and the British Council is available here: [Short Film Toolkit](#).

This digital guide is the first of its kind. It includes insights from over 40 filmmakers, funders, festival programmers and distributors, unlocking expert insights and advice to help Filmmakers get the most out of their short-film journey and accelerate their career.

J. CLIP USAGE

- Clips from nominated films will be shown at the BAFTA Film Awards and these clips may form part of the television and online broadcasts 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 and high res film stills (1mb/300ppi) of longlisted and nominated films available to the public on BAFTA's websites and social media channels and to UK and international media for editorial usage, in connection with the 2025 Film Awards for the duration of the campaign (i.e. up to 16 February 2025)
- For editorial and timing reasons, BAFTA's co-production company, will contact the entrant directly to ask for HD clips for use in the ceremony. The technical specification for the HD clips is:
 - On the proviso that all films are released in the UK, please supply the clips from the UK version of the film which will have a 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, please supply the clips at their native frame rate (usually 24fps or 23.976fps) so the production company can do the conversion themselves
 - Please **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
- We would be grateful if entrants could comply with all requests in a timely manner
- 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 broadcasts and on the BAFTA website and associated websites (including but not limited to, [YouTube.com/BAFTA](https://www.youtube.com/BAFTA), [YouTube.com/BAFTAGuru](https://www.youtube.com/BAFTAGuru), [Facebook.com/BAFTA](https://www.facebook.com/BAFTA), @BAFTA on [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#)) for use in the context only of the Awards for one year from January 2025
- Upon entering a film via <https://entry.bafta.org/> for BAFTA Film Awards consideration, the entrant will be asked to confirm the following:
 - That they have the authority, on behalf of the film and filmmakers, to agree to grant the above licence
 - That they agree to grant the above licence
- If the entrant foresees any problems with the granting of this license, please contact awards@bafta.org before entering the film

K. BAFTA LOGOS

There is a BAFTA Longlisted laurel downloadable [here](#). Requests from BAFTA or permission to use is not necessary.

For nominated and winning shorts, all requests for logos should be made via www.bafta.org/media-centre/logos

Entrants may use the 'BAFTA 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 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.

Incorrect use of the longlisting logo or the BAFTA logo can result in penalties.



L. CONTACT

Edward Hubbard Film Officer Email: awards@bafta.org	General enquiries, including entries, rules, appeals, and Qualifying Festivals
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M. APPENDIX - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

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

Entrants' films are hosted on BAFTA's bespoke video platform. The Jury Viewing Site and BAFTA View aims to provide the best possible viewing experience for the entrants' content. In order to achieve this, we request that the entrant provide a high quality version of their file. Our video specification is below.

	Specification
File format	.mp4 / .mov
Audio codec	Stereo audio (one audio stream with two channels L and R) / dual mono.
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 the video(s) as soon as possible to the BAFTA Media Library so any playback issues can be resolved before entries close. After the video has uploaded, please go to the BAFTA Media Library, play the file back, and contact awards@bafta.org if there are any 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 in the voting site. 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

2. Screener Hub

Entrants' films are hosted on their own third party platforms and seamlessly integrated with BAFTA's systems. Screener Hub acts on behalf of the BAFTA member to retrieve the details of where to send the member's browser to watch the film. Screener Hub can send the entrant's video platform details of each BAFTA member that views the video(s) so entrants can still uniquely identify each viewer.

When using Screener Hub, the entrant will be liable for all video delivery costs incurred on the specific platform used as a result of BAFTA members viewing the film. We will authenticate BAFTA members who access the voting site and only pass the viewing links generated by the video platform to authenticated members. However, the security of the video stream and any copy protection measures are the responsibility of the film's video delivery platform

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