

## 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. Fellowship recipients, selected from approximately 10-15 finalists in the competition, are announced in October. The winners are invited to participate in awards week ceremonies and seminars in November.

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.

### 2021 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 of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Governors, current Nicholl committee members, and current employees and the immediate families of these individuals are not eligible. Current Academy members are not eligible.
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.**
  - o **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; scripts exceeding 125 pages may have their length counted against them.**

Submissions must have been written originally in English; translations will not be accepted. Scripts where the entrant hired another writer to write their screenplay or to collaborate on their screenplay are not eligible. No multi-part scripts should be submitted unless each part can be read as a separate, stand-alone screenplay.

Submissions 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 for the entrant's (or entrants') original work, which should be noted in the logline required on the application form. 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's name, address, phone number or any other identifying information should not appear on the title page or any other page of the script. Placing a Library of Congress or WGA registration number on the title page is acceptable but not required.

- **A single entry fee per script entry paid online via credit card.** Entry fees will not be returned or adjusted. The entry fee for each script is \$48 if submitted by March 3, \$63 if submitted by April 3, and \$88 if submitted by May 3.
4. Submissions for the 2021 fellowships must be uploaded and paid no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on May 3, 2021. 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, or damaged entries.
  5. The final selection of fellowship winners will be made by the Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee.
  6. Only one copy, draft or version of any screenplay may be submitted by an entrant or entrants and violation risks disqualification. Under no circumstances will substitutions of either corrected pages or new drafts of an entry screenplay be allowed. An entrant may submit a

*maximum* of three screenplays in the current competition.

7. By September 2021, 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.
8. 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 his or her education.
9. 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) attest:

To the accuracy of the information supplied in this application.

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

To my (our) agreement to hold the Academy Foundation and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences harmless from, and defend them against, all claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, judgments, liabilities and expenses (including attorneys' fees) arising out of or in connection with any stories submitted to the Academy Nicholl Fellowships competition or any screenplay developed out of such stories.

That 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.

That 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).

To my (our) understanding of 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.

That 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.

That 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.