



INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM FAQs

Contact: InternationalFeature@oscars.org

How does a film get submitted to the International Feature Film category?

The non-English language film must be officially selected by an approved selection committee or have won a qualifying award at an international film festival as specified in the International Feature Film Award Qualifying Festival list before September 30, 2026. Selection committees are pre-established committees formed by a country or region. Only one selection committee is allowed per country or region and only one film will be accepted from each country or region as the official selection.

Filmmakers and distributors are unable to personally submit films to the Academy for consideration for the International Feature Film Award unless the film won a qualifying award at an international film festival.

In the International Feature Film category, there are now two ways for a film to qualify for Oscar consideration:

1. **Official Selection Method:** The film is submitted as the official entry of a country or region through an Academy-approved Selection Committee.
2. **Festival Award Method:** A non-English language film can qualify by winning one of the designated top awards at an international film festival included on the Academy's International Feature Film Award Qualifying Festival List.

Qualifying festivals for the 99th Oscars® are:

- Berlin International Film Festival (Golden Bear for Best Film)
- Busan International Film Festival (Busan Award - Best Film Award)
- Cannes Film Festival (Palme d'Or)
- Sundance Film Festival (World Cinema Grand Jury Prize)
- Toronto International Film Festival (Platform Award)
- Venice International Film Festival (Golden Lion)

A film may qualify through **only one** of these methods.

If a film wins a qualifying festival award and is later selected as the official submission of a country or region, it will be considered an official country/region submission and listed as such.

A qualifying festival does **not** receive an alternate qualifying slot if its award-winning film is submitted by a country or region. No runner-up or additional festival award winner becomes eligible in its place.

Does my country or region have an approved selection committee? Where can I find their information?

Official selection committees must send a list of the current committee members and updated information to the Academy by August 14, 2026, for approval before selecting a film. Selection committees are required to publish their selection process, submission information, and contact information online via website, social media, or press announcement. If you are unable to locate the information for your country or region, please contact internationalfeature@oscars.org.

After my film is selected by a selection committee, is it automatically eligible for the International Feature Film category?

No. The International Feature Film administrators will review all submitted documents and determine if the selected film meets the eligibility requirements found in [Rule Sixteen](#). The International Feature Film Executive Committee will then meet to resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

What counts as a qualifying run? Does the film need to have the initial qualifying run in the submitting country or region?

The country or region-selected film must be first released outside of the United States of America and its territories and begin a theatrical release between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026. It must be publicly exhibited for at least seven consecutive days in at least one commercial motion picture theater for the profit of the producer and exhibitor.

The film must be advertised and exploited during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner considered normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices. For additional information regarding a qualifying theatrical release, please see Rule Sixteen in the eligibility rules [HERE](#).

My film is a co-production with multiple countries and a film team of crew members from different nationalities. Which country or region would I submit to?

To be eligible, the film's creative control must be predominately in the hands of citizens, residents, or individuals with refugee or asylum status in that country or region. The submitting country or region

must provide a detailed breakdown showing the nationalities, residences or refugee/asylum status of the key filmmakers, as well as the countries or regions where the production companies are based.

This information must demonstrate that the majority of key filmmakers and production companies are from, or have refugee or asylum status in, the submitting country or region. All questions of eligibility and rules will be reviewed and decided by the International Feature Film Executive Committee.

If my animated film or documentary is selected for the International Feature Film category, is it automatically entered in the Animated Feature Film category or Documentary Feature Film category?

No. Animated Feature Film and Documentary Feature Film are separate specialty categories with their own submission forms. The forms must be completed on the submissions site for consideration.

Do I need to submit both closed captions and subtitles?

Yes. The English closed captions and English subtitles must be uploaded in two separate files. They are REQUIRED for the submission. Please see the [technical specifications page](#) for more information.

Do I need to provide a DCP?

For the initial entry, International Feature Films are not required to provide a DCP. If the film is shortlisted, an unencrypted DCP will be required. Encrypted DCPs will not be accepted.

If my film were to win in the International Feature Film category, who would receive an Oscar statuette?

The Oscar statuette will be awarded to the film and accepted by the director on behalf of the film's creative talents. For Academy Awards purposes, the film will be credited as the nominee and accepted by the director on behalf of the film's creative talents. The director's name will be listed on the statuette plaque after the film title and country or region if applicable.

One loan of a replica Oscar can be requested for display purposes only by the production company listed on the official submission form.