



FAQS

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM

Contact: documentaries@oscars.org

1. When is the deadline to submit?

Documentary Feature Films that qualify between **October 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**, must submit all required materials by **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**, no later than **5pm PT**.

Documentary Feature Films that qualify between **July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**, must submit all required materials by **Monday, October 02, 2023**, no later than **5pm PT**.

2. My documentary feature is scheduled to be released at the end of the year, do I need to submit by the October 02, 2022, deadline?

Yes. The submission form and theater booking document must be submitted by the deadline.

3. When is the qualifying period for Documentary Feature Films that win a qualifying award?

For the 96th Academy Awards, films entering by winning a qualified festival award must qualify between **October 1, 2022**, and **September 30, 2023**. Films entering by having a theatrical run must qualify between **January 1, 2023**, and **December 31, 2023**.

4. I'm planning to qualify my film by having a theatrical run in a qualifying metro area, how do I know 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



5. What if my documentary is a country's official entry for Best International Feature?

If a documentary is a country's official selection, the movie is also eligible to enter Best Documentary Feature. A Best Documentary Feature form must be completed for consideration.

6. Will my 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.

7. How long do I have to qualify my film?

You have two years from completion to qualify the movie.

8. Once I submit for Best Documentary Feature, is it automatically entered to compete for Best Picture and the craft categories?

No. Best Documentary Feature is a specialty category. In order to be eligible for Best Picture and all other craft categories, the film must complete a qualifying theatrical run and submit a General Entry application. Please note that Music has a separate application form.

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

Upon submission, normally two or three individuals may be named as possible nominees for a documentary feature, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other(s) 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.

10. I'm not sure if my film should be entered as a Documentary

Please review the Documentary rules for the category definition. We leave the decision up to the filmmakers on which categories to enter. However, all final determinations of eligibility are made by the Documentary Branch Executive Committee.



11. 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.

12. 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, and alternate versions of ineligible works.

13. 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

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

There is no cost to upload to the Documentary Feature category. Documentary Feature entries are required to be uploaded to the Academy Screening Room for voting purposes.

NOTE: There is a cost if you choose to upload for consideration to For Your Consideration (General Entry / Feature Film).

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 Features are not required to provide a DCP. If shortlisted, a DCP will be required. Encrypted DCPs will not be accepted.