

FAQs – VIFF Canadian Film Submissions 2020

VIFF is now accepting Canadian submissions of any genre for our 2020 festival, which will screen more than 180 features and 80 shorts in a multi-venue showcase of exceptional films from around the globe.

Featuring the world's largest annual collection of contemporary Canadian cinema, VIFF invites exciting new voices to share the spotlight with national treasures as we celebrate narratives that demonstrate originality, documentaries that change the way we see the world, and short films that push the form to its limits.

When are the submission deadlines and entry fees?

The following dates are the deadlines to submit your film through [FilmFreeway](#). All submissions must be sent through that platform. Submissions fees are non-refundable.

	Feature Films	Short Films
Early Deadline: April 24, 2020	\$35.00 USD	\$20.00 USD
Regular Deadline: May 29, 2020	\$42.50 USD	\$25.00 USD
Late Deadline: June 12, 2020	\$50.00 USD	\$30.00 USD

What are the submission categories and how do I choose the right one for my project?

Canadian Narrative Features: Open to narrative films with runtimes over 25 minutes directed by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident with Canada listed as one of the countries of production OR with 51% or more Canadian financing. Feature length films must not have been broadcast, distributed on VOD/home video, been made available for viewing on the internet or screened either at another festival or publically (i.e. an advertised public screening at which an admission was charged, excluding film school graduation screenings) in the Vancouver area.

Canadian Documentaries: Open to nonfiction films with runtimes over 25 minutes directed by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident with Canada listed as one of the countries of production OR with 51% or more Canadian financing. Feature length films must not have been broadcast, distributed on VOD/home video, been made available for viewing on the internet or screened either at another festival or publically (i.e. an advertised public screening at which an admission was charged, excluding film school graduation screenings) in the Vancouver area.

Canadian Shorts: Open to narrative and nonfiction films (including animation) with runtimes of 25 minutes or less directed by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident with Canada listed as one of the countries of production OR with 51% or more Canadian financing. VIFF will consider short films that have been made available online.

Can I resubmit my film from last year?

Yes, as long as 60% of your film has changed since it was last submitted.

Is my film too old to submit?

Any film submitted for VIFF 2020 must have been completed after June 1, 2019.

May I submit my project as a rough cut?

While we are accustomed to watching unfinished films, we strongly recommend that you submit your film in the most finished form possible. We ask that you address any important notes concerning the current state of your submitted film (example: temporary score, unfinished VFX) in an email to canadian.submissions@viff.org. You should also advise us of the date you expect the film to be fully completed.

If I've already submitted a rough cut, will you also watch the final version?

Due to the high volume of submissions we receive every year, we are not able to preview multiple versions of a single film.

How do I contact you if I've changed my screener's password?

It is the filmmaker's responsibility to ensure that the film link and password submitted are working. In the case that a password changes, we may attempt, but are under no obligation, to contact the applicant in order to obtain a replacement online screener. Updated screener information can be sent to canadian.submissions@viff.org

How many films can I submit?

You are free to submit as many films as you wish. However, each film must be submitted (and paid for) separately.

Is VIFF a competitive festival?

Yes, the full list of awards from the 2020 festival can be found on [FilmFreeway](#).

Who watches my submission?

Film submissions to VIFF are reviewed by year-round programming staff, seasonal programmers and screening committees made up of film critics, filmmakers and other individuals well-versed in world cinema.

If you watch all submissions, why doesn't my Vimeo link have any views in Vancouver?

Many of VIFF's previewers live outside of the Vancouver area or view films while travelling to other festivals. Additionally, films that are viewed through third-party platforms like FilmFreeway do not count as views through Vimeo.

Does VIFF offer fee waivers?

As a not-for-profit society, VIFF relies on submission fees to help cover administration and programming costs. In order to maintain the high quality of our programming, we are not able to offer fee waivers.

I have been accepted to another festival but haven't heard from VIFF. Can I email you about this?

Yes, you can email canadian.submissions@viff.org to inform us, but unfortunately we are not able to help you make a decision about participating in other festivals.

Will I receive feedback on my submission?

Regrettably, with thousands of submissions every year, we don't have the ability to offer notes to each individual filmmaker.

Will VIFF confirm receipt of my submission?

Once you've submitted through FilmFreeway, you can check the status of your film on their website. If your status seems incorrect, please write to canadian.submissions@viff.org

When will I be notified about your decision?

You will be advised of our decision by email no later than **September 2, 2020**.

Have a question that isn't on this list?

Please contact: canadian.submissions@viff.org