



2024 STUDENT GRANT GUIDELINES

The Berkeley FILM Foundation (BFF) is pleased to announce the 2024 grant program, opening Tuesday April 2, 2024. Once you have read through the grant guidelines and find you are a qualified candidate, we invite you to submit an application using our Submittable portal on our website (www.berkeleyfilmfoundation.org). **To accommodate university final exams - will be extending the deadline to students to May 28 at 11:59pm PST.**

We are pleased to sponsor a funding opportunity for student filmmakers currently enrolled in a full-time film program. Individual grants of up to \$5,000 can underwrite production, post- production or distribution expenses. In addition to the online application, the applicant must submit a clip or trailer (up to 10-minute clip), of the work for which the grant is sought. Prior work is not required to submit with the application.

Please note: If you are unable to submit a written application, please contact Isabella Miller at isabella@berkeleyfilmfoundation.org or at 510-705-1481 to discuss accommodations and alternate methods to apply.

PLEASE READ: CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY

Narrative/fiction short film projects (animation or live action) will not be accepted in this cycle. Instead, a separate grant cycle will be opening later this summer for Narrative films only. As a review committee, we found that reviewing Narrative shorts alongside documentary shorts and features was too complex a process and we have decided to create a separate program from documentary consideration. More information will be released later this year on the new program.

Student Grant Description

Berkeley FILM Foundation provides student grants in the **production, post-production** and **distribution** stages of the film project. We do not fund projects in the pre-production

or development phase. Applicants may submit one project for consideration per funding cycle.

The Berkeley FILM Foundation is interested in films that have a social consciousness and shine a light on untold stories of oppression or historical mistreatment, stories celebrating underrepresented communities, films about environmental degradation or climate change, educational films about little-known science, health, local history or profile films of an individual who is challenging norms or fighting the status quo. We value films of varying styles and types, from verité to direct cinema.

We judge films based on originality and creativity. Does the film tell a new story or contain a unique angle on an old premise? Is the filmmaker telling the story with imagination and using new techniques?

The subject of the film is also taken into consideration. Does this story need to be told? Is this a film that will gain a wide audience both within and outside of serious film viewers? Does the filmmaking team display a level of professionalism that will enable the film to be completed?

We also consider the issue of authorship: Why is this person telling this story? Is this the right person to be telling this story? These are some examples of things that the team could address in the application.

Student Grant Eligibility

Berkeley FILM Foundation will award grants in the production, post-production and distribution stages. Applicants may submit one project for consideration per funding cycle, with a maximum request **of \$5,000**.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be over the age of 18.
- Student must live in the cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond or Oakland. You may not use a P.O. Box address.
- Must be currently enrolled in a full-time film studies program in the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco or Marin.
- Be the primary creator of work submitted.
- BFF will not consider a new film proposal from a former grant recipient until the prior funded film is completed.

Eligible Genre:

- Short Documentary (40 minutes or less)
- Long Documentary (over 40 minutes)

NOT Eligible:

- Short Form Animation (30 minutes or less)
- Short Form Narratives (30 minutes or less)
- Broadcast news journalism
- Television spots
- Advertising Commercials
- Industrial or Corporate Media

We Do Not Fund:

- We do not cover costs retroactively.
- Media projects other than film or video.
- Organizational projects for internal or promotional use.
- General operating expenses of companies or organizations.

APPLYING FOR A BERKELEY FILM FOUNDATION GRANT

The application must be submitted via Submittable using the link on the 'Apply' page on our website, www.berkeleyfilmfoundation.org that will be live on Tuesday April 2, 2024.

The deadline to apply for a student grant is: May 28 at 11:59pm PST. Applicants will be required to include the following items:

1. **Current resume:** Please include a current resume for the director and producer in the application that describe the professional activities and achievements. Other key personnel on the project may be listed on the resume as well, if you choose.
2. **Project Budget:** Please include your project budget for consideration when completing the application. Please ensure this document is concise and easy to read. If applying for a distribution grant, please provide a detailed distribution budget and the total production cost. **Please make sure the document is formatted correctly and blank cells do not bleed onto additional pages.**
3. **Film Sample:** You must provide a maximum of 10-minutes of edited footage as your film sample. Your clip should be included as a Vimeo link to your project, or you may upload the file directly to the portal. If a password is needed, please use: BFF (all caps).

***Things to keep in mind:*

1. If you are in the later stages of production, i.e. deep post-production or distribution, we highly suggest providing a clip that is between 5-10 minutes in length. This allows the review panel to see the variety of subjects, locations, emotions and themes that you will include in your final project.
2. When describing your film sample in the application, tell us how it is representative of the intended story, style, subject, or other aspect of the project. If your current sample is outside of the suggested length requirements, please provide reviewers with the time codes of the portion of the sample that best reflects your intended style and approach (e.g., 3:15-12:15). Reviewers will not watch outside of these parameters.
3. The sample should demonstrate your access to characters, visual treatment, and the developing tone and style. We encourage applicants to submit a contains a complete scene that provides the viewer insight into the team's ability to communicate their intention.

Student Application Review

Student grants are approved by the Berkeley FILM Foundation Board of Directors acting upon the recommendations of the Grant Review Panel. The Grant Review Panel is comprised of eight industry professionals distinguished in their respective artistic fields.

- Official applications and support documents must be received by Tuesday May 28, 2024.
- The review process takes six-seven weeks before making recommendations. Applicants notified of award decisions no later than end of July 2024.

Please note: Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The Berkeley FILM Foundation can only fund a small percentage of the applicants we receive. A rejection does not preclude future applications. If you are awarded a grant, the film must conduct one community screening in partnership with BFF following completion, taking into consideration signed distribution contracts.

For technical assistance, including troubles accessing your account or uploading files, please contact Submittable Support at support@submittable.com

For content assistance please contact the Berkeley Film Foundation at info@berkeleyfilmfoundation.org