

Doha Film Institute Grants Programme - FILM General Guidelines

1. Funding is available via the Doha Film Institute Grants Programme (the “**Programme**”) to international film projects that satisfy specific criteria.

Development, production and post-production funding is available for short and feature-length projects. For features, a first- or second-time director must be attached.

For the purposes of the Programme, a first- or second-time filmmaker is defined as one who is directing their first or second feature-length (65 min and over) narrative or documentary film.

Post-production funding for feature-length films is also available to **established directors** from Qatar and the MENA region.

Funding is subject to criteria based on the director’s nationality.

2. The Institute does not apply restrictions on form or genre.

3. **Short films** are defined as **5 to 30 minutes** in duration and feature films as 65 minutes or longer in duration.

4. A director may be attached to only one project per Programme session.

5. **Applications for production or post-production funding for feature-length projects must have a producer and production company attached.**

6. Projects that have received **development** funding in prior Programme sessions are eligible to apply for **post-production funding only**. Projects that have received **production** funding in prior sessions are not eligible to apply for post-production funding.

7. A project **will not be considered more than twice** at the **same stage** of production. **Resubmissions** for the same stage of funding must be accompanied by a **detailed report of all applicable changes**.

8. Funding for experimental and essay projects is available to Qatar and MENA applicants only.

9. There are two annual grants submission cycles. **Check online for exact dates**

10. A director who has **completed a film longer than 30 minutes cannot apply** for funding with a **short film**.

11. A director applying for funding for a feature film must have completed at least one short film.

12. If a **project is co-directed, both directors** must be **first- or second-time filmmakers** and must meet all other eligibility criteria.

13. Any **project** under consideration becomes **ineligible** if its **world premiere** takes place **prior to the deliberations** of the jury.

14. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Doha Film Institute reserves the right to modify these guidelines at any time without prior notice.

Eligibility per region

FUNDING FOR EXPERIMENTAL AND ESSAY PROJECTS IS AVAILABLE TO QATAR AND MENA APPLICANTS ONLY

		SHORTS			FEATURES		
		Development	Production	Post-Production	Development	Production	Post-Production
First & Second time directors	QATAR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	MENA		✓		✓	✓	✓
	NON MENA						✓
Established MENA (including Qatar)							✓

Funding Consideration Stages

Eligible projects are considered for funding in two stages:

Stage 1:

The artistic material and the director's previous work(s) are reviewed. DFI will notify applicants **within two months** of the submission deadline, informing them whether their project has been shortlisted or not.

Supporting documentation may be submitted in **Arabic, French and/or English** during Stage 1.

If English-language documents are translations, applicants are encouraged to submit the original-language versions as well. Whenever possible and applicable, previous works should be submitted with English subtitles.

Stage 2:

Further materials must be submitted to DFI **within one week** of notification of inclusion on the shortlist, and the Programme Jury will thereafter carefully evaluate shortlisted projects. Final decisions will be announced **within two months** of the commencement of this evaluation process.

Should your project be shortlisted, any **documents** originally submitted in **Arabic or French**, including scripts, treatments and/or rough cuts, **must then be provided in English and/or with English subtitles**.

Submission Requirements

FEATURE FILMS				
MANDATORY MATERIALS		STAGE OF PRODUCTION		
		DEVELOPMENT	PRODUCTION	POST-PRODUCTION
STAGE 1	I. CREATIVE DOSSIER (to be submitted in a single PDF file)			
	Logline (up to two sentences)	↓	↓	↓
	Synopsis (up to 200 words)	↓	↓	↓
	FICTION - Treatment (10 to 20 pages)	↓	if available	if available
	DOCUMENTARY - Treatment (minimum 7 pages)	↓	↓	↓
	Director's Statement (including visual treatment)	↓	↓	↓
	Director's biography (up to 100 words)	↓	↓	↓
	Producer's biography (up to 100 words)	if available	↓	↓
	Estimated total budget (in USD)	if available	↓	↓
	Link(s) to previous work - up to 2 maximum*	↓	↓	↓
	Minimum of 60 minutes	n/a	n/a	↓
	Continuously Edited Scenes or Rough Cut*	n/a	n/a	↓
	Writer's Notes on Current Draft**	↓	n/a	n/a
	Editing Notes on Submitted Cut**	n/a	n/a	↓
	Producer's Note	if available	↓	↓
	Scan of director's passport	↓	↓	↓
II. FICTION - SCRIPT (to be submitted in a separate PDF file)				
FICTION - Draft Script (minimum 70 pages)	- Mandatory for MENA - If available for GULF	n/a	n/a	
FICTION - Final Script	n/a	↓	↓	
STAGE 2	Financial Plan	Development only	↓	↓
	Detailed total budget (in USD)	Development only	↓	↓
	Production stills (3,000x2,000 pixels at 300 dpi)	if available	if available	↓
	Production Company Profile	if available	↓	↓
	Sales and Distribution Strategy	if available	if available	if available
SHORT FILMS				
MANDATORY MATERIALS		STAGE OF PRODUCTION		
		DEVELOPMENT	PRODUCTION	POST-PRODUCTION
STAGE 1	I. CREATIVE DOSSIER (to be submitted in a single PDF file)			
	Logline (up to two sentences)	↓	↓	↓
	Synopsis (up to 200 words)	↓	↓	↓
	FICTION - Treatment	↓	if available	if available
	DOCUMENTARY - Treatment	↓	↓	↓
	Director's Statement (including visual treatment)	↓	↓	↓
	Director's biography (up to 100 words)	↓	↓	↓
	Producer's biography (up to 100 words)	if available	if available	if available
	Producer's Note	if available	if available	if available
	Estimated total budget (in USD)	if available	↓	↓
	Link(s) to previous work*	if available	if available	if available
	Rough Cut*	n/a	n/a	↓
	Scan of director's passport	↓	↓	↓
	II. FICTION - SCRIPT (to be submitted in a separate PDF file)			
	FICTION - Draft Script	if available	n/a	n/a
	FICTION - Final Script	n/a	↓	↓
STAGE 2	Financial Plan	if available	↓	↓
	Detailed total budget (in USD)	Development only	↓	↓
	Production stills (3,000x2,000 pixels at 300 dpi)	if available	if available	↓
	Production Company Profile	if available	if available	if available

* Please be sure to also include all links on the online submission form.

** Please elaborate on the current status of your Draft/Cut, mentioning the challenges you are facing and the improvements you envision to bring your Draft/Cut to completion.

Any additional materials you wish to attach to your application should be submitted as a separate PDF file.

Grant Amounts per Category

(All amounts are listed in US dollars)

Short Films (up to 30 min)

Narrative

Development: up to \$5,000
Production: up to \$15,000
Post-Production: up to \$10,000

Documentary

Development: up to \$5,000
Production: up to \$12,500
Post-Production: up to \$7,500

Experimental and Essay Films

Development: up to \$5,000
Production/Post-Production: up to \$10,000

Feature Films (65 minutes or longer)

Narrative

Development: up to \$20,000
Production: up to \$100,000
Post-Production: up to \$75,000

Documentary

Development: up to \$15,000
Production: up to \$75,000
Post-Production: up to \$50,000

Experimental and Essay Films

Development: up to \$10,000
Production/Post-Production: up to \$30,000