

NZFC Recommended Short Film Festival List – Updated: December 2025

Below is a list of the international film festivals that the NZFC currently recommends for short film submissions.

There are an incredibly large number of film festivals around the world, and this list represents a small portion. If you are beginning this process with your film, we recommend you use resources like the NZFC Short Film Festival Marketing Guide, along with festival submission platforms as Film Freeway, Short Film Depot and Fest Home to help you plan your strategy.

NZFC Eligibility Requirements

Having a short film accepted into one of these festivals will unlock eligibility for some NZFC funding, including Feature Film Development Funding. Please check the relevant guidelines and eligibility requirements.

Film Festivals List

Type	Festival	Country	Minimum Premiere Required
All	Berlin Film Festival	Germany	International (Generation programmes will consider European)
All	Busan International Film Festival	Republic of Korea	International
All	Cannes Directors' Fortnight	France	International
All	Cannes Film Festival - Official Competition	France	International
All	Cannes Critics' Week	France	International
Short films	Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival	France	Not required
All	Cork Film Festival	Ireland	Irish
All	Hawai'i International Film Festival	USA	Not required
All	Hong Kong International Film Festival	Hong Kong (SAR)	Hong Kong
Indigenous	imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival	Canada	Not required
All	International Film Festival Rotterdam	Netherlands	European (World/International prioritised)
All	Locarno Film Festival	Switzerland	International

All	Melbourne International Film Festival	Australia	Victorian State
Short films	Palm Springs International ShortFest	USA	Not required
All	Sundance Film Festival	USA	Not required
All	SXSW Film Festival	USA	Not required
Short films	Tampere Film Festival	Finland	Not required
All	Toronto International Film Festival	Canada	North American
All	Tribeca Film Festival	USA	New York region
All	Venice Film Festival	Italy	World
All	BFI London Film Festival	UK	Not required

Animation, Documentary, Genre Film Festivals List

Type	Festival	Country	Premiere Required
Animation	Annecy International Animation Film Festival	France	Not required
Fantasy/Horror	Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN)	Republic of Korea	Korean
Animation	Hiroshima International Animation Festival	Japan	Not required
Documentary	Hot Docs Film Festival	Canada	Toronto
Documentary	IDFA International Documentary Festival Amsterdam	Netherlands	Dutch (World prioritised)
Children's	New York International Children's Film Festival	USA	Not required
Documentary	Sheffield Doc/Fest	UK	UK
Animation	Siggraph Computer Animation Festival	Canada	Not required
Fantasy/Horror	Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival Catalonia	Spain	Not required
Animation	Trickfilm Animated Film Festival Stuttgart	Germany	Not required

New Zealand Film Festivals List

Type	Festival	Premiere Required
Documentary	Doc Edge Film Festival	Aotearoa
Indigenous	Māoriland Indigenous Film Festival	Not required
Indigenous	Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival	Not required
Short films	Show Me Shorts Film Festival	Not required
All	Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival	Aotearoa