



ANIMATED SHORT FILM FAQs

Contact: Animation@oscars.org

1. When is the deadline to submit?

Short films that qualify between October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, must submit all required materials by Thursday, August 13, 2026, no later than 5pm PT.

Short films that qualify between July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026, must submit all required materials by Thursday, October 8, 2026, 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 paywall 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?

A commercial motion picture theater is defined as a brick-and-mortar establishment that operates year-round and regularly screens first-run films for paid admission.

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 the film.

5. What is the maximum running time to enter a short film competition?

The maximum runtime is 40 minutes.

6. Can I withdraw the movie from consideration after I have submitted it?

Yes. Tuesday, December 1, 2026, is the last day to withdraw a film from Academy Awards® consideration. Withdrawing and/or failing to complete the qualifying standards may risk future awards disqualification.

7. The entry form only allows for two possible nominees, but another person who contributed to the film deserves recognition.

A maximum of two persons may be designated as nominees, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other of whom must be in a key creative position. If a producer is named, that individual must have performed a major portion of the producing functions in accordance with Academy producer criteria. If a producer is named, all individuals with a “producer” or “produced by” credit will automatically be vetted if the film reaches the nominations round. The Animation Branch Executive Committee will determine which producer, if any, is eligible to receive a nomination. Companies or organized groups shall not receive nominations or awards. The Animation Branch Executive Committee makes all final determinations of eligibility.

8. Who may be listed as a designated nominee after the director?

The credit must be a key creative position. Typically, an individual with a director, producer or writing credit is selected. If the film’s team would like to list an individual without a directing, producing or writing credit on the submission form as a designated nominee, please reach out to animation@oscars.org upon submission. The Animation Branch Executive Committee makes all final determinations of eligibility.

9. Can short films enter other Oscar® categories?

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

10. I submitted my film last year, but since then, I've added new material or re-edited it. 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 qualifying version of your film. Entries must have the necessary clearances for commercial theatrical exhibition.

11. My film is a combination of live action and animation. Which category should I choose?

An animated film is one in which characters or objects are given the illusion of life by having movement created for them by any human means. While the crucial movement of a live-action motion picture is captured at speed, animation is the craft of human creation and manipulation of images to produce a performance from inanimate objects. At least 75 percent of the motion picture's running time, without opening or end credits, must include animation of the primary subject or subjects. Animated documentary short films may be submitted in either the Animated Short Film or Documentary Short Film category, but not both. The Animation Branch Executive Committee makes all final determinations of eligibility.

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

Only individual 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 short films created from materials substantially taken from or cut down from completed, publicly exhibited feature-length films.

13. 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 award consideration.

14. My film was broadcast on television outside the United States before it opened theatrically in the United States. Is it still eligible?

If the film received a theatrical release outside the United States before it was broadcast on television, and if the television broadcast was only outside the United States, the film could still be eligible. Please contact animation@oscars.org for further information.

15. Are student films allowed to enter?

Student films are only eligible by winning an Oscar-qualifying festival or a Student Academy Award. Student films are typically films made for school credit or as part of assignments. Student films cannot qualify with a theatrical release.

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

There is no cost to upload short films. 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 issues are found with the file.

17. If any changes are made to my film after it is uploaded to the Academy Screening Room, can I replace the film with an updated version?

No. The version of the film uploaded to the Academy Screening Room must be the final and definitive version of the film and must be identical to the version that qualified, including the film's credits.

18. Are closed captions required to be uploaded?

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

19. Do I need to provide a DCP?

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