

53rd *Film Fest Gent*

7 – 18 October 2026

COMPETITION FOR INTERNATIONAL SHORTS – regulations 2026

Film Fest Gent organises a competition for International shorts. The purpose of this competition is to underline the importance of the short film genre and to encourage (young) directors. The international jury of the Ghent International Film Festival will award one film the **Film Fest Ghent Best International Short Film Award 2026, powered by Nationale Loterij**, consisting of a cash grant of €5.000 for the director.

1. Rules for participation

Art. 1 – Competing shorts will be viewed by the members of the executive committee of Film Fest Gent and admitted for participation if selected by at least one of the members.

Art. 2 – Competing should have a running time of max **30 minutes** and have not been shown in Belgium before.

Art. 3 - Shorts should be available on DCP, 35mm or digital file. Eligible genres are fiction, documentary, animation and experimental film.

Art. 4 - The films will be screened in the integral original version. The competitor must provide a print with English subtitles (if the film is not English spoken).

Art. 5 – Applications will be accepted **no later than 1 July 2026**. (see general regulations Film Fest Gent).

Art.6 – Correct delivery of all material is essential for participation. Applications arriving after 1 July 2026 might NOT be considered for selection.

2. Entry

Art. 7 – The film's producer shall agree to the entry of the short film in the festival's competition.

Art. 8 – Selections will be confirmed in writing by the festival before 10 September 2026 (at the latest).

3. Presentation at the festival

Art. 9 – The films are screened in the **Official Selection Competition** section of the festival, not more than three times. The producer will be requested permission for any supplementary screening.

Art. 10 – Invitation of the filmmakers will depend on the available budget.

4. *Film Fest Ghent Best International Short Film Award 2026 powered by Nationale Loterij*

Art. 11 – The international short film jury of the Ghent festival will distribute one prize: the **Film Fest Gent Best International Short Film Award 2026 powered by Nationale Loterij**, a money prize of €5.000 for the director(s) of the winning film.

Art. 12 – Joint firsts are impossible.

Art. 13 – The results of the competition will be communicated at the latest on October 11th 2026.

5. Validity of these regulations

Art. 14 – The general festival regulations are also applicable for the competing shorts.

Art. 15 – Affairs not anticipated in these regulations will be decided on by the executive committee, which will motivate its decision on demand of the producer. These regulations are made up in English. Any matters of dispute concerning them will only be accepted in writing.

Art. 16 – Entry of a film implies knowledge and acceptance of these regulations.

Update :
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