

## The Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting

The Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting is an international competition established to identify and encourage talented new screenwriters.

Up to five \$35,000 fellowships are awarded annually. Fellowship recipients are expected to complete at least one original feature film screenplay during the fellowship year. Fellowship payments are subject to satisfactory progress of the recipient's work, as judged by the Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee. Up to five fellowship recipients are selected from approximately 10-15 finalists in the competition. The winners are invited to participate in awards week activities.

The Academy reserves the right to grant no awards if, in the opinion of the Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee, no entry is of sufficient merit.

### 2024 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting Rules

1. An entrant's total lifetime earnings for motion picture and television writing may not exceed US\$25,000 before the end of the competition. This limit applies to compensation for motion picture and television writing services as well as for the sale of (or sale of an option on) screenplays, teleplays, stage plays, books, treatments, stories, premises and any other source material.

In most instances, fellowship and competition prize money is not counted as earnings unless it includes a "first look" clause, an option or any other quid pro quo involving the writer's work.

Entrants must be 18 or older at the time of entry.

2. Current Academy employees (full-time and part-time), officers, Governors, current Nicholl committee members, and the immediate families of these individuals are not eligible. Current Academy consultants, third-party vendors, and the immediate families of these individuals are not eligible. Current Academy members are not eligible. Alumni from any Academy Foundation talent development programs (including Gold Rising, Student Academy Awards, the Gold Film Accelerator, and the Gold Fellowship for Women) are not eligible until they are two years past the completion of any of these programs. Nicholl Fellowship winners are not eligible to enter again.
3. Entrants must register an online account at the Nicholl website ([www.oscars.org/nicholl](http://www.oscars.org/nicholl)) and submit:
  - o **A completed online application form.**

- **One copy of an original feature film screenplay uploaded as a PDF file. The feature screenplay should be in standard industry format (12 point Courier) and no shorter than 70 pages and no longer than 160 pages. Suggested page count is 80 to 125 pages; scripts exceeding 125 pages may have their length counted against them.**

Submitted scripts must have been written originally in English; translations will not be accepted. No multi-part scripts can be submitted.

Submitted scripts must be the original work of the entrant(s) and may not be based, in whole or in part, on any other fiction or nonfiction material, published or unpublished, produced or unproduced. Entries may, however, be adapted from the entrant's original work, which should be noted in the logline required on the application form. Scripts that include dialogue, characters, or scene description generated by artificial intelligence (AI) are ineligible for this competition.

Entries lacking a logline on the application form will be disqualified.

If the script is based on a true story, historical or contemporary, the "based on true story/events" button should be selected within the online application form.

Collaborative work by two writers who share equally in its creation is eligible. Collaborative work for which one writer developed the idea and another writer wrote the screenplay is not eligible. Collaborative work by three or more writers is not eligible. The collaborator's name must be added during the online application process. Writing partners selected as Fellows will divide the fellowship stipend equally.

The entrant is responsible for ensuring their name, address, phone number or any other identifying information does not appear on the title page or any other page of the script when applying. Placing a Library of Congress or WGA registration number on the title page is acceptable but not required.

- **The applicable entry fee per script entry is paid online via credit card.** Entry fees will not be returned or adjusted. The entry fee for each script is as follows:
  - \$50 if submitted by March 1, 2024 11:59pm PT.
  - \$70 if submitted by April 1, 2024 11:59pm PT.
  - \$120 if submitted by May 1, 2024 11:59pm PT.

- 4. For the 2024 Nicholl Fellowships competition, there will be a maximum of 5,500 submissions accepted.** The competition will close to applications once the maximum number of applications are submitted or the final deadline is reached—whichever occurs first. Applications will be accepted only via accounts registered at the Nicholl website. Submitted scripts will not be returned. The Academy is not responsible for late, misdirected, missing, incomplete, or damaged entries.

5. The final selection of fellowship winners will be made by the Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee.
6. An entrant (or writing team) may submit a *maximum* of one screenplay in the current competition. Only one copy, draft or version of any screenplay may be submitted by an entrant or writing team, and violation risks disqualification. Entrants who open multiple accounts to submit more than one entry in the competition risk disqualification. Under no circumstances will substitutions of either corrected pages or new drafts of an entry screenplay be allowed.
7. Entrants support a professional workplace and acknowledge that any form of abuse or harassment towards Academy staff is prohibited. Abusive, discourteous, and/or harassing language and/or conduct may result in disqualification of entrant and/or banning the entrant from future entry at the Academy's discretion.
8. Every writer of a screenplay that advances to the final round will be asked to write to the Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee expressing the writer's personal and professional interests.
9. Academy Nicholl Fellowships may not be held concurrently with other fellowships or any other similar award, or while completing a formal course of study. The fellowship year may be deferred to allow a student winner to complete their education.
10. Academy Nicholl Fellows agree to furnish the Academy with a copy of the screenplay(s) written during the fellowship year. The Academy acquires no rights to the work (or to the entry script) and will not participate in its marketing or in any other aspects of its commercial future.

### **Competition Terms and Conditions:**

By entering, I (we) represent and agree:

The information supplied in this application is accurate.

The material submitted is my (our) sole and original work.

I (we) will indemnify and defend the Academy Foundation and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, its employees, directors and agents, from, and against, all claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, judgments, liabilities and expenses (including attorneys' fees) arising out of or in connection with my (our) entry or submissions to the Academy Nicholl Fellowships competition, or any works related to such submissions.

The Academy Foundation may retain the material submitted for use in connection with its Academy Nicholl Fellowships deliberations, and thereafter for its archival collection of educational materials, to which use I (we) expressly waive compensation.

The burden of obtaining copyright or otherwise protecting any proprietary interests in the material, if I (we) wish to do so, rests entirely with me (us).

I (we) understand the purposes and conditions of the Academy Nicholl Fellowships and to my (our) acceptance of them should I (we) be selected as a Nicholl fellow.

I am (we are) eligible for the competition, and that I (we) will notify the Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting if I (we) become ineligible prior to the conclusion of the competition.

Providing false or misleading information on this application or failing in any other way to comply with the rules of the competition, will subject me (us) to disqualification, forfeiture of prize money and/or other penalties.