



Edinburgh International Film Festival 14-20 August 2025 Open Submissions FAQs

The answer to most of your questions can be found in our EIFF 2025 Rules and Regulations. Please read these carefully before submitting your film.

[I am having problems submitting on FilmFreeway.](#)

Please contact FilmFreeway on support@filmfreeway.com. If you are having trouble submitting close to the final deadline, please also flag to submissions@edfilmfest.org.

[What constitutes a UK Premiere?](#)

A UK Premiere is the minimum requirement for all EIFF submissions. Your film must not have been broadcast before a UK public audience or been made available for online viewing or downloading in the UK prior to the dates of EIFF.

This requirement applies even in cases where the film has been re-edited since its previous screening.

[Will my film be eligible for competition?](#)

In order for your film to be considered for our awards categories, EIFF will require a World Premiere. Eligible films are selected at the discretion of the Festival Director.

[Why do I have to pay a submission fee?](#)

To ensure a smooth and effective process, EIFF charges a submissions fee. Your fee contributes towards the administrative expenses of running open submissions; the appointment of a Submissions Coordinator and Assistants; and a fee for Submissions Viewers who view and assess submitted work. If you have a question about our fees, please contact us via submissions@edfilmfest.org.

[I submitted my film, but now realise I am not eligible, can I have my submission fee refunded?](#)

No, unfortunately we are unable to offer refunds for submission fees. We recommend thoroughly reading through the criteria before submitting and do get in touch with any questions beforehand to avoid this outcome.

[My film can be viewed online, is it still eligible to submit?](#)

No, any films that are or have screened online are ineligible for submission.

[My film has been broadcast on British television, is it still eligible to submit?](#)

No, any films that have screened on TV in Britain are ineligible for submission.

[What screening formats does EIFF accept?](#)

If your title is accepted, the EIFF programming team will discuss screening formats with you. We will not screen from Blu-ray or DVD.

[How old can my film be?](#)

Your film should be no older than 12 months before the start of the Festival; it should have received its first public screening after 15 August 2024.

This requirement applies even in cases where the film has been re-edited since its previous screening.

[Can I submit a rough cut and if so, can I submit the final cut later?](#)

The EIFF programming team will consider rough cuts and will judge the film accordingly. No film will be rejected on the basis of being incomplete. However, due to the large volume of titles we receive, we cannot guarantee that the programming team will be able to watch the completed film at a later date. Please consider this before submitting the rough cut and aim to have your final cut ready and submitted by our LATE deadline.

[I submitted last year, can I submit the same film this year?](#)

We will not consider previously submitted work unless it has been considerably re-edited or re-shot. If you are unsure, it probably means it hasn't been changed enough. If we have already viewed your film as a rough cut last year, we usually will not consider it for the following year. Please get in touch with us via email before submitting and we can advise further.

[What happens to my film once I have submitted?](#)

Your film will be viewed by the EIFF programming team. If you have been successful, we will contact you by the end of June 2025. If your submission is unsuccessful, we will inform you by e-mail as soon as possible, no later than the end of June 2025.

[What do the different premiere status options mean on the submissions form?](#)

World Premiere: EIFF would be the first public screening of the film anywhere in the world.

International Premiere: EIFF would be the first public screening of the film outside of the film's country of production.

European Premiere: EIFF would be the first public screening of the film anywhere in Europe.

UK Premiere: EIFF would be the first public screening of the film anywhere in the UK.

Please note that your film must be a minimum of a UK premiere in order to be considered eligible for EIFF.

Question not answered?

Email submissions@edfilmfest.org for support.