



shortFLIX

In Partnership with



In Association with



2019 GUIDELINES

SHORTFLIX is a UK-wide short film initiative for 18-25s, led by Creative England in partnership with Sky Arts, and supported by the ScreenSkills Film Skills Fund with contributions from UK film productions. The programme is developed with award-winning writer-director Carolina Giammetta, as Lead Tutor and Creative Director.

Please read these guidelines carefully before starting your application. Applications will be accepted up to **12 noon on Friday 31st May 2019**.

Find out more about shortFLIX at: creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv/shortflix

If you have questions that are not answered here, would like further support or have specific access requirements, you can get in touch at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

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What is SHORTFLIX?

SHORTFLIX is aimed at aspiring new filmmakers aged 18-25 who are not currently in full-time education, employment or training. We seek out young people who are big on talent, creativity and ambition, but who may have had fewer opportunities to get started in filmmaking – including those who are currently underrepresented in the industry.

The initiative supports young people to take their story ideas from script to screen. Up to 20 successful applicants are guided to write a short film script, and to pitch their projects to commissioners. Up to 5 projects are then awarded funding and the finalists work with a budget of up to £10,000 each and a professional team to make their short films for showcase on Sky Arts.

SHORTFLIX provides training, mentorship, funding and industry exposure, with professional guidance provided at every stage. No previous experience in or study of film production is required and participation is free, with financial support available for travel, accommodation and access needs.

The pilot edition of SHORTFLIX ran in 2017-18. The 5 resulting films are available to watch via Sky Arts' on-demand platform and have toured festivals in the UK and internationally. Since participating in the programme, several further short film projects from our wider cohort have also been completed or are in production. We continue to champion all of our alumni as they advance their careers in the industry.

Find out more about SHORTFLIX at: creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv/shortflix

Who is it for?

We are looking for diverse young voices from across the UK and aim to support those who have not yet had the opportunity to break into the film & TV industry.

You are eligible to apply if:

- you are aged 18-25 at the time of application, live in the UK and are not currently in full-time education, employment or training;
- you have a passion for film and a desire to tell a story;
- you can commit to participate in the training and development programme, and to work with us to deliver a film;
- you have not yet gained professional-level experience or an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in film & TV production;
- you have not yet made a film funded by industry and/or a film that has achieved public or industry recognition;
- you have not yet participated in shortFLIX (unless you are applying with other team members who are new to the initiative).

You can either apply as an individual or as a team of up to 3 people. All team members must be eligible – see above.

Applications are open to young people resident in any part of the UK. We particularly encourage applications from those who are based in an English region (i.e. outside of London) or in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Working towards a film industry that better reflects the diversity of the UK population is important to us. We would especially like to hear from young people who are from underrepresented groups and/or who might otherwise experience obstacles to entering relevant employment, education or training.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Young women
- Individuals of minority ethnic, cultural and/or religious heritage
- LGBTQI+ identifying candidates
- Young people who consider themselves to have a disability, impairment, learning difference or long-term condition
- Those who identify as neurodiverse
- Young people from less advantaged socio-economic backgrounds
- Those who have caring responsibilities
- Young people who have faced difficult life circumstances, for whatever reason

Participation is free and financial support is available for a wide range of access needs – if you would like to discuss this contact shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

What kind of short film ideas are eligible?

We are looking for distinctive ideas that have the potential to engage an audience.

Your short film idea is eligible if it:

- tells us a story that is important to you;
- is fiction (any genre) and can be made into a film of no more than 8 mins;
- is achievable on a budget of up to £10k and set in the UK;
(As a guide, a budget of up to £10k will cover 2 days of shooting. To ensure that you can achieve your vision within budget, we suggest sticking to few locations, a small cast, simple sets & props, and no or limited special effects.)

The following are NOT eligible:

- films being made as part of a further or higher education course;
- promotional films;
- ideas based on already existing films, TV shows, books, music tracks, etc.;
- animations or documentaries (we will consider docu-fiction or hybrid films).

Please note that our training programme and development support is geared towards live action, narrative fiction films.

For further guidance, contact us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

How do I apply?

You will need to complete and submit an online application form via the Creative England website at creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv/shortflix.

If you require support or have specific access needs for completing an application, you can get in touch with us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

Applications will be accepted up to **12 noon on Friday 31st May 2019**.

As part of the application, you will be asked to submit:

- **Contact details and a short personal statement** telling us about yourself and why you'd like to make a film (for each team member, if relevant).
- **A video pitch (2-3 mins) or written pitch (up to 500 words)** for your short film idea, telling us:
 - What your film will be about & where it will be set.
 - Why you want to tell this story.
 - What your vision is for the film.
 - Who will be involved in the film.
- **Links to any previous creative work you have made.** This can be anything from a short film to a recorded performance, artwork, animation, short story, poem, stage/radio play or blog article. We are looking for interesting ideas and stories, not technical proficiency.

We are particularly interested in receiving video pitches that demonstrate your creative voice. You can film your pitch using any kind of camera (e.g. smartphone or webcam) and upload to a video-sharing site (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo). Don't worry about the video quality – it's the quality of the ideas and the passion behind them that we're looking for. If your video is set as private, please provide the password so that we can access it.

The pitch should put across the style, feel and atmosphere of the film you'd like to make and what makes your idea compelling, unique and original. If your vision fits a specific genre (story type - e.g. comedy, horror, thriller) then do mention this. We'd also like to know if there are any particular creative references and/or inspirations for the idea. Finally, be clear on whose story it is and what it's about, but try not to get bogged down in plot details - although be sure to include the ending!

How can I find out more?

Keep an eye on our Twitter page [@Films_CE](#) where we will be sharing application tips, useful resources, information and inspiration.

What happens once I've applied?

Once you have applied you will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive this within 10 working days, please contact shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

We will assess applications according to:

- Originality of idea and the inspiration behind it.
- Genuine passion and desire of applicant/team to want to tell this story.
- Commitment of the applicant/team involved to make and deliver a film.
- Strength of the applicant/team's previous creative work.
- Whether the idea can be realised within the specified budget.
- How beneficial our support would be for the applicant/team.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an informal interview on 17th or 18th July 2019, so we ask that you make sure you are available on one of these dates. Financial support will be available for travel costs and/or other access requirements to attend interview.

What happens if my idea is selected?

If you are one of the up to 20 young people selected, you will be invited to attend a 'mini film school', including a 3-day workshop focusing on storytelling, and a 2-day workshop focusing on production.

During several months, you will also receive guidance and feedback from industry professionals to turn your idea into a short film script.

Once your film script has been submitted, you will then have the chance to pitch to Sky Arts commissioners and Creative England executives.

What happens if I am awarded funding?

If yours is one of the (up to) 5 final short films awarded funding, you will receive further training as well as mentoring. You will work with a professional producer, crew and budget of up to £10,000 to make your film.

Prior to the start of production, all finalist filmmakers will attend a further 2-day workshop where they will shoot and edit footage in a studio environment. They will also receive mentoring from a relevant industry professional, and additional support including: script, budget and schedule reviews; help finding locations, crew and cast; creative and technical guidance.

Once the final short films are completed, they will be showcased on Sky Arts and also screened for film industry professionals.

Key Dates

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

Application deadline	12 noon, 31 st May 2019
Interviews	17 th – 18 th July 2019
Applicants informed of selection result	By end of July 2019
Development workshop (3 days)	w/c 12 th August 2019
Production workshop (2 days)	w/c 30 th September 2019
Deadline for script submission	Late October 2019
Pitching	w/c 11 th November 2019
Funding awards confirmed	By end of November 2019
Shoot & Edit workshop (2 days)	w/c 16 th December 2019
Production of the films	Spring/Summer 2020
Post-production of the films	Summer 2020
Delivery & broadcast of completed films	Summer/Autumn 2020

Contact

For any queries not covered in these guidelines or if you require support in order to complete an application, please email us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk.

If you would prefer to speak to someone, you can phone Creative England on 0333 023 5240.

FAQs

I'm currently working, can I apply?

We do not accept applications from those in full-time employment. If you are working only part-time (fewer than 30 hrs per week), you are eligible – as long as you are not working professionally in film & TV production in roles above runner or trainee level.

I'm currently a student, can I apply?

We do not accept applications from those in full-time further or higher education. If you are studying a part-time course, you are eligible – as long as it's not an undergraduate or post-graduate degree specifically in film & TV production.

I have previously studied film, can I apply?

We do not accept applications from students or graduates of an undergraduate or post-graduate degree in film production (e.g. bachelor's, master's), as we assume that you will already have received high level training in this area. We will consider those

who have completed other types of film production courses (e.g. HND, BTEC or youth workshops, etc.).

I have previously received film industry funding for my work, can I apply?

Applicants must not have received film industry development or production funding from a national agency or broadcaster. We will consider other types of funding received on a case by case basis.

I have previously participated in the BFI Film Academy, can I apply?

We welcome applications from eligible BFI Film Academy alumni.

I'm currently 25 but am soon turning 26, can I apply?

As long as you are aged between 18-25 on the date when you apply, you are eligible. If you are older than 25 on that date you will not be eligible.

I'm currently 17 but will turn 18 soon, can I apply?

You must be aged between 18-25 on the date on the date when you apply. If you miss out this year, we would encourage you to apply to the next round.

How many people can be in a team?

We will accept applications from teams of up to 3 people. All team members must fulfil the eligibility criteria as specified in these guidelines.

Can I make more than one application?

Individuals can be lead applicant or team member for only one application each.

Do I need to have attached cast or crew members to my project?

We do not expect you to have secured cast or crew. However if there are some cast and crew you'd like to work with, please indicate on the application form (be realistic though - Will Smith and Jennifer Lawrence are likely to be busy - and expensive!)

How much does it cost to participate?

Participation is free. Financial support is available for travel and for additional access needs (contact us at shortflix@creativeengland.co.uk if you would like to discuss prior to application).

What is the maximum funding granted by Creative England for each short film?

The maximum we can award your short film is £10,000. Creative England will hold this money and manage how it is spent on your project to best achieve your vision.

I would like to raise additional production funds for my film. Is this allowed?

No. Due to the strict timeframe for delivery and the nature of the partnerships involved, it must be possible to complete your film on a budget of £10,000, without raising any additional funds.

Terms and Conditions

General

- Whilst the information and advice in these guidelines is believed to be accurate at the time of going to press, Creative England reserves the right to make changes at any time at its discretion. Neither Creative England nor any of its partners shall be responsible for any loss attributable to errors, omissions or other inaccuracies in the information contained in these guidelines.

Applications

- We will retain declined applications for a period of two years, after which time the application forms will be destroyed.
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives members of the public the right to request information held by Creative England. This includes information held in relation to applications to any of Creative England's publicly funded programmes including SHORTFLIX. If you choose to apply, you should be aware that the information you supply, either in whole or in part, may be disclosed under the Act.
- In exceptional circumstances, we may solicit applications directly. A solicitation does not guarantee funding and all solicited applications will be treated the same as any other application in respect of assessment and decision-making process.

Assessment & selection

- Creative England's decision in all matters concerning the assessment and selection of projects is final. Inevitably, applicants may be turned down and may be disappointed as a result.
- Applicants who wish to make an appeal against a funding decision can only do so if they have good cause to believe that the correct procedures, as published in these guidelines, have not been adhered to or applied in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of an application.

Funding

- If you are the recipient of a production award, you will be required to enter into an agreement with Creative England and Sky Arts. This will include the requirements for delivering the completed short film and also the terms and conditions related to the Sky Arts showcase and any further distribution and exhibition.

Broadcast

- Sky Arts will reserve the right to final decision on showcasing the short films via its website and via television broadcast. If Sky Arts decides for whatever reason not to showcase any of the completed short films, its decision will be final and non-negotiable.