



FAQS

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM

Contact: documentaries@oscars.org

1. When is the deadline to submit?

Short 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.

Short films that qualify between July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024, must submit all required materials by Thursday, October 10, 2024, no later than 5pm PT.

2. Will my short 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.

3. 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

4. How long do I have to qualify my short film?

You have two years from completion to qualify it.

5. What is the maximum running time to enter a short film competition? The maximum runtime is 40 minutes.



6. The entry form only allows for two possible nominees but another person who worked on the film deserves an award.

A maximum of two persons may be named as possible nominees for a short film. Everyone with a director or producer credit must sign off in agreement on the designated nominees when submitting. Production companies are not eligible to be designated nominees. If a producer is named, all individuals with a “producer” or “produced by” credit will automatically be vetted if the film reaches the semifinal round. The Documentary Branch Executive Committee will determine which producer, if any, is eligible to receive a nomination. In the unlikely event of a dispute, filmmakers may appeal the Committee’s decision. All final determinations of eligibility are made by the Documentary Branch Executive Committee.

7. Can short films enter other Oscar® categories?

Shorts are not eligible to compete in additional Oscar categories outside of their specific short film competition.

8. I’m not sure if my film should be entered as a documentary. Which category should I choose?

Please review the Documentary rules for the category definition. We leave the decision up to the filmmakers as to which category is the best fit for their film. However, all final determinations of eligibility are made by the Documentary Branch Executive Committee.

9. 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.

10. 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, alternate versions of ineligible works, and documentary short films created from materials substantially taken from or cut down from completed, publicly exhibited feature-length documentaries.

11. I submitted my film last year, but since then I've won an additional festival award. Can I submit it again?

No. The category rules only allow for a film to be submitted once for awards consideration.



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. Are student films allowed to enter?

Student films are only eligible by winning an Oscar qualifying festival or Student Academy Award. Student films cannot qualify with a theatrical release.

14. How much does it cost to upload a short to the Academy Screening Room?

There is no cost for short films to be uploaded. Short films are required to be uploaded to the Academy Screening Room for voting purposes. Once uploaded, please allow time for the file to be quality checked. Our team will reach out if there are any issues with the file.

15. 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.

16. Do I need to provide a DCP?

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