
مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

Presents

Doha Film Institute Grants Programme - General Guidelines

FEATURE FILMS



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Note: Guidelines are subject to change without prior notice.
Make sure to read the rules and regulations before applying or re-applying.

Cover still: 'A Son' by Mehdi Barsaoui (Spring 2019 Grantee)

'The Last Queen' by Damien Ounouri, Adila Bendimerad (Spring 2018 Grantee)

INTRODUCTION

The goals of the Doha Film Institute Grants Programme are to identify new talent, seek out new cinematic voices and discover universally resonant stories.

The Institute's approach is to champion projects that aim to explore, expand and cultivate authentic storytelling, with a keen interest in propelling forward the medium of cinema.

The Programme provides creative and financial assistance for feature-length films, subject to eligibility criteria, by Qatari and international first and second-time directors, as well as established MENA directors.

Eligibility Criteria

Funding is available for feature film projects that meet the following criteria:

- The film must be 65+ minutes.
- A Project's eligibility is determined by the director's eligibility
- No restrictions on form or genre.
- Projects that premiere before the selection process is finalized are not eligible.
- Feature films applying for a development or production grants with a budget over USD 2.2 Million are not eligible.
- For feature narratives in the development and production stages, a producer other than the director must be attached. For post-production, a producer other than the director is recommended.
- For documentaries across all production stages, a producer other than the director is recommended.

Director's eligibility

- Directors attached to a feature film application should have directed at least one short film (fiction or documentary).
- The director attached must be a first or second-time filmmaker (applies to co-direction).
- Established (2+ features) MENA directors can only apply for post-production funding.
- A director can only be attached to one application per cycle as director (otherwise, all submissions from the director will be excluded).

Resubmissions

- A project can apply a maximum of two times per stage of production (providing it is eligible).
- Projects granted at the development stage can only re-apply for post-production consideration.
- Projects granted for production are not eligible for post-production consideration.
- When re-applying, a detailed description of the changes (resubmission note) needs to be submitted via the form and included in the dossier.

Incomplete applications will be automatically excluded without prior notification.

For any questions, you may contact the grants team at grants@dohafilminstitute.com

'Banel & Adama' by Ramata-Toulaye Sy (Spring 2023 Grantee)

GRANT TYPES

Director's nationality determines grant eligibility as follows:

		FEATURES		
		DEVELOPMENT	PRODUCTION	POST-PRODUCTION
1st & 2nd time directors	Qatar	✓	✓	✓
	MENA	✓	✓	✓
	Non-MENA			✓
Established MENA *				✓

see list of MENA and non-MENA countries here:
[Countries List - Blog | Doha Film Institute](#)

How to apply

To apply for a grant, you must submit your project by filling in an online form and attaching your artistic dossier* to it. The form opens every January and July on announced dates.

Incomplete applications will be automatically excluded without prior notification.

To help you prepare your application, below is a list of the information needed to complete the form:

- Title - Logline, Synopsis - Genre - Production Countries - Production Details (Shooting Location, Language, Runtime) - Team's Contact Details - Budget - Financial Plan - Production Schedule - Previous Work Link(s)- Rough Cut Link (post-production submissions)- In Attachments*: script, dossier

***Dossier (via attachment section on form)**

For the first stage of selection, the dossier can be submitted in English, Arabic, or French. If the project is pre-selected, all documents will need to be translated in English.

FEATURE FILMS			
MANDATORY MATERIALS	STAGE OF PRODUCTION		
	DEVELOPMENT	PRODUCTION	POST-PRODUCTION
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)	✓	✓	✓
FICTION - Producer's biography (up to 100 words)	✓	✓	IF AVAILABLE
DOCUMENTARY - Producer's biography (up to 100 words)	IF AVAILABLE	IF AVAILABLE	IF AVAILABLE
Estimated total budget (in USD)	IF AVAILABLE	✓	✓
Link(s) to previous work - up to 2 maximum*	✓	✓	IF AVAILABLE
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	✓
FICTION - Producer's Note	✓	✓	IF AVAILABLE
DOCUMENTARY - Producer's Note	IF AVAILABLE	IF AVAILABLE	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 QATAR	N/A	N/A
FICTION - Final Script	N/A	✓	✓

*Please be sure to also include all links on the online submission form. | **Please elaborate on the current status of your submitted cut or current draft - i.e. faced challenges, planned improvements, etc.

Selection Process

The selection is made in two stages:

Stage 1:

- A project is considered for stage 1 if it has successfully applied and meets all eligibility criteria.
- Within 10 weeks, all applicants receive a status notification via email.
- If the project is shortlisted, it proceeds to stage 2.

Stage 2:

- The following documents are required for pre-selected feature films (stage 2):

		FEATURE FILMS		
		DEVELOPMENT	PRODUCTION	POST-PRODUCTION
STAGE 2	Financial Plan*	Development only	✓	✓
	Detailed total budget (in USD)	Development only	✓	✓

*Status of funding sources need to be specified

- When shortlisted, a project can update the creative material sent for stage 1.
- All documents submitted in Arabic and / or French (including subtitles on submitted rough cuts and previous work) need to be translated into English.
- Within two months, projects will be notified via email of their final selection status.

Feature Film Grant Amounts

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**

'Lonely Rock' by Alejandro Telemaco Tarraf (Fall 2019 Grantee)

