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مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

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DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

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# Doha Film Institute Grants Programme - General Guidelines

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## SHORT FILMS

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'I am afraid to forget your face' by Sameh Morsy (Spring 2019 Grantee)

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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:** 'Under Her Skin' by Meriem Mesraoua (Fall 2017 Grantee)

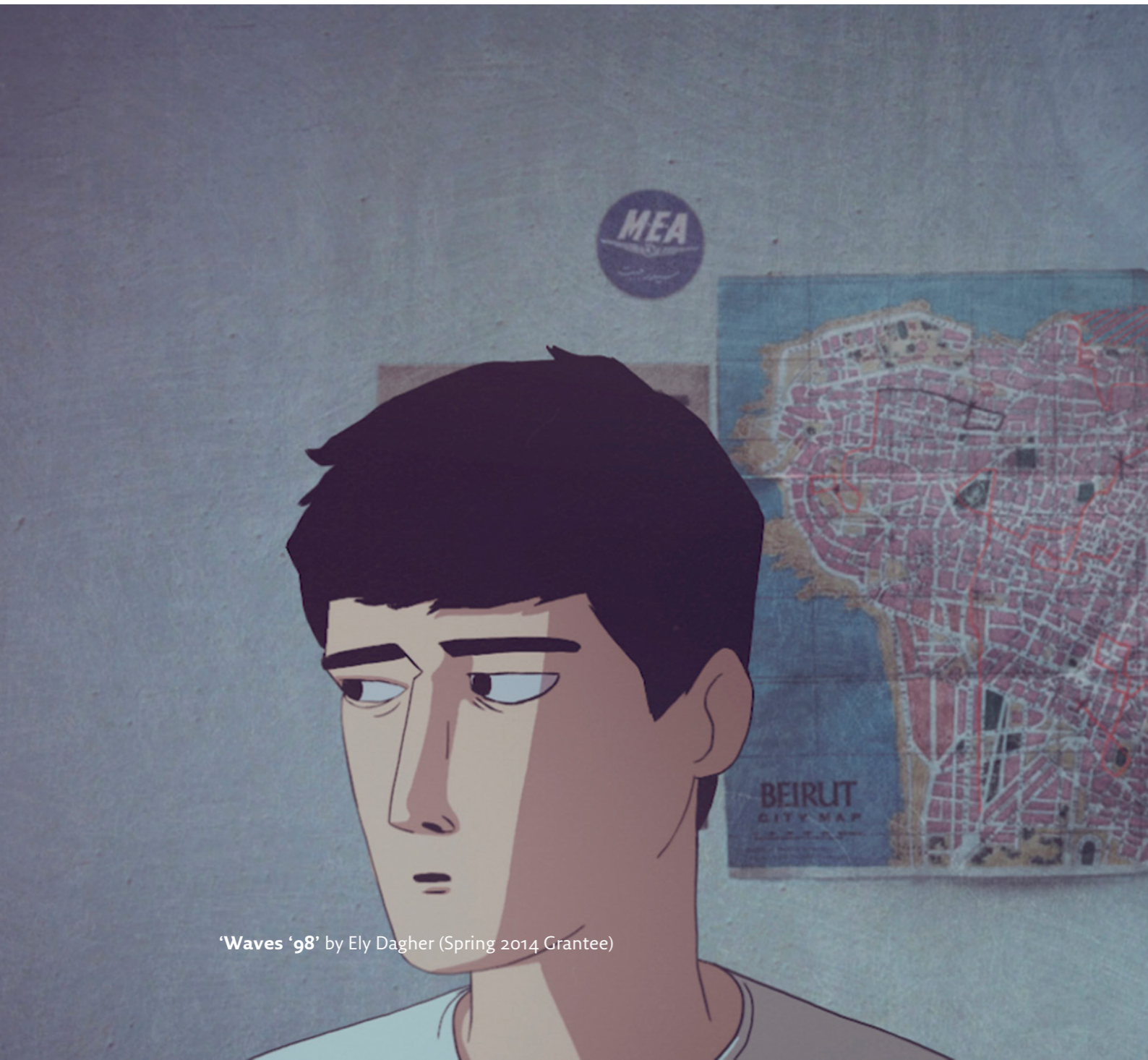


# INTRODUCTION

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 short films, subject to eligibility criteria, by Qatari and MENA directors.



'Waves '98' by Ely Dagher (Spring 2014 Grantee)

## Eligibility Criteria

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

- The film must be between 5 and 30 minutes.
- No restrictions on form or genre.
- Projects that premiere before the selection process is finalized are not eligible.
- A producer other than the director with a registered production company must be attached to the project.

### Director's eligibility

- Directors who have made works that are 30+ minutes are not eligible to apply.
- The director must be a national of, or have origins from, the MENA region, as per the MENA list of countries on our website (see list of countries here: [Countries List - Blog | Doha Film Institute](#)).
- A director can only be attached to one application per cycle as director (otherwise, all submissions from the director will be excluded).
- Eligibility requirements also apply to co-directors. If a co-director does not meet the eligibility criteria, the project will be automatically disqualified.

### Resubmissions

- A short film helmed by a MENA filmmaker cannot re-apply for funding.
- Qatari directors applying with a short film are exempt from restrictions on resubmissions and can re-apply for any stage of production.

**Incomplete applications will be automatically excluded without prior notification.**

For any questions, you may contact the grants team at [grants@dohafilminstitute.com](mailto:grants@dohafilminstitute.com)

# GRANT TYPES

Director's nationality determines grant eligibility as follows:

|   |       | SHORT FILMS |            |                 |
|---|-------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
|   |       | DEVELOPMENT | PRODUCTION | POST-PRODUCTION |
| Directors<br>(no previous work over 30 minutes) | Qatar | ✓           | ✓          | ✓               |
|   | 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) (if applicable) - 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.

| SHORT FILMS  |                     |                     |                     |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| MANDATORY MATERIALS  | STAGE OF PRODUCTION |                     |                     |
|  | DEVELOPMENT         | PRODUCTION          | POST-PRODUCTION     |
| <b>I. CREATIVE DOSSIER (to be submitted in a single PDF file)</b>    |                     |                     |                     |
| Logline (up to two sentences)  | ✓                   | ✓                   | ✓                   |
| Synopsis (up to 200 words)   | ✓                   | ✓                   | ✓                   |
| FICTION - Treatment  | ✓                   | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> |
| DOCUMENTARY - Treatment  | ✓                   | ✓                   | ✓                   |
| Director's Statement (including visual treatment)                    | ✓                   | ✓                   | ✓                   |
| Director's biography (up to 100 words)                               | ✓                   | ✓                   | ✓                   |
| Producer's biography (up to 100 words)                               | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> | ✓                   | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> |
| Producer's Note  | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> | ✓                   | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> |
| Estimated total budget (in USD)                                      | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> | ✓                   | ✓                   |
| Link(s) to previous work*  | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> |
| Rough Cut*   | <b>N/A</b>          | <b>N/A</b>          | ✓                   |
| Scan of director's passport  | ✓                   | ✓                   | ✓                   |
| <b>II. FICTION - SCRIPT (to be submitted in a separate PDF file)</b> |                     |                     |                     |
| FICTION - Draft Script   | <b>IF AVAILABLE</b> | <b>N/A</b>          | <b>N/A</b>          |
| FICTION - Final Script   | <b>N/A</b>          | ✓                   | ✓                   |

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



# 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 short films (stage 2):

|         |                                | SHORT FILMS             |            |                 |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|
|         |                                | DEVELOPMENT             | PRODUCTION | POST-PRODUCTION |
| STAGE 2 | Financial Plan*                | <b>Development only</b> | ✓          | ✓               |
|         | Detailed total budget (in USD) | <b>Development only</b> | ✓          | ✓               |

\*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

# Short Film Grant Amounts

**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**



'Al-Sit' by Suzannah Murghani (Fall 2018 Grantee)

