

FAQs from most common problems with FFW submissions

Eligibility & Entry Requirements

1. The production company country(ies) is not based in the eligible region, but the director is. Is my film eligible?

Yes, your film is eligible if the director comes from the eligible region. For further country-related questions check our Rules & Regulations or write to us with context.

2. Do all actors need to be from the eligible region?

No, the actors' nationality does not affect eligibility of the film. Only the director's origin is considered. For further country-related questions check our Rules & Regulations.

3. My film has a 2024 copyright date but premiered in 2025 or hasn't premiered yet, due to censorship, etc. Is it eligible?

Please explain the circumstances in your submission. We will consider it on a case-by-case basis if the premiere falls within the eligible window.

4. Can I submit my film after the deadline?

We are unable to extend the deadline or accept submissions after October 10, 2025. We also strongly recommend that films with a world premiere before August 1, 2025 be submitted by September 1, 2025, to ensure the Selection Committee has sufficient time to thoroughly review all submissions.

5. Can I submit a work-in-progress?

No, the Alternativa Festival considers only completed films. Work-in-progress versions are not accepted.

6. Can I apply with a student film?

Yes, there are no restrictions in this regard.

7. Are there any limitations on the topics of the projects?

As long as the film is impactful, all topics are welcome.

8. Can a short film be 1–2 minutes long?

Yes, there is no minimum required length for short films.

9. Can I submit a short film that's over 40 minutes?

Short films should not exceed 40 minutes. Films over 40 minutes must be submitted in the Feature-Length category.

10. Can I submit a short film from outside the Focus Region?

No, shorts from outside the Focus Region are not eligible.

11. The director is underage. Can they still submit?

No, the director must be of legal age, presumed to be 18 by default for all countries for purposes of this event.

12. The director prefers not to disclose their name for safety reasons. Is this acceptable?

Yes. We understand that filmmakers in specific contexts may need to remain anonymous. Please indicate this in the Impact Form.

13. Can I submit more than one film?

Yes. Please make an individual submission for each film.

14. Can I submit a film that has already been submitted to another festival?

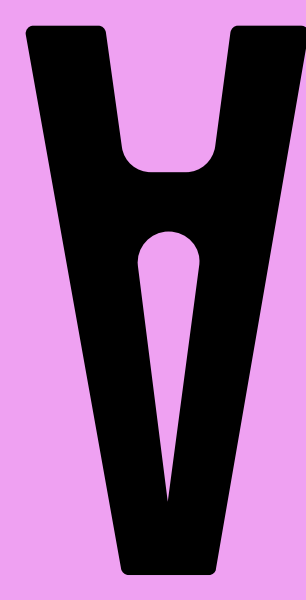
Yes, absolutely — as long as the film meets our eligibility criteria.

15. Can I submit my film to other festivals after submitting to Alternativa?

Yes, submitting to other festivals is allowed.

16. Should the film's impact goals already be defined, or can they still be in development?

The impact goals can still be in development. Please indicate your plans clearly in the Impact Form.



FAQs from most common problems with FFW submissions

Submission Process & Technical Guidelines

1. I'm not registered on FilmFreeway. What should I do?

To submit your film, follow these steps:

1. Create a FilmFreeway account at <https://www.filmfreeway.com>.
2. Upload your project along with all required information and materials.
3. Find Alternativa via our direct [submission link](#) or by searching Alternativa at FilmFreeway.
4. Submit your project and complete the Impact Form (additional information required by the Festival) as part of the process

2. I'm having trouble uploading materials or accessing FilmFreeway. What should I do?

If you're experiencing major technical difficulties accessing FilmFreeway—for example, due to country-level restrictions—you may request an alternative submission option. To do so, please contact us at info@alternativa.film and include a brief explanation of the issue.

3. My film doesn't have English subtitles. Can I still submit?

Unfortunately, a film is not eligible without English subtitles. Please add embedded or closed-caption (CC) English subtitles to your project before submitting.

4. Can I attach subtitles as a separate file or provide a link to a folder?

No. The subtitles should be embedded or accessible as closed captions (CC), not as a separate file. It's best to upload a screener with embedded subtitles.

5. Do I have to fill in the Impact Form?

Yes. The Impact Form is mandatory — even if the submission is done by a producer or agent.

6. Can I fill in the Impact Form in my native language?

No. Please complete the Impact Form in English, as this helps our international preselection team assess all projects fairly. Feel free to use online translation tools, such as [DeepL](#).

7. Can I share a screener via a link to a folder with multiple files?

No. Please ensure the screening link leads directly to the screener, not to a folder. Avoid using download or access request links. The best option is to upload your screener directly to FilmFreeway or embed a Vimeo link.

8. Can I submit a trailer instead of the full film?

No. Submissions must include the complete screener of the film.

9. Can I submit a film without a trailer?

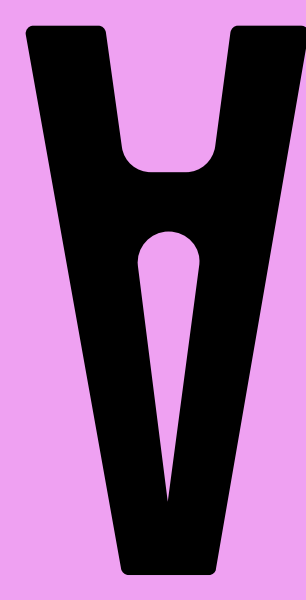
Yes, a trailer is not required at submission, but you may be asked to provide one later if your film is selected for the Competition.

10. Can I make changes to my submission details?

You can edit some project details in FilmFreeway after submission — for example, the project title, project file, country of origin, etc. However, you will not be able to edit the submitted Impact Form (Custom Submission Form – additional information required by the festival). If you want to edit the Impact Form, you will need to re-submit the project and withdraw the previous submission.

11. Can I update my screener with a newer version after submitting?

This will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Minor changes (e.g., correcting credits) may be accepted, but substantial edits are discouraged.



FAQs from most common problems with FFV submissions

After You Submit

1. When will I be notified of the selection results?

All submitters will receive an email notification by March 15, 2026.

2. If my film is selected for the Competition, is there a deadline to confirm my acceptance?

The submitter must reply to the Festival within one week of receiving the notification to confirm acceptance or decline the selection.

3. If my film is not selected, can I get an explanation or feedback?

The Festival does not provide individual feedback or explanations regarding film selection decisions.

4. Do you cover travel and accommodation?

Travel and accommodation are covered for filmmakers of the films selected for the Competition.