

SXSW 
LONDON

APPLY TO SCREEN ENTRY GUIDE

SXSW London Screen Festival showcases distinctive, boundary-pushing storytelling from around the world, screening new films from established and up-and-coming filmmakers from 1-6 June 2026. Submissions are now open for narrative, documentary and animated feature films, short films and music videos.

DEADLINES

Submissions Open: 1st September 2025

Early Bird Submissions Close: 30th September 2025

Regular Submissions Close: 31st December 2025

Late Submissions Close: 31st January 2026

We will confirm successful submissions by end of March 2026

Content Due: April 2026





SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

In our second year, we are now opening up submissions for feature films, short films (narrative, documentary and animated short films of all genres) and music videos.

We are inspired by raw, bold storytelling and zeitgeist conversation. Make sure you've read the eligibility requirements and that you submit through the correct channels.

HOW TO APPLY

Register

To get started, register on [FilmFreeway](#) and read the Entry Guide.

Check Eligibility Criteria

Ensure your submission meets the eligibility criteria for a feature film, short film, or music video.

Submit your Entry

Submit your entry via [FilmFreeway](#).

Any Questions about your Application?

Contact the team: screen@sxswlondon.com

RULES & TERMS

SXSW London welcomes all genres. We welcome drama, animation, documentary and artists' films of all production techniques, forms and budgets.

Every submission will be reviewed by at least two members of the SXSW London Programming Team.



The primary contact completing the submission process must be authorised to submit the film for consideration. This includes permission from a distributor or sales agent representing the film and the applicant must have obtained necessary permissions for the inclusion of any copyrighted music and/or images used within the film. With this submission, the applicant confirms that they possess all rights necessary for the screening of the submitted film at SXSW London.

Applies to all: • SXSW London accepts rough cuts or work-in-progress submissions. If submitting a WIP, please detail what elements of your submission are incomplete and when the project is expected to be completed. The SXSW London Programming Team will only be able to watch one version of your project.

ELIGIBILITY: FEATURE FILMS

- Feature films must be at minimum a UK premier to be considered a feature film.
- Feature films must not have had their World Premier prior to July 2025.
- Feature films must have been completed no earlier than 2025 and be on track for completion by March 2026.
- Feature films must be a minimum of 45 mins long.
- The primary contact completing the submission process must be authorised to submit the film for consideration. This includes permission from a distributor or sales agent representing the film and the applicant must have obtained necessary permissions for the inclusion of any copyrighted music and/or images used within the film. With this submission, the applicant confirms that they possess all rights necessary for the screening of the submitted film at SXSW London.
- SXSW London accepts rough cuts or work-in-progress submissions. If submitting a WIP, please detail what elements of your submission are incomplete and when the project is expected to be completed. The SXSW London Programming Team will only be able to watch one version of your project.
- Feature films will require an application fee depending on the deadline: Early Bird (£15), Regular (£20) and Late (£25).
- Films that do not fall within our criteria will NOT be watched.



ELIGIBILITY: SHORT FILMS

- Projects must have been completed after December 2024 or be on track for completion by March 2026.
- Up to 30 minutes long including credits (30 minutes must be the maximum length of the short).
- Music videos are welcome but must be submitted in their own category. See below.
- Projects should not be available online for streaming (either free or via an on-demand service) in the UK prior to SXSW London 2026.
- To submit to the festival there is no premiere status requirement.
- The primary contact completing the submission process must be authorised to submit the film for consideration. This includes permission from a distributor or sales agent representing the film and the applicant must have obtained necessary permissions for the inclusion of any copyrighted music and/or images used within the film. With this submission, the applicant confirms that they possess all rights necessary for the screening of the submitted film at SXSW London.
- SXSW London accepts rough cuts or work-in-progress submissions. If submitting a WIP, please detail what elements of your submission are incomplete and when the project is expected to be completed. The SXSW London Programming Team will only be able to watch one version of your project.
- Short films will require an application fee depending on the deadline: Early Bird (£10), Regular (£15) and Late (£20).
- We accept short films via FilmFreeway only. Only entries received through FilmFreeway will be considered. Speculative submissions sent via email will NOT be watched.
- Films that do not fall within our criteria will NOT be watched.

ELIGIBILITY: MUSIC VIDEOS

- Projects must have been completed in 2025 or be on track for completion by March 2026.
- Projects must be the official music video for the song by that artist. The artist and / or label must have approved its creation.
- There is no restriction on the length.
- There are no restrictions on the premiere status of the music video. It may have premiered online prior to the festival.
- Music videos will require an application fee depending on the deadline: Early Bird (6), Regular (£10) and Late (£15).
- We accept short films via FilmFreeway only. Only entries received through FilmFreeway will be considered. Speculative submissions sent via email will NOT be watched.
- Films that do not fall within our criteria will NOT be watched.

PREMIER STATUS

- Within your application, please select your project's premiere status in accordance with the eligibility section. A guide to the premiere definitions can be found below:

WORLD PREMIERE

- Your project has not screened theatrically at a film festival or ticketed public theatrical exhibition in any country prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been broadcast on television or streamed (either free or via an on demand service) in any country prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been released via any home video or public distribution system (Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc) in any country prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.



INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

- Your project has not screened theatrically at a film festival or ticketed public theatrical exhibition outside its country or countries of origin prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been broadcast on television or streamed (either free or via an on demand service) outside its country or countries of origin prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been released via any home video or public distribution system (Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc.) outside its country or countries of origin prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.

UK PREMIERE

- Your project has not screened theatrically at a film festival or ticketed public theatrical exhibition in the UK or Republic of Ireland prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been broadcast on television or streamed (either free or via an on demand service) in the UK or Republic of Ireland prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been released via any home video or public distribution system (Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc.) in the UK or Republic of Ireland prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.

LONDON PREMIERE

- Your project has not screened theatrically at a film festival or ticketed public theatrical exhibition in London prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been broadcast on television or streamed (either free or via an on demand service) in London prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has not been released via any home video or public distribution system (Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc.) in London prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.

NOT A PREMIERE

- Your project has screened theatrically in a film festival and/or a public theatrical exhibition prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has been broadcast on television or streamed prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.
- Your project has been released via home video or public distribution prior to SXSW LONDON 2026.

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

- If selected, there are no fees for participating in the festival. Filmmakers are not entitled to claim rental or other fees for the screenings of their films at the festival.
- Films screened at SXSW LONDON may also be included in other public programmes, subject to the submitter's permission.

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

- If selected, submitting a film gives us permission to use publicity stills provided and up to 1 minute of footage for use in all SXSW London marketing and publicity materials.

TECH REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED FILMS

- Projects must supply their content to our content management team as either: A DCP (Digital Cinema Package) or JPEG 2000 file. Unless otherwise arranged all projects will be screened digitally.
- Information on supplying content and deadlines will be provided upon selection of the project.
- SXSW London believes in the accessibility of cinema for all audiences and prefers your content to be supplied with the addition of a Closed Caption SRT file.

SXSW LONDON

- All content will be tested by our Technical Manager and/or a member of the cinema's projection team. We are unfortunately unable to provide all creators with a technical test of their content prior to their screening.

CONTACT

During the submission process all communication will be made with the applicant via FilmFreeway or email.

Successful projects will be informed via FilmFreeway by the SXSW London programming team.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions at: screen@sxswlondon.com



FAQs

- **Can I talk about Film&TV at SXSW London?**
 - As part of the SXSW London Conference we're hosting talks on Film&TV. It's one of our 15 Conference Tracks. To find out how to speak, head to the Apply to Talk section on our website for details.
- **Can I submit more than one film?**
 - You can enter as many films as you like, each entry requires a separate submission form, fee and separate upload.
- **Are you only looking for new films?**
 - Yes, please see the cut off dates for feature films, short films and music videos respectively above.
- **My film is not in English, can I still submit?**
 - We welcome films from across the world. If the original language of any dialogue or text featured in the film is not English, the preview and screening copy must be subtitled in English, unless this is at variance with the filmmaker's intention.
- **My film isn't finished yet, can I still submit it?**
 - We accept rough cuts, or work-in-progress submissions. If submitting a WIP, please detail what elements of your submission are incomplete and when the project is expected to be completed. The SXSW London Programming Team will only be able to watch one version of your project.
- **My music video is already online, can I still submit it?**
 - Yes. There are no restrictions on the premiere status of the music video. It may have premiered online prior to the festival.
- **Who can submit music videos?**
 - Projects must be the official music video for the song by that artist. The artist and / or label must have approved its creation.
- **If my film is selected, will you let me know?**
 - All submitted films will be notified of selection in advance of the festival via email.
- **My film didn't get selected, can I ask for feedback?**
 - Unfortunately due to the volume of submissions we receive, we're unable to provide individual feedback on submissions.

- **Will I have to pay a fee to submit?**
 - Yes, you will. If you sign up as a Gold Member on Film Freeway you will receive a discount.
 - For Feature Film submission:
 - Early Bird Fee: £15
 - Regular Fee: £20
 - Late Fee: £25
 - For Short Film submission:
 - Early Bird Fee: £10
 - Regular Fee: £15
 - Late Fee: £20
 - For Music Video submission:
 - Early Bird Fee: £6
 - Regular Fee: £10
 - Late Fee: £15





We can't wait to see you at SXSW London 2026!

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