



FAQS

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM

Contact: documentaries@oscars.org

1. 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.

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

You have two years from completion to qualify the movie.

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

The maximum runtime is 40 minutes

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

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 have a director or producer credit. Production companies or persons with the screen credit of executive producer, co-producer or any credit other than director or producer shall not be eligible. All final determinations of eligibility are made by the Documentary Branch Executive Committee.

5. Can short films enter other Oscar categories?

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

6. 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.



7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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

11. 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.

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

There is no cost for short films to be uploaded.

13. Where do I inquire about applying to make a festival Oscar qualified?

For more information, please reach out to Awardsoffice@oscars.org