

Guidelines



KURDISTAN FILM FUND

Short, Medium-length, Feature films and TV Series in
Production or Co-Production

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 in Short, Medium-length, Feature film or TV Series project in the Production or co-production phase.

Applicants are strongly advised to thoroughly review these guidelines before applying, as they detail essential regulations, funding amounts, and submission requirements for the Production or co-production stage.



Eligibility

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

Short and Medium-length film in Production

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 in Production or Co-Production

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.

TV series in Production or Co-Production

Including Fiction, Documentary and Animation

Open to any of the following formats: one-season series, multi-season series, limited series.

With a minimum of 3 episodes and a running time for each episode of 15 to 60 minutes.

Amounts of Funding Grants & Sessions

Package includes cash and professional guidance during collective sessions.

Cash Amounts & Collective Sessions

Production

Short and Medium-length film	up to \$10,000
Fiction and Animation Feature film	up to \$100,000
Documentary Feature Film	up to \$50,000
TV Series	up to \$60,000

Co-Production

Fiction and Animation Feature film	up to \$60,000
Documentary Feature film	up to \$30,000
TV Series	up to \$40,000

Validity of Funding Grants

Will be terminated if principal photography has not begun **within two years** after the notification of the grant. If clearly justified, an additional **extension of one year** may be requested, as an exception, subject to the sole discretion of the Fund.

- 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.
- Financial support is combined with tailored professional guidance, offering each supported project comprehensive support adapted to its stage of development. Grant recipients are expected to actively participate in the dedicated programme of professional sessions, which forms an integral part of the Fund’s support and the conditions of the awarded grant.

Payments of Funding Grants

The grant will be allocated to the producer, except in certain cases duly specified in the present regulations (*). In case of Co-production grant, it will be paid to the Kurdish production.

- 1st transfer of **40%** of total grant upon signature of the grant agreement
- 2nd transfer of **40%** of total grant on the first day of principal photography (by providing a filming permit)
- 3rd transfer of **20%** of total grant upon receipt and approval of a complete narrative and financial report on the use of total grant (Financial statement certified by a statutory auditor or a chartered accountant)

Required Materials

Below is a list of required documents in the application dossier for the projects in Production or Co-Production.

- 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.

Production Funding Stage
OR Co-Production Funding Stage

Artistic documents (in English)

- Cover page including title
- Short and/or long synopsis (20 lines maximum)
- Director’s statement/Artistic note of intent related to the project (2 pages maximum)
- Artistic references: mood board or visual references, aesthetic influences, inspirations and potential scouting (6 pages maximum)
- Cast & Crew list outlining the Kurdish creative talents involved
- Producer’s note of intention outlining the project’s specific needs, necessary works and steps to ensure its successful production, its potential in production and distribution (2 pages maximum)

For Short, Medium-length and Feature film only

- Screenplay

For TV Series only:

- Logline

Bible including:

- Series concept
- Characters
- Story arches
- Synopsis of each episode (3 episodes minimum)
- Script of each episode (3 episodes minimum)

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)
- 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

- Production timeline
- Financial plan (using the official Kurdistan Film Fund excel plan template)
- Estimated budget (using the official Kurdistan Film Fund excel budget template)
- Priority and higher levels of support may be given to projects that generate significant expenditure within the Kurdistan region of Iraq.
- For Documentary Feature films or Documentary TV Series, no more than 50% of the estimated final edited film may have been shot at the time of application.
- For resubmitted projects only > A rewrite note must be included.

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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