

NICHOLL FELLOWSHIPS IN SCREENWRITING

2026-2027 NICHOLL ENTRANTS FAQs



FAQs

HOW MANY RECOMMENDATIONS CAN A PARTNER MAKE?

Two screenplays is the maximum number of recommendations by a partner. Public portal partners are the exception; they may recommend additional scripts. Each entry must be a different individual; that is, Nicholl will only accept one entry per person or writing team from a partner.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM RECOMMENDED?

Partners will notify their writers if they've been recommended. Then, the Nicholl Fellowships will reach out to official partner-recommended writers for additional information.

IS EVERYONE ELIGIBLE TO BE RECOMMENDED?

No, please read our rules and terms and conditions to ensure you are eligible. Please pay special attention to:

- An entrant's total lifetime earnings for motion picture and television writing may not exceed \$25,000 USD 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.
- Submitted scripts must have been written originally in English; translations will not be accepted. No multi-part, episodic scripts can be submitted.
- 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.
- Submitted scripts must be the original work of the entrant(s).
- Entrants must be a human and cannot represent a production company or Artificial Intelligence agent/entity and be aged 18 or older at time of entry.

I WAS RECOMMENDED TO ENTER LAST YEAR. IF I FIND A DIFFERENT PARTNER TO RECOMMEND ME THIS YEAR, COULD I ENTER AGAIN?

No, writers who were referred to enter last year must wait two years before they can be referred again by any Nicholl partner.

CAN A RECOMMENDED WRITER ENTER MORE THAN ONE SCREENPLAY IF THEY ARE REFERRED BY TWO DIFFERENT PARTNERS?

No, an entrant (or writing team) may submit a *maximum* of one screenplay in the current program cycle. Only one copy, draft or version of any screenplay may be submitted by an entrant or writing team, and violation risks disqualification.

Under no circumstances will substitutions of either corrected pages or new drafts of an entry screenplay be allowed in the Nicholl program cycle.

CAN A WRITER ENTER ONE SCREENPLAY IF RECOMMENDED BY A PARTNER AND A SECOND SCREENPLAY THROUGH A SECOND PARTNER?

No, only one entry per writer regardless of whether they're recommended by a partner or through the second partner.

WHAT KIND OF MATERIAL WILL YOU ACCEPT?

The Nicholl Fellowships only accepts feature-length screenplays in standard industry format to fit on U.S. letter paper size or A4 paper size in PDF format. The minimum page count must be 80 with a maximum page count of 125. Scripts in non-standard industry format, and/or smaller margins and/or using less than 12-point font to circumvent the 125-page maximum may have this counted against them during judging.

We do not accept television pilots, episodic material or parts of a multi-part feature. We are unable to accept screenplays in any other format other than PDF format.

CAN I PROVIDE AN UPDATED DRAFT AFTER I AM RECOMMENDED TO ENTER THE NICHOLL?

No. Upon the partner's submission of a recommended writer's script to the Academy's Nicholl office, no substitutions of either corrected pages or new drafts of the entry screenplay are allowed.