

These are the Frequently Asked Questions for Ffilm Cymru Wales’

Beacons Short Film Fund 2024

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Timeline

When do applications close for this round of Beacons?

Applications close on Friday 19th July 2024 at 3pm.

When will I hear if my application has been successful?

Applicants will be notified of whether they have been shortlisted by Friday 30th September 2024.

I already shot my film. Can I apply for completion funding?

As Beacons is a development and production scheme, we cannot support short films that are already in production or post-production.

If your project is a documentary, you may have already shot or researched some footage but not yet begun the main elements of production.

If your project is an animation, you may already have a draft (i.e. not final) animatic but not yet begun animation work.

I want to shoot my film in 2024, can I apply?

Production award decisions for this round of Beacons will not take place until early 2025, following a period of intensive development. We expect that the successful short films will go into production in Spring/Summer 2025.

Individual/Team Eligibility

I'm under 18 / a full-time student, can I apply?

One of our key eligibility criteria is that the writer, director and producer (if attached) of the project must all be over the age of 18

and have finished full-time education (or be set to complete full-time education by 1st August 2024).

Any student work will need to be fully completed by 1st August 2024, meaning course materials, final projects and/or dissertations have been submitted, all examinations are complete, and you will not be entering a further year of study later in 2024 or in 2025.

I haven't made any screen work before, can I apply?

Yes, if you have a creative track record in writing, directing or producing in a narrative medium, for example theatre, performance, novel-writing.

I've only made low budget screen work before, can I apply?

Yes. Applicants may have previously made student work, self-financed work or privately financed work on a low budget.

I've had a short film financed / commissioned by a broadcaster before, can I apply?

Yes. Part of our assessment will be around how making a Beacons film will progress your career, so do think about this when making your application. For example, will the proposed project be more ambitious than your previous short film, or perhaps allow you to test out your ideas in a different genre?

I've previously made a feature film, can I still apply?

The director on the project must not yet have directed a feature film that has received UK distribution. This means either theatrically or via a major online platform, where a distribution deal has been made for the film – as distinct from self-distribution.

Writers and producers may be more experienced.

For Beacons, part of our assessment will be around the benefit to the filmmakers' career of making the proposed short film. So if applying, do clearly articulate this in our application.

If you have previously made a feature film that received UK distribution, our [Feature Development Fund](#) may be better suited to you.

I have previously received support from Ffilm Cymru. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. However if you currently have an active award with us, please check in with the relevant executive before applying so that they can advise.

Do I need to be from and/or living in Wales to be eligible to apply?

The director or writer/director on the project must either have been born in Wales or be based in Wales, or both. Other team members do not need to be born or based in Wales, although we welcome all-Welsh teams.

If any of your core team are not based in the UK, please note that your project must be eligible to qualify as British through one of the [Cultural Test for Film](#), one of the UK's official [Co-Production](#) Treaties OR the [European Convention on Cinematic Co-Production](#).

Our director is not Wales born or based, but others in our team are. Can we apply?

Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications from teams where the director or writer/director is not born or based in Wales.

I don't have a producer on board yet, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply without a producer. Ffilm Cymru can help facilitate producer conversations for successful projects.

Can I direct and produce my film?

Due to the requirements and responsibilities of making and delivering an industry-funded short film, directors should plan to work with a producer (or producers) rather than taking on this role.

Do I need to have cast and crew attached when I apply?

No, there is no requirement to attach cast and crew, given that Beacons is for projects currently in development. You may already be collaborating with key creatives however, in which case please let us know the details in the appropriate section of the application form.

Project Eligibility

What's the minimum/maximum length my film can be?

There's no minimum length, although most Beacons films fall somewhere between 5 and 15 minutes.

The appropriate length may differ. For example, an animation might have a shorter runtime due to high costs and/or longer production timeframes. And those who haven't made screen work before may wish to try out their ideas in a shorter piece.

The maximum length for Beacons films is 15 minutes.

My film is a hybrid/experimental piece, can I apply?

We welcome all types of filmmaking intended for the big screen. Your film should be suitable for film festivals, and your team should be able to demonstrate ambition to progress to working in feature film.

Please note that we cannot fund artist installation or moving image work, OR work primarily intended to capture another art form (such as theatre, dance, spoken word, poetry). Other sources of funding may be available, such as via the [Arts Council of Wales](#).

Can I apply to make a proof of concept short for a feature film?

Yes, your project can be intended as a proof of concept for a feature film. However it should also work as a standalone short film with its own complete narrative.

If you are an established writer, director or producer with a creative track record in film or another art form (e.g. theatre, radio, music, art, novel writing) and you have a feature film in development, we advise you also take a look at our [Feature Development Fund](#) in case this is better suited to you.

I have an idea for a TV pilot, can I apply?

We cannot accept applications for TV pilots.

If your idea is a TV pilot, we suggest checking out [BBC Writers' Room](#) opportunities.

Submitting an Application

Which application form should I fill in? What if my film is a blend of live action and animation / fiction and documentary / animation and documentary OR other hybrid?

There are three application forms: Live Action Fiction, Animation and Documentary.

If your film falls into just one of these categories, please use the relevant form.

However your film might be a blend of several categories. In which case:

- If your short is a blend of live action and animation, uses significant animated elements, or is an animated documentary or animated docu-fiction, please use the Animation form.
- If your short is a blend of fiction and documentary and is fully live action, please use the Documentary form.
- If your film is another form of hybrid, you can fill in the form you feel is most appropriate. Do contact us (see below) if you need advice.

My film is fully/partially in the Welsh language. Can I submit my application in Welsh?

You can submit an application either in English or Welsh.

If your application is mostly in English and only limited sections of the script are in Welsh (e.g. a few lines of dialogue), an English translation of those sections would be helpful but is not essential.

What is the maximum amount of funding I can apply for?

You can apply for up to £25,000.

We recommend that you consider carefully your level of previous experience when deciding on the scale of project and the amount of funding to apply for.

Awards at the maximum level of £25,000 will only be offered where there is a clear creative and strategic rationale for this.

How much of my film's budget will Beacons fund?

Beacons can fund up to 100% of the film's budget. Alternatively, teams may also raise further funding through crowdfunding or third-party deals.

Beacons funding comes with certain restrictions on co-financier credits and a license agreement with BBC Cymru Wales. If you are anticipating significant financing from other sources we recommend getting in touch with us to discuss this prior to making an application.

Can I get some guidance on completing my budget?

Please refer to our Guidelines for details on what needs to be included in the budget section of the application form. If you require further budget guidance, do get in touch with us (see contact details below).

Can I submit more than one application?

For this round of Beacons, directors and writer-directors may be attached to only ONE application in total. Writers and producers may be attached to up to TWO applications.

Can I resubmit a project that was previously unsuccessful?

Resubmissions of previously declined applications can only be made with Ffilm Cymru approval. Resubmissions should show substantive changes: for example, a significant rewrite or change of producer. If you meet this criteria and submit a new application for funding towards the same project, you must clearly identify the revised elements of the project within the application.

If your project has already been declined by Beacons twice, you may not resubmit that same project again.

Can I get some support to make an application?

We advise first checking out our Guidelines and short filmmaker resources via the [Beacons short film funding](#) web page.

We will be running some bookable 121s with our team if you would benefit from further tailored guidance. Details will be available on

our [News & Events](#) web page. You can also follow [BFI NETWORK Wales](#) on X for updates.

For applicants with access requirements, for example individuals who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing, Disabled, neurodivergent or visually impaired, further support and adjustments are available. For example, we can cover the costs of making funding guidelines available in other formats (e.g. large print), a BSL interpreter for a meeting with us, scribing support for dyslexic applicants, or a support worker if needed.

Do get in touch with us to discuss your requirements in confidence. We'll be guided by you.

network@ffilmcymruwales.com

You can also reach us by phone at 02922 676711.

Reasonable adjustments will be made as required for shortlisted applicants to attend interview, as well as any further meetings and workshops should they be selected for a development and/or production award. (Please also see 'Budget guidance' section of the Guidelines for details of how to budget for access costs on your production).

Assessment and Feedback

Who will look at my application?

Each application will be reviewed by at least 2 different assessors. Our assessing panel will include members of staff from Ffilm Cymru's development, production and skills team. We may also use external consultants in order to broaden the expertise and lived experience feeding into assessments.

Will I get feedback if my application is unsuccessful?

We receive far more applications than we can support. Brief, headline feedback will be provided for each application on request. However we are not be able to give more detailed feedback on projects that are not shortlisted, due to the high volume of applications received.

Common reasons for declining applications include:

- The idea lacks originality and/or big screen ambition
- The intended story, genre, style, tone and/or creative vision is unclear
- The idea would be better suited to another format (e.g. play, web series, TV)
- The project would be a better fit for other sources of funding (e.g. Arts Council Wales)
- The film is not feasible within the budget or timeline
- The team is not at the right level to fully benefit from Beacons support

Working with Ffilm Cymru Wales and BBC Wales

What will be expected of me/my team if successful?

Ffilm Cymru and BBC Cymru Wales provide editorial feedback and strategic support throughout the filmmaking process. We also facilitate further training and professional development support. You will be expected to take part in group training and/or workshop sessions as part of your award.

It will be your responsibility to ensure that you deliver any requested materials and attend any meetings within agreed timeframes. Ffilm Cymru and BBC Wales will have approvals over the main elements of

the film, including any partnership funding, the crew, the budget, the schedule, the final script/storyboard/animatic/treatment prior to commencement of production, the final cut of the film and the credits. Your funding agreement will outline the key terms.

It will be your responsibility to ensure that you meet your contractual obligations, allowing enough time for review, feedback and approvals. We expect team members to work collaboratively Ffilm Cymru and BBC Wales at all times, and to hold themselves to a professional standard.

Will I be paid if my short film is made through Beacons?

You should plan for writer, director and producer fees in your budget.

Fees should be proportionate to the overall budget level of the project. At a minimum, these fees should be in line with other Heads of Department (HoDs) on the project, or in line with cast and crew wages for shoot days, whichever is highest. Writer, director and producer fees cannot be waived at any point.

Please note that Ffilm Cymru also requires you to pay cast and crew working on your film at least Real Living Wage rates or higher. We expect to see parity of fees across grades and across departments.

Please see the Beacons Guidelines for further budget guidance.

Will I own my short film if it's made through Beacons?

As funders, we require that the producer or production company owns the rights to make the film. Agreements must therefore be signed between the producer/production company and the writer and director in order to transfer rights and set out the relevant terms, including Payment and share of Net Profits (if any) from the film. Ffilm Cymru will provide templates for these agreements.

BBC Wales will obtain the right to use and broadcast the films (see below) for a defined Licence Period, the terms of which will be defined in the funding agreement.

What training and mentoring will be available?

Beacons is a talent development programme as well as a short film fund. Should your team be selected for a development award, we will arrange a conversation to discuss any training and mentoring needs for the writer, director and producer. Activity will likely involve a series of group sessions as well as individual work with mentors.

Will access support be available for myself, my cast and/or crew?

Access support will be available for the core team to attend any Beacons workshops, interviews and meetings should they be shortlisted, selected for development and/or a production award.

In addition, if any of your core team, cast or crew have personal access requirements that will incur a cost during production of your short film, you can include these costs in your budget. This may be specific support required by people who are disabled or have a physical or mental health condition, or who have caring responsibilities. For example a BSL interpreter, additional transport or accommodation costs for disabled team members, a personal assistant for a team member with a learning disability or mental health condition, or childcare costs.

Please clearly indicate any access costs in your budget as a separate line item. These costs will not count towards the £25,000 maximum award amount.

What rights will BBC Wales obtain to my film?

As part of their investment, BBC Cymru Wales will acquire rights to use and broadcast the film on any of its public services in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man for exclusive purposes, and in the Republic of

Ireland for non-exclusive purposes. The licence period of 5 years commences after an initial holdback period, to allow the films to secure film festival screenings prior to broadcast. Full terms of the licence agreement will be set out in the funding agreement.

Will I be able to submit my film to festivals?

Yes, you will be able to submit your film to festivals, both in the UK and internationally. You should account for estimated submission costs in your budget.

Will I be able to put my short film online before/after its BBC Wales broadcast?

You will not be able to put your short film online until after the relevant BBC Wales licence period has expired. Some exceptions may be made for time-limited online showcases in agreement with Ffilm Cymru and BBC Wales, should this be a requirement of a distribution offer and of benefit to the filmmaker's industry exposure.

Other Funding

What are my options if my short film is not successful?

Projects that have been developed through Beacons but are not successful in obtaining a production award can seek production funding elsewhere. Please note that any outstanding conditions of the development agreement will still apply, e.g. funder credits.

What other funding is currently available for my short film, if I'm not eligible for Beacons?

If you are new to filmmaking, you may be interested in the [It's My Shout](#) training scheme.

If you are an established writer, director or producer and looking for funding to make a proof of concept for a feature, you may be eligible for our [Feature Development Fund](#).

If you are a documentary filmmaker, take a look at the funding available from [Doc Society](#).

To find out about other funding and opportunities, we highly recommend following [BFI NETWORK Wales](#) and [BFI NETWORK](#) on X.

Contact

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

network@ffilmcymruwales.com

You can also reach us by phone at 02922 676711.