

iSHORTS FAQs

Eligibility

1. What is iShorts?

iShorts is Creative England's entry level short film initiative targeted at 'new' filmmakers.

2. How do I know if I am considered 'new' talent?

In this context 'new' means directors and writer/directors who have little or no professional experience. You may have some track record in self-funded films, in student films, or in other screen-based or related media but your work has yet to attract significant attention and/or support from within the industry.

3. I am under 18, can I apply?

No, you must be over 18 to apply to iShorts.

4. I am currently in further/higher education (university, film school etc.), can I apply?

No, you cannot apply if you are currently enrolled in formal further/higher education.

5. Who will you accept submissions from?

We will accept submission from:

- Individual writer/directors;
- Writer/director and producer teams;
- Writer and director teams;
- Writer, director and producer teams.

6. Can I apply as an individual or do I need to do it through a company?

You can apply as an individual, it is not necessary to apply as, or through, a company.

7. I am a writer with an idea for a short film. Can I apply on my own?

No, you must first have identified a director to collaborate with before applying to iShorts. To help filmmakers connect with one another and build their team of collaborators we have set up a Facebook group called 'iShorts Connect'. This group is open to all filmmakers who are interested in applying to the iShorts scheme and who need to find and connect with other potential team members. If you have a script and are looking for a director and/or producer to work with this might be a good place to start. You can sign up to this group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1633447743571520/?fref=ts>

8. I am a director working alongside a writer but I have not yet partnered with a producer. Can I apply?

You do not need a producer attached at this stage, though we would strongly encourage applications from teams with a nominated producer. Indeed if you progress to interview we will ask you to set out how you plan to go about finding and attaching a suitable producer. Production awards will be dependent on the attachment of a producer, following discussions with the Talent Centres' team. If you are actively looking for a producer you might want to join the 'iShorts Connect' Facebook group (see question 7 above) where you can identify and get in touch with potential collaborators.

9. I am a director working with an emerging/established writer can I apply?

Directors who can be classified as 'new' (see question 2) can apply to iShorts with an emerging or established writer.

10. I am a 'new' director but I am collaborating with partners who are more experienced than me. Can I apply?

Yes, we are very open to submission from individuals with differing levels of experience as long as the relevant director or writer/director is 'new'.

11. We are a co-directing team, can we apply?

Yes, we accept applications from co-directing teams; however both directors would need to qualify as new in order to be eligible.

12. I am a director or writer/director based in England. Can I apply?

Yes, you can apply if you are based outside Greater London. If you are a director based outside Greater London, working with a writer and/or producer based in Greater London, you are also eligible. However, if you are a director or writer/director based in Greater London, you should apply to Film London's short film initiatives (to find out more about what's on offer, please visit their website www.filmlondon.org.uk).

13. I am a Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish director or writer/director based in England. Can I apply?

Yes you can apply to iShorts, as long as your 'main residence' is in the English regions and you are paying council tax to the relevant local authority (we will ask you for evidence of this if you are invited to interview).

14. I am an English director or writer/director living abroad. Can I apply?

No, you must be based in England (outside Greater London) to apply.

15. I am a Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish/London-based producer. Can I apply?

Yes, producers based anywhere within the UK can apply with projects to iShorts provided the director/writer-director they are working with is resident in the English regions outside of Greater London. Producers can also be attached to up to two separate iShorts applications.

16. Will Creative England consider co-funding with the other national agencies?

No, we are currently unable to consider co-funding with the other national Film Agencies for this initiative.

17. I have an idea for a documentary short. Can I apply?

Yes, we will consider documentary shorts but only those with a particularly compelling narrative. It is worth bearing in mind that our main focus is live action shorts and therefore the number of awards granted to documentary shorts will be limited.

18. I have an idea for an animated short. Can I apply?

Regretfully, we are unable to accept submissions for fully animated projects at this moment in time. However this may change in the future, so please visit our website and sign up for the newsletter for the latest information (<http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/sign-up-for-film-news>). If you have a mixed media project, then we would ask you to demonstrate your capability to deliver the idea within the stated budget and timeframe.

19. Do I need to be represented by an agent to apply?

No, agent representation is not a requirement.

20. I applied to iShorts last year can I apply with the same project?

Unfortunately, you cannot apply to iShorts with the same project idea if it has been declined from iShorts previously, however previously declined and shortlisted applicants are welcome to apply with a new project idea.

Submissions

1. How do I know which Talent Centre to apply to?

You do not have to choose a Talent Centre. You apply directly to Creative England through our website regardless of where you are based in England (as long as it is outside Greater London).

2. What sort of short film project can I apply with?

We are very flexible and have no real restrictions on what you can apply with other than it should aim to be between 5 and 10 minutes in length, of any genre, and have something fresh and exciting to say to an audience. We have also given you the option to submit a maximum of two ideas (please remember to indicate clearly in your application which idea is your preferred project).

3. I have an idea for a short but have not yet written the script. Can I apply?

Yes, we do not require a finished script at initial application stage, however if you are invited to interview we will ask for a **full draft script ahead of the interview date**. We will aim to give applicants at least one weeks' notice before the script delivery date, but would encourage applicants to begin work on their scripts sooner rather than later. We will work closely with all successful applicants to deliver a final shooting script which meet the Talent Centres' requirements to achieve Creative England's final approval.

4. How many applications can I submit?

Eligible writers, directors and writer/directors can submit or be attached to one application. As stated above, we have given you the option to submit a maximum of two ideas per application. Producers can be attached to up to two applications.

5. We do not have the rights to the project we wish to apply with. Can we still submit?

If you do not own the rights to the project, you must either apply with the person who does own the rights or be in the process of securing the rights to any project submitted to iShorts.

6. I'm interested in submitting a video file instead of a written document for my personal statement. How should I go about this?

This year applicants can choose to submit a filmed personal statement in place of a written document. Please ensure that your filmed statement covers all the key bullet points outlined in the guidelines and does not exceed a 3 minute running time. Please upload your video to a platform such as Vimeo or YouTube and password protect it. Be sure to provide the link and password in the 'Supporting Statement' text box on the application form. Please ensure the link works before submitting your application; we will not chase applicants for correct links if the submitted link does not work or the password is incorrect. Applicants must choose between submitting either a written document or a video file and should not submit both. In instances where both are submitted we will only read the written document.

Miscellaneous

- 1. What is the maximum contribution granted by Creative England for each iShort?**
The maximum amount iShorts can award your project is £5,000.
- 2. My budget is higher than £5,000. Can I apply?**
Yes, but you should be able to realise your project within the resources available to you, which includes both our £5,000 contribution to your budget and any other support that you can bring to the table (whether cash or in kind). There is a crowdfunding element to the iShorts scheme and we encourage entrepreneurial funding strategies.
- 3. I am interested in crowdfunding in order to raise additional production funds for my film is this allowed under the scheme?**
Absolutely, crowdfunding is an integral and mandatory element of the iShorts scheme and this year we will be partnering again with a crowdfunding platform to provide training, guidance and support to ensure teams fulfil their crowdfunding goals. Teams are able to determine a realistic and achievable funding target which matches the ambition and requirements of their project. Details of last year's iShorts campaigns can be viewed here: <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/campaign/creative-england-ishorts/>
- 4. Is there a deadline for the iShorts initiative?**
Yes, the application deadline is 5pm on Monday 5 October 2015.
- 5. Do I need to have attached cast or crew members to my project?**
No, we do not expect you to have secured cast or crew members when you apply. However if you have already secured some of your team members, please indicate who they are in the space provided in the application form.
- 6. Who will read my application?**
All applications will be read and assessed by the Talent Centres' Teams. Depending on the volume of submissions, we may need to use experienced external assessors.
- 7. What criteria will Creative England use to assess my application?**
The specific criteria we will use are set out in the iShorts guidelines. We are looking to back talent with a promising body of work and a clear idea of what sort of filmmaker they aspire to be, who have something fresh and exciting to say to an audience, and who we feel confident will be able to deliver their vision on schedule and on budget.

8. When will I know if my application has been successful?

Please refer to our iShorts Guidelines to find out more details about our decision process and timeline.

9. Is the iShort Award subject to conditions?

Yes, please refer to the Appendix 1 of these guidelines for details of our standard terms and conditions for awards under this strand. Please note that successful awardees will be required to attend 2 days of workshops and networking as part of their iShorts award.

10. If I receive an iShort Award, when does my project need to be completed by?

All selected films will need to be completed and delivered before the end of September 2016.

11. I have a project but am unable to submit before Monday 5 October 2015, will I get another chance?

Yes, there will be further opportunities to submit to iShorts in the future. Please sign up to our Newsletter for the latest information: <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film/sign-up-for-film-news>

12. I would like to grow my creative team and identify potential collaborators to help with my application and work on my project. Can Creative England help facilitate this?

Yes. Although we do not have the time or resources to put you in touch with potential collaborators individually we have set up a Facebook group which is designed to help filmmakers connect with other like-minded individuals who might be interested in collaborating on an iShorts project. You can join the group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1633447743571520/?fref=ts>

13. Who should I contact at Creative England about my application?

In the first instance, please download and read our full iShorts guidelines along with these FAQs. However if you still need clarity and have a further question that is not answered in these documents please email talent.centres@creativeengland.co.uk with 'iShorts query' as your subject header. Thank you.