

Leiden Shorts Entry Regulations

About

Leiden Shorts was established in 2009 as a new platform for short films and has since grown into one of the most significant short film events in the Netherlands. We envision Leiden Shorts as an alternative creative space for national and international filmmakers to showcase their distinct voices by exploring the power of the short film as a medium. We view cinema as a tool for social change and aim to spotlight underrepresented voices, providing space for daring narratives and unconventional forms to take shape.

Each year, Leiden Shorts receives over 1,200 submissions from more than 70 countries. Over the course of four days, the festival presents more than 100 short films in a variety of genres from around the world. Our core programme includes three competitions—for national, international, and debut films—along with thematic and focus programmes, industry and networking events, and opportunities for in-depth discussion through panels, Q&As, and workshops. This year, the festival will also host the European Short Pitch Coproduction forum. Leiden Shorts is a vibrant and ever-evolving film festival that fosters talent, broadens perspectives, and creates new opportunities for connection.

Leiden Shorts consists of three competitions and corresponding awards, which are decided by a professional jury:

- International Competition, “Best International Film Award”
- National Competition, “Best National Film Award”
- Brand New Eyes Competition, “Brand New Eyes Award”

Additionally, an “Audience Award” can be awarded to any film in the programme and is voted by the public audience.

Each award includes a cash prize.

Rules & Terms

ELIGIBILITY

Films are eligible for submission provided that they fulfil the following conditions:

ELIGIBLE

- Completed after January 1, 2024
- Maximum duration of 30 minutes
- Any genre is accepted (fiction, animation, documentary, hybrid, experimental, etc.)
- Works in Progress are accepted, provided that they are completed and sent to the festival before March 2025.

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Films that are freely available to the public online.
- Films previously submitted and were rejected.

SUBMISSION

You can submit your film via one of the following platforms:

- <https://leidenshorts.filmchief.com>
- <https://www.filmfreeway.com/LeidenShorts>

The complete entry form must be filled out.

Please provide us with complete credits and promotional materials (stills, trailer, press kits) via submission.

COMPETITIONS & PRIZES

The submitted films will be considered by Leiden Shorts Selection Team who will select the films for the following competitions:

- International Competition, “Best International Film Award”: all films that fulfill the above conditions (“Eligibility”) and are not Dutch productions are eligible.
- National Competition, “Best National Film Award”: only Dutch productions are eligible for this competition.
- Brand New Eyes Competition, “Brand New Eyes Award”: only student works and debut films made outside of an educational institution can be selected for this competition.

The winning films are selected by a professional jury.

All selected films are automatically also eligible for the “Audience Award” in addition to any other competition for which they might be selected. The “Audience Award” is voted for by the audience.

All awards include a financial award given to the filmmaker(s).

DEADLINES & FEES

International Competition & National Competition

- Early Bird Deadline: October 29, 2024 - €11,50 submission fee (€10,00 via Leiden Shorts website)
- Regular Deadline: December 10, 2024 - €14,50 submission fee (€13,00 via Leiden Shorts website)
- Last Chance Deadline: January 10, 2025 - €20,50 submission fee (€18,00 via Leiden Shorts website)

Brand New Eyes Competition

We offer discounted submission fees for the Brand New Eyes Competition:

- Early Bird Deadline: October 29, 2024 - €8,50 submission fee (€6,50 via Leiden Shorts website)
- Regular Deadline: December 10, 2024 - €10,50 submission fee (€8,50 via Leiden Shorts website)
- Last Chance Deadline: January 10, 2025 - €16,50 submission fee (€14,50 via Leiden Shorts website)

SCREENING FILES & PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Requirements:

- DCP or Digital file (ProRes or H264) with embedded English subtitles or with subtitles in a separate .srt file. The festival will make the DCP of the films on location in case of submitting a ProRes.
- All films need to be available for an English-speaking audience (either spoken language or subtitles need to be in English). Films with strong dialects may require English subtitles, even though the film is English-spoken.
- 3 High-Resolution Film Stills
- Film Poster (digitally)
- Trailer
- Synopsis & Credits

The data and pictures provided through the submission will be used for diverse publications (programme, trailers, website, and social media). By submitting your data you agree to their usage by Leiden Shorts for promotional purposes only. In case no promotional material is provided, we can use excerpts from the film for promotional purposes.

The selected films will be stored in the archive of the festival but will not be screened again unless agreed upon with the rightsholder of the film.

SCREENING DELIVERY

The films' screening copies must be sent to the festival no later than April 30, 2024.

PLEDGE OF SOLIDARITY

Leiden Short will consider granting waivers or discounts to filmmakers who cannot afford the submission fee due to lack of funding opportunities. In such cases, please email us at submissions@leidenshorts.nl, and explain your situation in detail.

AGREEMENT TERMS & CONDITIONS

By submitting a film to Leiden Shorts the submitter accepts the terms and conditions. Leiden Shorts has the right to cancel the submission if the film does not conform to the rules. Once the film is submitted, there will be no refund of the submission fee.

A selected film cannot be withdrawn from the programme after accepting the selection invitation.

By submitting a film, the submitter guarantees they have cleared all intellectual property rights needed for screening during Leiden Shorts and shall indemnify the festival against all third-party liabilities.

Leiden Shorts is entitled to consider films for another competition than the one originally submitted to.

The festival has the right to invite films to be submitted or considered.

The management of the festival can decide on exceptions to the regulations.

For any questions regarding submissions, please email: submissions@leidenshorts.nl.