



FAQS

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM

Contact: documentaries@oscars.org

1. When is the deadline to submit?

Documentary feature films that qualify between October 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, must submit all required materials by Thursday, August 15, 2024, no later than 5pm PT.

Documentary feature films that qualify between July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024, must submit all required materials by Thursday, October 17, 2024, no later than 5pm PT.

2. My documentary feature is scheduled to be released at the end of the year. Do I need to submit by the October 17, 2024, deadline?

Yes. The required submission materials must be entered by the deadline. If the film is anticipated to complete a qualifying theatrical run after the October 17 deadline, a theatrical booking confirmation document must be submitted by the deadline.

3. When is the qualifying period for documentary feature films that win a qualifying award?

For the 97th Academy Awards®, films entering by winning a qualified festival award must qualify between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024. Films entering by having a theatrical run must qualify between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

4. I plan to qualify my film by having a theatrical run in a qualifying metro area. How do I know if the theater is a qualifying theater?

To be considered a commercial motion picture venue for Academy Awards purposes, a theater must meet the following criteria:

- Regularly show new releases
- Charge admission
- Have regular non-specialized programming open to the general public
- Exploit and market films through regular listings and advertising
- Generally, run films for seven consecutive days, with multiple showings daily



5. What if my documentary is a country's official entry for Best International Feature?
If a documentary is a country's official selection, the movie is also eligible to enter Best Documentary Feature. A Best Documentary Feature form must be completed for consideration.

6. Will my film be ineligible if it screens at schools and/or film festivals?
Public screenings at schools and film festivals do not affect the film's eligibility. Film festivals that utilize online screenings should have either a transactional pay wall or a password-protected entry.

7. Once I submit for Best Documentary Feature Film, is it automatically entered to compete for Best Picture and the craft categories?
No. Best Documentary Feature Film is a specialty category with its own submission form. A General Entry form must be submitted to be considered for Best Picture and/or all other craft categories. A RAISE form must also be completed to enter for Best Picture consideration. Please note that Music has a separate application form.

8. The entry form only allows for four possible nominees, but another person who worked on the film deserves an award.
There is a maximum of FOUR designated nominees, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other(s) of whom must have a director or producer credit. In determining the number of producers eligible for nomination, a bona fide team of not more than two people shall be considered a single "producer" if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the Producer Guild of America's Producing Partnership Panel. All final determinations of eligibility are made by the Documentary Branch Executive Committee.

9. I'm not sure if my film should be entered as a documentary.
Please review the Documentary rules for the category definition. We leave the decision on which categories to enter up to the filmmakers. However, all final determinations of eligibility are made by the Documentary Branch Executive Committee.



10. I submitted my film last year, but since then I've added new material or re-edited. Can I submit it again?

No. We do not accept works in progress; the version submitted to the Academy must be the final and definitive version of your film. Entries must have the necessary clearances for commercial theatrical exhibition.

11. Can my movie be entered if it is part of a series?

Only individual documentary works are eligible. This excludes from consideration such works as: multi-part or limited series, episodes extracted from a larger series, segments taken from a single "composite" program, and alternate versions of ineligible works.

12. My film was broadcast on television outside the U.S. before it opened theatrically in the U.S. Is it still eligible?

If the film received a theatrical release outside the U.S. before it was broadcast on television, and if the television broadcast was only outside the U.S., the film could still be eligible. Please contact documentaries@oscars.org.

13. How much does it cost to upload a documentary feature to the Academy Screening Room?

There is no cost to upload to the Documentary Feature category. Documentary Feature entries are required to be uploaded to the Academy Screening Room for voting purposes. This makes the movie available to voters in the Documentary Feature Film category.

NOTE: There is a cost if you choose to upload to the For Your Consideration section (General Entry / Feature Film). This makes the film available to all voting members of the Academy.

14. Are closed captions required to be uploaded?

Yes. An English closed caption file must be uploaded. Please see the [technical specification](#) page for more information.

15. Do I need to provide a DCP?

For the initial entry, documentary features are not required to provide a DCP. If shortlisted, a DCP will be required. Encrypted DCPs will not be accepted.