

Doha Film Institute Grants Programme - FILM General Guidelines

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

Development, production and post-production funding is available for short and feature-length projects. Funding is subject to the director’s nationality. Please refer to our **Eligibility Per Region** table for details (next page).

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 minutes and over) narrative or documentary film.

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

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

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

4. A director may submit only one project per Grants 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 Grants sessions are only eligible to apply for post-production funding consideration**. Projects that have received **production funding in prior sessions are not eligible to apply for post-production funding**.

7. **Resubmissions must include a detailed report of all relevant changes, since their last submission.**

A project is considered for funding no more than twice per same stage of production.

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

9. There are two annual Grants submission cycles, always in January and July. **Check our website for the exact dates.**

10. A director who has **completed a film of 30+ minutes is not eligible to apply for funding for a short film.**

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

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

13. If a **project** under consideration has its **world premiere prior to the Jury deliberations (Stage 2), it is no longer eligible.**

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

		SHORTS			FEATURES		
		Development	Production	Post-Production	Development	Production	Post-Production
First & Second time directors	QATAR	√	√	√	√	√	√
	MENA		√		√	√	√
	NON MENA						√
Established MENA (including Qatar)							√
FUNDING FOR EXPERIMENTAL AND ESSAY PROJECTS IS AVAILABLE TO QATAR AND MENA APPLICANTS ONLY							

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 the English versions are translations, applicants are encouraged to submit their materials in their original language too. Whenever possible and applicable, previous works should be submitted with English subtitles.

Stage 2: If your project is shortlisted, further materials must be submitted to DFI within one week of notification. The Programme Jury will thereafter evaluate shortlisted projects and the final selection will be announced within two months of the Stage 2 submission deadline.

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 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	✓	✓
	Director and Producer's photos	✓	✓	✓
	Production stills (3,000x2,000 pixels at 300 dpi)	if available	if available	✓
	Shortened Director's Statement (up to 200 words)	✓	✓	✓
	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	✓	✓
	Director and Producer's photos	✓	✓	✓
	Production stills (3,000x2,000 pixels at 300 dpi)	if available	if available	✓
	Shortened Director's Statement (up to 200 words)	✓	✓	✓
	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 submitted cut – i.e. faced challenges, planned improvements, etc.

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