

**Film Africa Travel Grants 2019-2020**  
**Delivered by the Royal African Society in partnership with the British Council**  
**Application Guidelines & FAQs**

**1. DESCRIPTION**

The Royal African Society, in partnership with the British Council, is pleased to offer African filmmakers the opportunity to apply for funding to attend premier UK film festivals where their work has been invited to screen in 2019 and 2020.

The Film Africa Travel Grants 2019-2020 is a pilot scheme primarily aimed at filmmakers aged 18-35 working in short form film, as well as those producing virtual reality, immersive storytelling experiences and installations. However, first and second feature directors will also be considered.

The purpose of this funding scheme is to enable African filmmakers to present their work in the UK, develop new contact networks and reach new audiences, whilst increasing the exposure of contemporary film and film talent from the African continent in the UK.

The funding available is to be used for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs. Grants will be awarded up to a maximum of £2,500 per application. The grant amount allocated will be determined through the application process described below, which will be managed by the Royal African Society in consultation with the British Council.

**2. ELIGIBILITY**

- Applicants must have a project selected by at least one of the 8 festivals on the 'Key Festivals List' (see below).
- In line with the [British Council's Arts Strategy in Africa](#), priority will be given to filmmakers aged 18-35.
- At the time of application, applicants must be citizens of an African country (applicable to the 54 countries in the continent) and have been resident on the continent for a minimum of two consecutive years. Applicants will also need to demonstrate that they have been working in /committed to the local film sector during this period.
- The priority and focus of this scheme is on short form work (length up to 30 minutes), including virtual reality, immersive storytelling experiences and installations. However, first and second features will also be considered.
- At the time of application, applicants must declare any other sources of funding they are receiving for any given festival opportunity.
- A maximum of two applications per film will be accepted during this pilot year. In the cases where more than one application is submitted, we encourage applicants to put forward different names from the cast/crew team, to benefit from the opportunity.
- Successful applicants will be required to commit to taking part in an evaluation procedure, which entails completing an online survey following their UK festival visit.

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### 3. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can be made on a rolling basis. Applicants will be required to complete an online [application form](#) and provide evidence of festival selection. Applications can be made by a director, producer or writer and must include the following:

- Film details (including synopsis, key personnel, tech information, cast, etc.).
- Applicant CV / filmography.
- Written evidence of acceptance into the UK festival the applicant has been invited to attend. A list of the Key Festivals can be found in *Section 7*.
- A travel and accommodation budget, which must include any other external funding secured for the festival attendance.
- A statement on what the applicant hopes to gain from taking part in the relevant UK festival.

### 4. ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed every four weeks by the Royal African Society according to the eligibility criteria as listed above in *section 2*. If all eligibility criteria are successfully met, grants and grant amounts will be prioritised based on the following information:

- Whether the applicant's film has been selected in competition and/or has been nominated for an award - e.g. if a substantial amount of applications were submitted for one festival in particular, we would prioritise filmmakers who have been selected in completion or have been nominated for an award.
- The degree to which an applicant's film presents new perspectives on Africa and/or provides more nuanced representations of the continent's contemporary realities.
- Whether the applicant has access to other sources of funding to attend the relevant UK festival(s).

### 5. TIMELINE

From the date of application, the grant assessment process and payment will take an average of 4-6 weeks, following the below steps. In the interest of processing grants as efficiently as possible, it is important that applicants make their submissions to the Film Africa Travel Grant as soon as they have been notified of their UK festival acceptance.

- Applicants will receive a confirmation email response once an online application form has been submitted.
- Applicants will be considered at the next assessment meeting, which will take place once every four weeks.
- Applicants will be notified of their application outcome via email.
- Successful applicants will receive an offer letter outlining the grant amount, as well as all the necessary forms required by the Royal African Society to process the grant payment.
- Grant payment to be made within a week of the Royal African Society receiving the completed paperwork.
- Successful applicants will be provided with the evaluation survey form via email as soon as grant payments have been made.

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### 6. ACCESS AND SUPPORT

If applicants have specific access needs, please kindly inform us so we can discuss additional assistance that may be available to recipients of this travel grant. An example of this may be the requirement of additional funds to facilitate travel with a BSL interpreter or access worker. Please contact Dina Selim on [info@filmafrica.org.uk](mailto:info@filmafrica.org.uk) to discuss this in more detail before submitting your application.

### 7. UK KEY FESTIVALS LIST *(in chronological order)*

#### Sheffield Doc Fest

**Dates:** 6 – 11 June 2019

**Submissions deadline:** 4 March 2019\*

#### Edinburgh International Film Festival

**Dates:** 19 – 30 June 2019

**Submissions deadline:** 7 February 2019\*

#### Encounters Film Festival

**Dates:** 24 – 29 September 2019

**Submissions deadline:** 6 June 2019

#### BFI London Film Festival

**Dates:** 2 – 13 October 2019

**Submissions deadline:** 14 June 2019

#### London Short Film Festival

**Dates:** 10 – 19 January 2020

**Submission deadlines:** Early bird: 1 Feb-22 April / Regular: 23 April-1 July / Late: 2 July-12 Aug 2019

#### Glasgow Film Festival

**Dates:** 26 February – 8 March 2020

**Submission deadline:** To be announced. Please monitor festival website for updates.

#### BFI Flare LGBTQ + Festival

**Dates:** March 2020 – exact dates TBC.

**Submission deadline:** To be announced. Please monitor festival website for updates.

#### Belfast Film Festival

**Dates:** April 2020 – exact dates TBC.

**Submission deadline:** To be announced. Please monitor festival website for updates.

*\*If you've already submitted a film to these festivals and it is being considered, please get in touch for an update.*

*N.B. Please note this Key Festivals list may be subject to change.*

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### 8. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Q: What kind of project does the Film Africa Travel Grant Scheme support?**

**A:** The Film Africa Travel Grants accepts applications for short film projects of any genre that meet the eligibility criteria mentioned above, as well as Virtual Reality and Immersive storytelling projects. First and second features will also be considered.

**Q: How do you select the festivals on your Key Festivals List?**

**A:** The festivals on the list have been selected based on the strategic role each festival plays in promoting and developing new talent internationally. We work hard to make sure our industry knowledge is as current as possible and therefore may add/remove festivals when appropriate. This means the Key Festivals List is subject to change.

**Q: Can more than one applicant apply for support to travel with the same film or project?**

**A:** Travel grant awards are made per film or project. It is ultimately up to the creative team how the grant is divided. The one stipulation is that the grant fund must be used to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.

**Q: How many times can I apply for the fund?**

**A:** A maximum of *two* applications per film will be accepted during this pilot year. In cases where more than one application is submitted, we encourage applicants to put forward different names from the cast/crew team to benefit from the opportunity.

**Q: If I have applied to the fund already and been successful, do I need to make a subsequent application when the film or project is selected in another festival?**

**A:** For administrative purposes, a log of all applications needs to be kept, so a new application will need to be submitted. However, if you have already applied, your original information will be on record and you will be able to omit certain sections from subsequent applications.

**Q: Does my film or project need to have been shot or created in Africa to be eligible?**

**A:** No. However the core personnel (director, producer and/or scriptwriter) behind the film or project must include filmmakers who are citizens of an African country and have been resident in an African country for a minimum of two consecutive years.

**Q: I have only just been notified that I have been selected for a festival on your list that starts very soon, can I still apply?**

**A:** Due to the issues often encountered with UK visa applications and approvals, applications should be submitted a minimum of 10 weeks prior to the applicant's expected date of travel. Please note this is only applicable to filmmakers who do not already have a valid UK visa for intended time of visit.

**Q: Can I apply again next year?**

**A:** The Royal African Society and British Council very much hope that this travel grant scheme is a successful one for all who participate in it and that it may be continued. However, it is currently a pilot scheme and its future availability is yet to be assessed and confirmed.