

#MOREFILMS4FREEDOM APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

Before you begin your application, please make sure you've read the Guidelines and Terms and Conditions below (yes, the boring bits). It's important that you read them thoroughly as they will help you submit the best application possible.

We're aware that this application is the very beginning of the process, so we know that you may not be able to answer all the questions fully. However your answers will show us that you are thinking ahead and can envision your route to the finished film.

If you have any questions that can't be answered below, then please feel free to get in touch at morefilms4freedom@bfi.org.uk

The following notes are designed to help you answer the corresponding questions on the Application Form.

Entering as the lead applicant of a team (UK-based producer with production company)?

The lead applicant (producer) must be willing to take responsibility for the payment of the grant and be responsible for compliance with the contract through a company registered and centrally managed in the UK/EU/EEA.

Entering as the lead applicant of an international team without a UK-based producer?

For international teams based in or from countries within the African continent and the Middle East, if you do not yet have a UK/EU/EEA-based production company attached you can still submit an application if you meet all other eligibility criteria. We may be able to help you find an appropriate production company, should the project be shortlisted. We will only be able to support projects that do secure a UK production company as part of a meaningful collaboration.

Entering as a UK/EU/EEA production company interested in being paired with an international creative team?

If you're a UK-based producer, you fulfil the eligibility criteria, and you are interested in the programme but do not yet have an international collaborator, we may be able to pair you with someone. To register your interest please send a brief e-mail with your CV to morefilms4freedom@bfi.org.uk. If you were then matched with an international creative team who has applied with their idea, we will contact you and an application should be re-submitted via your UK/EU/EEA-based production company.

Project Proposal

Please include the anticipated length of the final film with the script. The ideal length is 5 minutes, and no work should be more than 10. The film idea should creatively engage with LGBTQ+ themes, have strong visual ideas and cinematic flair and have an element of collaboration between UK and African continent or Middle East filmmakers/storytellers. The proposal must provide evidence of a genuine international collaboration.

Films can include many genres, including those within fiction, documentary and animation. Proposals may cut across these categories but we are looking for a strong central idea and storylines which will help the film reach a wide range of audiences.

Where will you make the film?

Projects can shoot in the UK and/or internationally, but it must be feasible to complete the film on the budget available (including travel to the countries of the collaborators, which is encouraged where it strengthens the project as a cross-cultural collaboration).

When will you make the film?

It's important you are realistic about what you can achieve in the time available. Below you'll find a table showing key dates during the selection and production period. Please have a look at it and check that you are confident that you could develop, set up, storyboard, shoot, edit and deliver your film in the sixteen (16) week period designated for both production and post-production.

Full schedule - please note these dates are subject to revision:

Applications open	Tuesday 9th July
Deadline for applications	Monday 12th August (midnight)
Interviews for shortlisted projects	w/c 2nd September
Successful applicants selected	Friday 6 th September
Final script delivered and signed off by BFI Exec producer	No later than end of w/c 30 th September
Final budget delivered and signed off by BFI Exec producer	No later than end of w/c 7 th October
Grant awarded (upon BFI approval of script, budget and any other required elements) and contract issued and executed	No later than w/c 14 th October
Production/post-production period	14 th October 2019 - 31st Jan 2020
Rough cut delivered	No later than 31 st January 2020. Feedback will be given on w/c 3rd February.
Final film delivered	15 th February 2020

What is the budget?

A grant of up to £10,500 will be awarded per selected project, for an entirely new work. We encourage you to submit applications using this as a guide and adjust your projected budget to this amount. This, alongside any third party funding you secure, must cover all stages of the project including production, delivery materials and team travel (ie. filmmakers visiting the countries of their team members where required for development or production, as part of the cross-cultural collaboration).

We may be able to provide a small amount of script editor support to projects where this is required. The final script must be submitted to the BFI Exec Producer no later than end of w/c 30th September.

We can provide additional funding for subtitling, if needed.

Please note that items cannot be funded retrospectively, therefore you should not incur any costs prior to an offer of funding. You should not enter into any contracts prior to signing a funding agreement from the BFI.

How does your submission reflect LGBTQ+ identity, intersectionality, global human rights and/or diaspora identity?

The pilot programme #MOREFilms4Freedom is searching for urgent, creative collaborations that explore LGBTQ+ themes: intersectionality, global human rights, and diaspora identity. It builds on the [#FiveFilms4Freedom](#) digital campaign, which originated in 2015 and has been viewed by nearly 14 million people in 202 countries and principalities. This must be achieved through the stories you tell, and the locations/communities represented.

Can you confirm that you and, if relevant your team members, have had at least two short films in one of the festivals on the British Council's list?

It's a requirement of this programme to have had at least two of your previous films (combined with all members of the team - writer/director/producer) in one of the festivals on the [British Council's Key Festivals list](#) or the [BAFTA-qualifying film festival list](#).

Who will manage production resources and budget?

The selection panel need to be confident the team can deliver a finished project by 31 January 2020. It's important that we know that you can ensure all financial and legal considerations that relate to making your film are going to be properly managed. Teams that apply will need to include an experienced, UK-based producer, through a production company in the UK/EU/EEA, capable of delivering projects with an international component. Please bear in mind that the terms of the grant make clear that ultimate responsibility lies with the main applicant/producer.

Can I submit more than one idea?

Filmmakers or teams may submit one idea only.

Guidelines on Supporting Documents

1. A script for submitted idea

You'll need to provide us a draft of the script and state the intended length of the film. Scripts should be for a film with an ideal length of 5 minutes, and no longer than 10. Treatments or storyboards will be accepted for animated or documentary films. You can also submit additional material to give a sense to the panel of your visualisation for the film.

2. Biographies for key members of the team

Applications must include short biographies (up to 150 words) of each member of the creative team (writer/director/producer), detailing any relevant experience in film or any other medium.

3. Team's statement

The team's statement should state the ambitions for the film, how it connects with LGBTQ+ themes, the international collaboration component, and any specific information you would like to highlight about how the film will be created.

4. Links to previous work

Please provide two functioning links to former work by your writer, director or producer that has screened at one of the festivals on the [British Council's Key Festivals list](#) or the [BAFTA-qualifying film festival list](#). Ideally this work should not be longer than 10 minutes.

Copyright and Clearances

The copyright in the film will rest with the producers of the film. Please be aware of copyright issues when making your application. If your idea stands or falls on the use of a particular piece of music/artwork/poem/locations then please provide evidence that all clearances can be made to enable unrestricted screenings of the film.

You must be able to fulfil clearance requirements for all presenters, contributors, voiceover artists, script writers, talent, actors, animators, crew, music, archive, stills and any other material included in the film, to enable exhibition and all media usage, worldwide, in perpetuity. You do not need to clear for merchandising use unless you wish to exploit the film yourself in this way.

We also encourage all applicants to use the BFI's Diversity Standards for inspiration when writing their applications and producing their films. Teams are not required though to complete a Diversity Standards application or certification.

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/about-bfi/policy-strategy/diversity/diversity-standards>

#MOREFILMS4FREEDOM TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Please read the T&Cs below in full to ensure that prospective applicants and their work are eligible to be awarded a commission.

1. The Grants

- 1.1 The #MOREFilms4Freedom programme aims to commission up to three (3) short films with an ideal length of five (5) minutes long, and no more than ten (10), exploring LGBTQ+ stories, and intended as a cross-cultural collaboration between UK filmmakers and filmmakers/storytellers from countries within the African continent and the Middle East.
- 1.2 Successful filmmakers will be awarded a grant of up to £10,500 (ten thousand five hundred pounds sterling) for each project, upon selection and sign-off of final script, production calendar and budget by BFI Exec Producer. We may be able to provide an additional small amount of script editor support to projects where this is required, as well as additional British Council funding for subtitling.
- 1.3 Filmmakers may have the opportunity to have their films screened at BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival, and featured within the #FiveFilms4Freedom 2020 campaign. This will be discussed with the filmmakers independently, closer to the date. Extracts from the films and/or trailers may be used for promotional purposes, and to create a trailer for use in all media, worldwide. The BFI and British Council will have the non-exclusive right to copy, reproduce and or exhibit the film (1) non-theatrically including without limitation in educational establishments or by on-line means on the BFI and British Council websites (including the BFI Player and the BFI NETWORK) and (2) the right to use clips from the Film for promotional purposes in relation to the Film or in relation to promoting the #MOREFilms4Freedom programme or BFI Flare.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 The #MOREFilms4Freedom programme opens on 9 July 2019. The deadline for applications is **midnight on 12 August 2019**. Any applications submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- 2.2 This programme is open to nationals, citizens and residents over 18 years of age from the UK, and countries within the African continent and the Middle East.
- 2.3 The aim is to commission international collaborations that explore LGBTQ+ themes: intersectionality, global human rights, and diaspora identity.
- 2.4 Applications will be accepted from teams that include a UK-based producer with demonstrable experience, applying via a company registered and centrally managed in the UK/EU/EEA, and must include both UK and international creatives from countries within the African continent and the Middle, among the writer/storyteller, producer and director makeup.

- 2.5 The team members must have made at least two previous films (between the writer/director/producer) that have screened at one of the festivals on the [British Council's Key Festivals list](#) or the [BAFTA-qualifying film festival list](#). If applying as a team all members must comply with the requirements outlined in 2.2. A team of applicants should consist of no more than four (4) key creative collaborators, though teams are welcome to include additional attachments, the project will not be evaluated on the strength of the team outside of the central four (4) collaborators.

3. Terms of Entry

- 3.1 Entering this process is free to the applicant.
- 3.2 All proposals must be submitted via the Application Form provided and before the submission deadline at midnight on **Monday 12 August 2019**. The proposal submitted must, and by submission of the Application Form is warranted to:
- (i) be original and the applicant's or applicants' own work;
 - (ii) not infringe the copyright or any other rights of any third party;
 - (iii) not be subject to any sponsorship or commercial arrangement with a third party;
 - (iv) not be defamatory of any living person or corporate body;
 - (v) not be obscene or blasphemous or likely to incite hatred;
- 3.3 Filmmakers will be asked to submit an online application form, with main contact information of lead applicant (producer), biography of their core team, a budget, a draft of the script or treatment and any supporting materials indicating the intended style for the film they would like to use for #MOREFilms4Freedom, along with two links to previous work that has screened at a festival within the [British Council's Key Festivals list](#) or the [BAFTA-qualifying film festival list](#)
- 3.4 Filmmakers must be available for a Skype interview on **w/c 2 September 2019**.
- 3.5 All filmmakers who are selected will be contracted, and must submit a final script and budget to the BFI Exec Producer by w/c 30 September 2019 and w/c 7 October 2019, respectively. The grant will be awarded upon sign-off, no later than w/c 14 October 2019. These dates are subject to revision at the BFI's sole discretion.
- 3.6 The filmmakers agree to their name and brief biographical details being published and to make themselves available to participate in press/promotional interviews as required.
- 3.7 By entering the selection process those filmmakers awarded grants agree to deliver a rough cut of their film to BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival no later than **31 January 2020** and all the deliverables of the final film no later than **15 February 2020**.

4. Selection Process

- 4.1 The commissions will be awarded after an initial shortlisting assessment of applications and a Skype interview with the shortlisted projects.

- 4.2 Filmmakers shortlisted for interview will be contacted personally by email or by telephone from the contact details given in the application form. Shortlisted applicants will interview with the panel to discuss their proposal, its execution and budget.
- 4.3 From these shortlisted projects, three (3) will be awarded a grant of up to £10,500.
- 4.4 The panel will include representatives from BFI NETWORK, British Council, BFI Flare and the BFI Exec Producer.
- 4.5 The panel's decisions are final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into. The BFI reserves the right to make no awards, or less than 3 awards, under the #MOREFilms4Freedom programme if there are not enough applications considered by the BFI to be sufficiently viable.

5. Terms of payment

- 5.1 Grants of up to £10,500 will be paid according to a payment schedule agreed by BFI after the contracts are signed and upon sign off of the final script, budget, and production calendar by the BFI Exec Producer no later than w/c 14 October 2019. This date is subject to revision at the BFI's sole discretion.
- 5.2 We may be able to provide a small amount of script editor support to projects where this is required. The programme producer will coordinate this on a case by case basis, through an external script editor attached to the scheme once projects have been selected and before w/c 23 September 2019. This may be paid to a script editor directly by the BFI.
- 5.3 The British Council can provide additional funding for subtitling, if needed. This will be arranged upon completion of the film.
- 5.4 VAT is not payable on the BFI grant.
- 5.5 The acceptance of the grant represents a contractual agreement between the lead applicant (producer), and BFI/British Council to deliver a film which reflects the application and approved related documents approved by the BFI, both in terms of content and duration. Failure to comply with any of the provisions set out in these Terms and Conditions and in subsequent agreement(s) between the lead applicant and BFI will result in the grant being withdrawn and the applicant may be required to pay back any uncommitted and unspent budget. Failure to make any of the meetings and deadlines prescribed in the Guidelines without sufficient explanation or warning may result in withdrawal of funding by the BFI.

6. Production and Delivery

- 6.1 The filmmakers agree to bind over appropriate insurances to cover their production activities (advice can be sought from the BFI Executive Producer).

- 6.2 Filmmakers shall ensure that all production personnel directly engaged by them to work on the production and/or delivery of the film shall be paid the appropriate Real Living Wage ('RLW') according to the location of their work within the UK or internationally, as applicable. The rate of the Real Living Wage that the #MOREFilms4Freedom is taking as a benchmark is that set out by the Living Wage Foundation (<http://www.livingwage.org.uk>). However, in line with standard independent filmmaking practice, Filmmakers (writers/directors) can exempt themselves from being paid RLW within the #MOREFilms4Freedom Project scheme. Furthermore up to three (3) additional people taking on any of the main roles may declare themselves collaborators and are thus also able to exempt themselves from being paid RLW within the budget. (E.g. Producer, Animator or Scriptwriter). Final collaborators may be confirmed following submission of an application. (Further guidance on the RLW is available [here](#)).
- 6.3 Filmmakers undertake to deliver a rough-cut of their film to BFI via a digital file uploaded to Vimeo with password protection by 31 January 2020.
- 6.4 BFI and British Council reserve the right to request changes to the rough-cut films. Editorial notes may be offered and acted on at the discretion of BFI/British Council and the filmmaker.
- 6.5 Filmmakers must deliver their final film to BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival in a format to be agreed between the filmmaker and festival no later than **15 February 2020**.
- 6.6 The filmmaker retains copyright of the film but acknowledges that acceptance of the grant includes a licence allowing BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival and British Council to show the film on the agreed platforms in perpetuity. The BFI may archive and preserve the Delivery Materials and may migrate any Delivery Materials to new formats and make further copies of any Delivery Materials for preservation or access purposes. The BFI may dispose of any part of the Delivery Materials.

7. Administration and Communication

- 7.1 The application system run by the programme will automatically confirm applications have been submitted successfully but beyond this the programme will not acknowledge receipt of individual entries and does not accept any responsibility for late or incomplete entries or for entries not successfully completed due to a technical fault of any kind whatsoever.
- 7.2 The shortlisted candidates are likely to be contacted by **w/c 2 September 2019** and invited for an interview. If you have not heard anything after that date, you may assume that your entry has not been selected.
- 7.3 Following notification of awards to the successful filmmakers, an announcement may be made by BFI NETWORK, BFI Flare and British Council.
- 7.4 Filmmakers must supply full details as required as part of the Application Form and comply with all rules to be eligible for application. Any non-compliance with Clause 3.2 will result in automatic disqualification.

- 7.5 Further to the above, following standard industry practice, BFI/British Council may undertake background checks of the shortlisted filmmakers, to assess any likely reputational issues/ duty of care considerations in respect of the applications. Any decision is at the sole discretion of BFI/British Council and will be based on the need to ensure that the reputation of BFI/British Council and the legacy of #MOREFilms4FreedomProject is upheld.
- 7.6 BFI and British Council may share personal data supplied during the course of the selection and production process between themselves but will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this commission and will not publish them or provide them without permission to anyone not involved in the administration of the production. All personal information provided will be securely destroyed as soon as it is no longer required. Data will be handled under GDPR guidelines.
- 7.7 BFI/British Council reserve the right to cancel the commissions at any stage, for any reason at its absolute discretion.
- 7.8 The filmmakers agree to obtain BFI/British Council written consent before undertaking any of their own press or publicity activity relating to their involvement in #MOREFilms4Freedom Project. In the event that the filmmakers are informed that their work has been longlisted, shortlisted or commissioned, the filmmakers must not publish this information or otherwise let it be publicly known (such as via online forums such as Twitter, Facebook etc.) until such time as the official announcement is made. Failure to comply with this request may result in BFI Flare/British Council at its sole discretion withdrawing the award of the relevant commission and grant. The filmmakers agree to keep the programme informed for a minimum of one (1) year about any relevant interviews, screening, talks, awards etc. associated with their #MOREFilms4Freedom films.
- 7.9 The filmmaker will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to have agreed to be bound by them when entering this commissioning process. If it considers that the entrant has not complied with the terms and conditions contained herein, BFI Flare/British Council may at its sole discretion disqualify the proposal and/or reclaim any grant and in doing so, reserves the right to award it elsewhere.
- 7.10 The filmmaker acknowledges and agrees that to the extent permitted by law, BFI, British Council or any other person(s) in connection with the commission will not be liable for any loss or damage (whether such damage or losses were foreseen, foreseeable, known or otherwise) including financially and/or to reputation and/or disappointment, suffered by any filmmaker entering the commissioning process or as a result of accepting the commission and grant.
- 7.11 These rules and the entry submitted in accordance with them shall constitute a contract governed by the exclusive laws and the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.