

Wicklow Short Film Award

FAQ

(updated 11/12/2025)

1. Can the production company that I'm applying through be based outside of Co. Wicklow?

Yes, so long as the lead applicant is either native to Co. Wicklow, or has been living here for the past three consecutive years. The filming also must take place in Co. Wicklow, and all grant payments will be made to the production company.

2. How much of the grant is paid in advance, and when could we expect payment?

The successful applicants will be notified as promptly as possible after the pitching sessions. A contract will then be issued, and once this has been signed and returned by the lead applicant, the first tranche of funding will be paid within 3 weeks. 70% of the grant will be paid in advance, followed by 20% upon submission of first rough cut and the remaining 10% will be paid upon completion and submission of the final film.

3. Is this an Annual Award?

Our intention is that this will be an annual award, although this will depend on a number of different factors, many of which are outside of our control. So, while we would envisage the Wicklow Short Film Award being an annual award, we can't promise that it will continue indefinitely.

4. If the film duration should be approximately 10-15mins, how many pages should my script be?

This depends on the type of film you're proposing, the pacing of the film and other factors such as the amount of dialogue per scene. However, a good "rule of thumb" is that 1 page of standard script normally equates to approximately 1 minute on screen.

5. If I set up a new production company for the purposes of this Film Award, how do I show it has a track record if it hasn't produced any films yet?

The production company itself doesn't require a track record if it has been set up for the purposes of this award. If you're setting up a new production company, it's the individual members of the core creative team (writer, director, producer) who need to show a track record in their respective areas.

6. Can the roles within the core creative team (writer, director, producer) be filled by one person, if I have experience in all 3 areas?

You can apply as an individual, but priority will be given to applicants who have other, appropriately skilled people on their core creative team. While you may have experience in all 3 disciplines, the combined experience of individual writers, directors and producers, all with track records in their respective fields is likely to present a stronger case for support. We also want to ensure that funding benefits as many people as possible, and so applications with full creative teams will be prioritised.

7. If I have a production company, can I hire a producer or director to work with me on the film?

Yes, you may hire a producer and/or director for the purposes of making the film and we would expect everyone working on the project to be paid an appropriate fee for their work. This includes cast and crew. For more information on this, please see the [Arts Council's Paying the Artist Policy](#).

8. Can I be part of more than one application?

You are permitted to be the lead applicant (primary applicant) on one application only. You can then be involved with someone else's application as a member of the team (ie. not the lead applicant).

9. Is this award open to screenwriters or is it just for directors and producers? What about emerging screenwriters who don't have as much experience as the director or producer?

Yes, the main applicant can be a screenwriter, director or producer. We acknowledge that it can sometimes be more difficult for screenwriters to build a track record, and so emerging screenwriters are eligible to apply. However, they should still have a track record in a related field, such as writing novels or someone who has experience in acting.

10. Can some members of the core creative team be based outside Wicklow?

Yes, but the lead applicant needs to be native to Co. Wicklow, or living in Co. Wicklow for the past three consecutive years. However, as we want the benefit of the Film Award to be felt within Wicklow, priority will be given to creative teams that are all based in Wicklow.

11. Is the total grant amount inclusive of VAT?

Yes, the total amount of funding available is €15,000 including VAT. If your company is VAT registered, you will need to factor this into your budget.

12. Are we required to have subtitles?

No, this is not currently a funding requirement, and the inclusion of subtitles will be at the discretion of the creative team. If you are planning to submit your work to film festivals, we would encourage you to check whether subtitles are required. If your film is in Irish, you will be required to have translations and subtitles.

13. Are there restrictions on what the funding can be used for?

So long as all funding is spent on costs which are directly related to the production of the film, the only restriction is that you cannot use the funding to purchase alcohol. The panel will review your budget as part of the assessment process, and we would expect to see appropriate levels of spending in the different budget categories as per the budget template.

14. Where can I get more information about setting up a company?

Wicklow Local Enterprise Office can provide a free one-to-one Business Advice Clinic in relation to setting up your own business. If you are interested, please email filmaward@wicklowcoco.ie.