

53rd Film Fest Gent

7 - 18 October 2026

COMPETITION FOR BELGIAN STUDENT SHORTS - REGULATIONS 2026

Film Fest Gent organises a competition for final works from Belgian film schools. The aim is to underline the importance of the short film and encourage young filmmakers. A jury composed by the festival awards one film as **Best Belgian Student Short - powered by Amplo**. The audience will have the opportunity to award one of the films with the **Public Choice Award – powered by THEPACK**.

1. Conditions of participation

Art. 1 - Films produced at one of the recognised Belgian film schools (full-time courses such as at KASK, Sint-Lukas, RITCS, Narafi, Luca C-mine, IAD, INSAS and La Cambre) **between 1/9/2025 and 04/9/2026** are eligible for the competition for Belgian student shorts. The selection of the shorts is in the hands of the executive committee of the festival and will be made only after vision of the film by at least one member of the committee.

Art. 2 - Only short films with a maximum duration of 30 minutes are eligible for the competition.

Art. 3 - Films on DCP, 35mm, or as a digital file are allowed.

Art. 4 - Films are screened in their unabridged, original version, with English subtitles.

Art. 5 - Applications for short films in competition must be submitted **before 17:00 (CET) on 4 September 2026** using the online entry form that is to be found on the festival's industry website <https://www.filmfestival.be/en/press-industry> or that will be made available to you by mailing to eindwerken@filmfestival.be. There is NO entry fee to be paid for the registration of a Belgian student short.

Art. 6 - Timely submission of this material is a condition for eligibility for selection.

Candidatures submitted after 4 September 2026 are NOT eligible for selection.

Art. 7 - Participation in non-Flemish film festivals before the premiere at Film Fest Gent is no obstacle to participation in the Competition for Belgian Student Shorts. However, priority will always be given to films that have not previously been screened in Belgium.

2. Entry

Art. 8 - The short film can be registered by the film school and/or the student/director of the film through the online application form.

Art. 9 - Participation in this competition shall be confirmed in writing by the festival no later than 10 September 2026.

3. Presentation at the festival

Art. 10 - The films will be screened in the **Official Selection** of the festival. The films shall be screened a maximum of three times. For each additional projection, the permission of the rights holder is requested.

Art. 11 - The director of a participating short will receive a full accreditation as well as ten admission tickets for the screenings. Additional admission tickets must be purchased.

4. Prize for the Best Belgian Student Short Film

Art. 12 - The festival shall set up an international jury consisting of at least three members.

Art. 13 - This jury awards - completely autonomously - the **Prize for the Best Belgian Student Short - powered by Amplo**. This prize consists of a cash premium for the director of €5,000.

Art. 14 - An ex-aequo is not possible.

Art. 15 - The payment modality consists of the director of the winning short sending the festival a claim for the cash amount won, specifying a bank account number.

Art. 16 - The results will be announced by 11 October 2026 at the latest.

Art. 17 - The audience (present at the official premiere of the programme) will have the opportunity to award one of the films with the **Public Choice Award – powered by THEPACK**. This prize consists of a post-production budget worth €6,500 for a subsequent film project.

5. Delivery of the print

Art. 18 - The festival will screen films in an English subtitled DCP. Our print traffic manager will get in touch for the delivery of the print. In any case prints need to be delivered by September 28th 2026 at the latest.

6. Validity of these regulations

Art. 19 - The festival's general regulations also apply to shorts in competition.

Art. 20 - Matters not covered by these regulations shall be decided by the Executive Committee, which shall give reasons for its decision if the producer so wishes.

Art. 21 - Registration of a film implies knowledge and acceptance of these regulations.

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