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FAQ: DD Short Film Competition

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to enter?

Eligibility is open to individuals aged 18 or older who have the legal right to work or study in the UK. All levels of filmmaking experience are encouraged to apply.

Are there restrictions on team composition / collaboration?

All participants must be 18 or older and have the legal right to work or study in the UK. The competition is open to all experience levels, from newcomers to established professionals.

Do I have to be in the UK to apply?

No, you do not need to currently live in the UK to apply; however, you must have the legal right to work or study in the UK. The budget will not cover any transporting or relocation fees.

Please note that the film will be produced in the UK. While we welcome stories set anywhere in the world, all production will take place within the UK. If your story is set in another location, we will work during production to create sets or source UK locations that reflect the intended setting.

Are AI tools allowed at any stage?

No. AI-generated scripts, images, storyboards, or materials are not permitted. Your project must be fully human-created.

PRODUCERS, RIGHTS & OWNERSHIP

Can I apply if I already have a producer or talent signed onto the project?

We welcome submissions with producers and talent already attached to the project. However, on award, Double Dice Films will assume the role of Executive Producer and Lead Producer of the project as well as assuming 50% ownership of the IP from the first day of pre-production. Any Producer or Talent remaining attached will work under Double Dice.

What are the rights / ownership implications?

You retain ownership of the project you submit to the competition. In the event that your project is chosen as the winner, Double Dice Films will acquire 50% ownership of the intellectual property related to the original script, concept, or creative material, subject to the terms of the

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production agreement. This agreement will define the scope of support provided and specify all rights relating to materials and assets created during production. All terms will be finalised transparently prior to commencement of work.

Who owns the final film?

Double Dice Films will hold 50% ownership of the IP and retain final creative control. You will retain the remaining 50% and receive appropriate (writer/director/writer and director/producer) credits.

What rights must I secure before submitting?

You must own or control all rights to the script, the story (including life rights, if applicable), any source material, any music or artwork referenced. Double Dice may require proof before selecting your project.

FUNDING & BUDGET

Is the £30,000 a cash prize?

No. The winner receives up to £30,000 in production funding and in-kind support, which Double Dice Films administers directly towards approved production costs. This funding covers production-related expenses only and is not paid to the entrant as cash. No cash alternative is offered.

Can I submit a project that is already partially funded?

Yes, you are welcome to apply with a project that has secured partial funding. However, if selected, Double Dice Films will assume the role of Executive Producer and Lead Producer of the project as well as assuming 50% ownership of the IP from the first day of pre-production. Any Producer or Talent remaining attached will work under Double Dice.

Can I apply for additional funding after Double Dice chooses my script?

If your project is selected, Double Dice will manage all funding related to the production. Any additional funding requests would be assessed on a case-by-case basis and must align with Double Dice's production plan.

Are the funds for production only or will they cover post production?

The allocated funding will cover pre-production, production, and post-production costs. All approved expenses across the full filmmaking process will be managed directly by Double Dice Films.

What happens if my production goes over budget?

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Double Dice will manage the budget closely. If additional funds are required, they must be approved by Double Dice and cannot be guaranteed.

Does Double Dice cover travel, accommodation, or per diems?

These expenses may be covered if essential to the production and approved within the allocated funding, but they are not guaranteed.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Can I submit a project that's already been produced or previously screened?

You will not be considered if your film has been previously screened or exhibited online. You may submit a project as long as it has not been professionally produced. Proof-of-concept videos are allowed, provided the project has not been developed into a full, completed production. We are looking for original ideas that have not yet been professionally made.

Are student films or no-budget films considered “professionally produced”?

No. Student, micro-budget or self-produced films are not considered professional productions and are allowed as proofs of concept.

What types of projects are eligible?

We accept live-action, animation, documentary, music videos, musical, dance films, experimental films. Your project must be an original short film idea designed for production within the budget and timeframe of the competition.

What is the maximum runtime or script length?

Scripts should be no more than 20 pages, properly formatted.

Does my script need to be fully finished before applying?

Yes. You must submit a complete script. However, revisions may occur during development if your project is selected.

Can I submit a film in a language other than English?

Yes, but the script must be submitted in English.

Can I adapt an existing work or does it need to be original?

Adaptations are allowed only if you fully own or can prove rights to the source material. Otherwise, the project must be entirely original.

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Do I have to have a director signed onto the project if I apply as a writer only?

No. You do not need a director attached to apply. If your project is selected, Double Dice will support you in finding the right director to bring the story to life.

Can I bring my own crew?

You may suggest collaborators, but all crew must be approved by Double Dice. Some roles may be filled by our in-house team or trusted partners.

Can the film be shot outside the UK?

No. All production will take place within the UK, though stories may be set anywhere.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Is there a fee to enter?

There is no fee to enter. To ensure the competition remains inclusive and accessible, applications are free for all filmmakers.

Can I submit updated materials after applying?

Unfortunately, no. Once submitted, entries cannot be modified, so please ensure all materials are final before submitting.

Can I submit as part of a team?

Yes, but one person must be designated as the primary applicant, and all team members must be 18+ and legally allowed to work or study in the UK.

Can I withdraw my submission?

Yes, you may withdraw your submission at any time by contacting ddshortfilm@doubledicefilms.com. However, once withdrawn you are not allowed to apply again.

What file formats do you accept?

Scripts, outlines, and director's treatments must be submitted as PDF files only. No other formats will be accepted.

Can I apply with multiple projects?

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No. Each applicant is limited to one project submission. Please note that if selected, we will request identification to verify your identity and ensure applicants are not submitting multiple entries under different names.

What happens if my script exceeds the 20-page limit?

Scripts longer than 20 pages will not be considered, so please edit your script before submitting.

What happens if my uploaded file doesn't open?

If your file cannot be opened or is corrupted, the submission will be ineligible. Please double-check your materials. If the problem persists please email us on ddshortfilm@doubledicefilms.com.

Can I apply if I don't have previous filmmaking experience?

Yes. The competition is open to all experience levels, including complete beginners. We are looking for strong stories, not CVs.

JUDGING & SELECTION

How will the submissions be judged?

Submissions will be reviewed by the Double Dice team of industry experts. Every eligible entry will be read and considered fairly, provided that the project is not AI-generated. Judging will focus on originality, storytelling strength, and creative potential.

How many winners will be selected?

One winning project will be chosen for full production support.

How will finalists be contacted?

Finalists will be contacted directly via the email provided in the application.

If not selected, will I receive information that my application was not selected?

We value every submission and the time taken to apply. However, due to the number of applications we receive, we're unable to notify entrants who are not selected. Please rest assured that each project is carefully considered during the judging process.

Will I receive feedback on my submission?

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We're unable to offer individual feedback because of the volume of applications, but we want you to know that each submission is reviewed thoughtfully and with genuine respect for the effort put into it.

What are the selection criteria?

Projects will be evaluated based on, originality, storytelling quality, emotional/visual impact, feasibility within the budget, artistic potential and alignment with Double Dice's standards.

PRODUCTION PROCESS

When will the film go into production?

Production dates will be arranged with the winning applicant during the development phase, taking into consideration availability, logistics, and overall feasibility.

FESTIVALS & DISTRIBUTION

Will Double Dice assist with festival submissions?

Yes. Double Dice Films will support a strategic festival submission plan. Festival submission fees will be covered as part of the £30,000 production budget.

Will the film be promoted by Double Dice Studios?

Yes. We will help promote the film across our social channels, website, and press outreach.