



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL 2020

In partnership with



7-18 OCTOBER

OPEN SUBMISSIONS

Final Deadline for receipt of online submission forms and film screeners:

- **Short films (40 mins or less)** - Wednesday 17 June 2020, 17.00 BST
- **Feature length films (more than 40 mins)** – Wednesday 17 June 2020, 17.00 BST

Please fill in all required fields in the online submission form if you wish to submit your film for consideration for the 64th BFI London Film Festival (7-18 October 2020). Please also complete the PayPal payment form, which you will be directed to after completing the submission form.

Submission form links

For **all** short and feature film submissions, please complete the online form and Paypal payment below.

UK feature or short

<https://form.jotform.com/200492891235355>

International feature or short

<https://form.jotform.com/200491633877360>

Please note films will not be considered without completion of the correct online form and confirmation of successful payment. Please read the Regulations carefully before submitting.

Fees

For UK features or short films please see point 9 of the regulations for information regarding 'UK production' classification. Fees are as follows:

Fee for International feature films

- Early Bird is £45 if received by Friday 3 April 2020, 17.00 BST
- Regular £60 if received 4 April – **Friday 5 June 2020**, 17.00 BST
- Late Submission £75 if received 6 June – Wednesday 17 June 2020, 17.00 BST

Fee for International short films

- Regular is £20 if received by **Friday 5 June 2020**, 17.00 BST
- Late Submission £30 if received 6 June – Wednesday 17 June 2020, 17.00 BST

Fee for UK feature films

- Early Bird £30 if received by Friday 3 April 2020, 17.00 BST

- Regular £40 if received 4 April – **Friday 5 June 2020**, 17.00 BST
- Late Submission £55 if received 6 June – Wednesday 17 June 2020, 17.00 BST

Fee for UK short films

- Regular £15 if received by **Friday 5 June 2020**, 17.00 BST
- Late Submission £20 if received 6 June – Wednesday 17 June 2020, 17.00 BST

Viewing screener for selection consideration

On completion of your online submission form and confirmation of successful payment, you will be sent a confirmation email containing delivery instructions for DVD screener (if you have not already provided a password protected online link).

Secure online screening link

We can accept features or shorts via a secure online viewing link with password. Please ensure that your password stays active until the end of August. We cannot accept digital files for download or sent via email. If you need to change the password, please do inform us of the new password as soon as you can via the submissions e-mail.

DVD screeners

While we prefer online screening links, we can accept features and shorts on any region DVD. Please ensure there is sufficient postage when sending submissions as we will be unable to retrieve any package with insufficient postage. Viewing material should be insured by the sender and sent via airmail or courier (at the sender's expense) to the Festival Office address detailed in your submission form confirmation email. Packages must be post-marked (or delivered by courier) on or before the deadline to be eligible for consideration. We cannot accept late submissions. We cannot return DVD screeners.

Please ensure the following information is included if you send a DVD screener: -

- Online submission confirmation email
- English Title / Original Title
- Director's name
- Country of Production
- Running Time
- **Full contact details** including contact name, telephone number and email address.

Other formats

Under certain circumstances and by prior arrangement we can also view Beta SP and DigiBeta (Pal or NTSC) and work on 35mm. If you do not have an online screener or DVD and would like to submit your film in one of these formats please contact us.

Work In Progress

Our programmers are well accustomed to viewing work that is near completion. If you need to send the film when there is still post-production work left to do, then please let us know what is left to be done (eg colour grade, sound mix, vfx). You can inform us by e-mail once you have your confirmation of submission. It is also useful to add this information in the notes under your secure online screener (eg in the notes field on Vimeo). However, please note that **we will not re-view different cuts of the same film**, so it is best to wait until you have a cut you are happy with.

Equal Opportunities Monitoring

At the end of the submission form you will be directed to a form to capture equal opportunities information. It is important for us to track this data to find out if we are

reaching a wide pool of filmmakers. This form is anonymised and the data is not related to your submission. Providing any of the information requested is optional.

Notification of selection decisions

The programme is finalised between July and September. You will hear from us by the end of August at the latest, normally by email. If your contact details change during this period please let us know so that we may update our records.



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REGULATIONS

1. The BFI London Film Festival is presented by the British Film Institute.
2. The BFI London Film Festival is an annual event based at the BFI Southbank and other central London venues. It runs for 12 days and wherever possible each film is presented at least twice and up to four times.
3. Programming decisions are made at the discretion of the BFI Head of Festivals and the programming team.

Feature Film Eligibility

4. **All feature films screened in the festival must be at minimum UK Premieres. Prior public or advertised UK screenings, theatrical screenings, film festivals, television screenings, internet transmission or DVD releases of feature length films disqualify them from entry.** For the Competition sections of the programme, preference will be given to European, International and World premieres.
5. Exceptions to the UK Premiere rule for feature films may be made for UK Productions but only if:
 - (a.) The UK Premiere has taken place in the nation of origin, where a Scottish film has shown once in Scotland, a Northern Irish film in Northern Ireland, or a Welsh film in Wales, in which case the LFF screening must be its second UK screening. This exception does not apply to films originating from England, where the UK Premiere rule applies. This exception does not apply to films selected for Competition and Gala sections. All exceptions are at the discretion of the BFI Head of Festivals.
 - (b.) The UK Premiere has taken place at BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival, in which case the LFF screening must be its second UK screening. This exception does not apply to Competition and Gala sections, where the UK Premiere rule applies. Films originating from anywhere in the UK (including

England) that premiere at BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival will remain eligible for LFF consideration, however selection for BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival does not automatically guarantee selection at LFF and film representatives must indicate interest in being considered for both Festivals. All exceptions are at the discretion of the BFI Head of Festivals.

6. Entries must have been produced within 12 months prior to the festival start. Films that have screened before the previous BFI London Film Festival (October 2019) at international festivals are ineligible for open submission.

Short Film Eligibility

7. Short films may be any style or form (eg. narrative, animation, documentary, etc) that have a running time of 40 minutes or less, and have been produced within 12 months prior to the festival start. Films that have screened before the previous BFI London Film Festival (October 2019) at international festivals are ineligible for open submission.
8. There are **no premiere or prior screening restrictions for short films**. Shorts may have been broadcast on television or the internet, released via any home video outlet, and/or publicly screened anywhere in the world and still remain eligible for consideration by the Festival. **While there is no premiere rule for films screening within the main programme, we do prioritise UK, European and World Premieres for our Short Film Competition.**

UK Productions

9. A film will be eligible for consideration as a UK feature or short if it has been made by a UK Film Production Company (FPC) which is registered with Companies House, and has been certified as a British film under either:
 - a. The Cultural Test
 - b. One of the UK's official bilateral co-production treaties; or
 - c. The European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production

You can find more information on the Cultural Test, and the points-system here: <http://industry.bfi.org.uk/qualifying>.

For short films, the company does not need to be registered, but the film should be wholly capable of qualifying as a British film, via the Cultural Test. For feature films that have not been produced by a registered UK film production company, if they are primarily self-financed, entirely shot in the UK and by a British director, these too will be eligible as a UK feature.

The IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI

The IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award in association with the BFI is a £50,000 award to benefit an outstanding British writer, director, or writer/director whose first or second feature film premieres at the BFI London Film Festival. For more details about the Award, please see www.bfi.org.uk/lff/iwc-schaffhausen-filmmakers-bursary-award-association-bfi and click through to the FAQs.

For clarity, British writers, directors and/or writer/directors holding a UK passport and working and residing in the UK, or currently a formal resident in the UK (having lived or worked here for the last five years) with a first or second feature premiering in the BFI London Film Festival will still be eligible for the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award if the film is a non-UK production. Filmmakers which are otherwise eligible and which are entered through open submissions or entered by a sale or distribution partner will have the opportunity to formally submit an application for the Bursary Award once the film is invited to the Festival.

Submissions by Organisations

- 10.** Official or professional national organisations and individuals may submit features and short films to the Festival. National film agencies and institutes or film schools submitting multiple films may contact the Programme department by email, to discuss fees for multiple submissions to: lfsubmissions@bfi.org.uk.

Submission Materials

- 11.** All films in a language other than English must be subtitled in English, unless dialogue or commentary is unnecessary for comprehension and appreciation.
- 12.** During the selection process, the Festival reserves the right to download the films submitted by online links for its offline viewing. These downloads will be exclusively for internal use by the Festival team for selection purposes.
- 13.** Please note it is not possible for us to return any DVDs sent to us through open submissions.

Official Selection

- 14.** In the event of your short or feature film being officially selected, you will be notified by invitation. At that point an Official Selection form will be sent for your completion, to confirm the invitation has been accepted, and to gather all the information necessary for the presentation and marketing of the film in the Festival.
- 15.** Excerpts from films will only be shown on all media for promotional purposes if permission is obtained from the producer / rights holder, as detailed on Official Selection forms.
- 16.** The BFI London Film Festival is open to the public. A substantial number of accredited national and international press, TV and film buyers and distributors also participate.
- 17.** All information with regard to press and industry viewing permissions are detailed on Official Selection forms received once a film has been officially selected. You may also be contacted by our press and industry teams in these instances.
- 18.** In the event of your short or feature being officially selected, you will be required to supply a fully compliant DCP. If you are unable to do this, the BFI can create one for you at an additional cost. Full details will be supplied with the Official Selection form.

19. Exhibition materials of officially selected films will be insured by the BFI and any shipping costs incurred in getting the film to the BFI London Film Festival will be covered by the Festival.

20. No cuts or changes to any film will be made by the Festival management for any reason.

In conclusion

21. No refunds to submission fees are possible.

22. It is the filmmakers' responsibility to ensure that the film meets the eligibility criteria. If a film submitted subsequently becomes ineligible, while we are grateful if you could let us know, it is not possible to refund once films are already submitted.

23. It is the filmmaker's responsibility to ensure that the film link and password are working, and to inform the Festival if either the link or password has changed.

24. Submission of a film represents agreement with the regulations set forth here.

25. Due to the amount of submissions we receive, it is BFI London Film Festival policy not to offer comments or reasons for films not selected for the programme.

CONTACT

For any general queries about submissions, please contact:-

Festival Programme team

lffsubmissions@bfi.org.uk

+44 (0)207 815 1305

(Please do not send email film submissions to this address, you must complete the online submission form)