

Guidelines



KURDISTAN FILM FUND

Short, Medium-length, Feature films
for Distribution Support

Introduction

Under the umbrella of the Creative Kurdistan Institute, alongside the Kurdistan Film Commission, the Kurdistan Film Fund (KFF) is a national grant program supporting short, feature, medium-length films, and TV series across all production stages through two annual cycles.

Guideline

This document outlines essential guidelines for applicants submitting a Fiction, Animation or Documentary Short, Medium-Length or Feature film project for Distribution support.

Applicants are strongly advised to thoroughly review these guidelines before applying, as they detail essential regulations, funding amounts, and submission requirements for the Distribution support.

Eligibility

The complete eligibility criteria for Kurdistan Film Fund grants are available at the end of this document.

The full KFF General Regulations are available online on our website, where you can find detailed information and answers to your questions.

Application Timelines

Application Cycle One

Opens on **September 1, 2026**

Closes on **October 16, 2026**

Announcement of supported projects by **mid-January 2027**

Categories & Funding Film Cycle

Only available after completion of post-production and before any festival Premiere, theatrical release or launching of the film distribution and print circulation.

Short and medium-length film for Distribution Support

Including Fiction, Documentary and Animation

A short film is defined as a single work with a running time of less than 30 minutes.

A medium-length film is defined as a single work with a running time of 30 to 59 minutes.

Feature film for Distribution Support

Including Fiction, Documentary and Animation

A feature film is defined as a single work with a running time of more than 60 minutes intended for an initial theatrical release.

Amounts of Funding Grants & Sessions

Package includes cash and professional guidance during collective sessions.

Support available – Based on marketing and distribution strategy.

- **Market expenses** including accreditations, market screenings, advertising
- **Marketing expenses** including poster design, marketing campaign and PR during national or international festival Premieres
- **Festival expenses** including travel expenses to attend national or international festival Premieres
- **Visa procedure** – For international travels the national film fund will assist the Kurdish director or producer throughout the visa application process.
- **Distribution & Festival strategy** including tailored consultation to evaluate the film's festival potential and develop a strategic distribution plan for festivals
- All projects supported in each funding cycle will have access to a series of online group information sessions covering key topics relevant to the project's development, financing and production. These sessions will take place within a three-month period following the notification of the awarded grant
- Distribution support aims to increase the international visibility of Kurdish cinema by helping supported projects access major festivals, film markets, sales opportunities and professional networks, while encouraging long-term international circulation

Payments of Funding Grants

The grant will be allocated to the producer, except in certain cases duly specified in the present regulations (*):

- Based on the film's Prints & Advertising (P&A) strategy and subject to the approval of due quotations submitted by the producer.

Required Materials

Below is a list of required documents in the application dossier for the Distribution Support..

- To facilitate the evaluation process, applicants are strictly required to present and submit their application materials in the order specified below.
- All required documents must be submitted in one single PDF file.

Distribution Funding stage

Artistic documents (in English)

- Cover page including title
- Short and/or long synopsis (20 lines maximum)
- Producer's distribution strategy outlining the film's specific needs, necessary works and steps to ensure its successful release (2 pages maximum)

Creative team (in English)

- Director's bio and filmography
- Links to the director's previous audiovisual works
- Screenwriter(s)' bio and filmography (if applicable)
- Producer's bio and filmography
- Links to the producer's previous audiovisual works
- Production company profile (not mandatory for Short and Medium-length film)
- Co-producer's bio and filmography (if applicable)

- Links to the co-producer's previous audiovisual works (if applicable)
- Co-production company profile (if applicable)
- Key creative team's bios and filmographies

Legal documents (some may be provided in their original language, such as Arabic or Kurdish)

- Director's ID
- Director's proof of lineage or any other appropriate evidence of a tangible connection to the Kurdish community or culture
- Producer's ID
- Producer's proof of lineage or any other appropriate evidence of a tangible connection to the Kurdish community or culture (if applicable)
- Signed option or copyright assignment agreement(s)
- Adaptation rights agreement(s) (if applicable)
- Director's agreement (if the director is not the screenwriter)
- Production agreement(s)
- Proof of legal registration of the production company (certificate of incorporation or equivalent official registration document)

- Co-production agreement(s) (if applicable)
- Letters of commitment from any partners already involved in the project (e.g. funding, co-producers, broadcasters, distributors, sales, etc.)

Financial documents (in English)

- Final financial plan (using the official Kurdistan Film Fund plan budget template)
- Final budget (using the official Kurdistan Film Fund excel budget template)
- Prints & Advertising (P&A) quotation

Completed film

- Link to the picture-locked film with English subtitles

Note on the evaluation

- Beyond assessing artistic excellence and production feasibility, the Jury also considers each project's potential contribution to the long-term development, international recognition and sustainability of Kurdish cinema.
- Special attention will be given to supporting projects that place a strong emphasis on diversity and gender equality in the above and below-the-line crew.

Thank You!

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