

[i]FEATURES

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS 2016

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**18.00hrs
Tuesday 29th March 2016**



These guidelines are intended to assist filmmakers in making a submission to iFeatures. They should be read in conjunction with the iFeatures' FAQ's at <http://www.ifeatures.co.uk/faqs.html>

WHAT IS iFEATURES?

iFeatures is a filmmaking initiative run by Creative England with support from the BFI, the BBC, and Creative Skillset's Film Skills Fund. The aim of the scheme is to support the development and production of low budget feature films, and to discover the next generation of filmmakers with a passion to tell stories rooted in the English regions.

iFeatures4 offers a unique opportunity to help turn your ideas into feature films. In addition to funding the development of up to twelve projects, each selected team will be offered support, access to networking events, as well as mentoring and high-level training with established industry professionals. After an intensive six months development process, up to three projects will be selected for production, with budgets of £350,000 per film. The selected films will be shot in 2017.

The new round will open for applications on Monday 8th February 2016. The submission process will close on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at 6PM.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Over the past few years, films such as Gareth Edward's *Monsters* and Andrew Haigh's *Weekend* have shown that ambitious stories well told can break out to achieve critical and commercial success. Filmmakers, emerging and established, have found expression through low budget filmmaking and increasingly this budget level is seen as a legitimate form of expression in itself, as well as a stepping stone to bigger things. From the Blaine Brothers' *Nina Forever* and Stephen Fingleton's *The Survivalist* to Sean Baker's Sundance hit *Tangerine*, 2015 has seen exciting new voices emerge from the low budget world.

We are looking for distinctive creative voices and exciting, bold visions, regardless of the type of film. We are interested in stories that will give us a real sense of place, and a unique and diverse picture of the English regions (outside Greater London); stories that will transcend low production budgets, and engage audiences in the UK and world-wide, regardless of the type of camera they are being shot on or distribution platform they are being experienced from.

Stories that move, entertain and challenge.....

WHO CAN APPLY?

iFeatures is aimed at creative talent whose work has already garnered positive industry and/or public attention in the fields of short films, theatre, advertising, TV, video gaming, online storytelling, commercials, graphic novels, music promos, documentaries, art films & videos. For directors and producers any of the following will be accepted as evidence of such public recognition:

- acceptance at a minimum of two short films festivals listed in the British Council festival directory <http://film.britishcouncil.org/festivals-directory>
- selection for Vimeo Staff Picks
- acceptance at online film festivals and competitions such as, amongst others, Virgin Media Shorts
- a minimum of 300,000 hits on YouTube, Vimeo or similar platforms
- a minimum of one completed professional theatre production of your work
- a minimum of two completed professional advertising campaigns
- a minimum of one completed television production of your work
- a minimum of one professional gallery or other public exhibition of your work
- a minimum of two released video games

Writers should submit a full-length writing sample as part of the application, being a full-length screenplay, TV script, novel, play or equivalent. In the case of a short film script or short story of less than twenty pages, two such samples should be provided.

Only teams of writers, directors and producers can apply. Each team should have a minimum of 2 people (eg: writer/director and producer) and a maximum of 4 people (eg: 2 x co-writers, director and producer) at the time of submission. An individual can be attached to a maximum of 2 submissions, either with the same or with a different team.

We do not accept applications from:

- incomplete teams
- Anyone currently studying in Further or Higher Education at any level
- teams with stories which are not set in the English regions (outside Greater London).

iFeatures is particularly targeted at emerging writers, directors and writer/directors who have yet to make a feature film or have already made a no/micro budget or previously unreleased feature. We positively encourage submissions from women, BAME and other groups currently under-represented in film. Applications from more experienced directors who are looking to move into a different space with the films they want to make may also be considered at our discretion.

We will normally expect the producer to lead the submission.

HOW TO APPLY?

You can make your project submission anytime from Monday 8th February until 6pm on Tuesday 29th March 2016. The application form can be found at <http://ifeatures.co.uk/apply-now.html>

Your application will need to include:

- A 25 words or less logline
- A 100 word short synopsis
- A treatment of no more than 5000 words (or max 10 A4 pages)
- A writer's statement of no more than 500 words

- A director's statement of no more than 500 words
- A producer's statement of no more than 500 words
- A team statement of no more than 500 words
- A writing sample from the writer
- Relevant examples of work by the director

The application form includes further instructions on what each of the above documents should cover.

HOW DO WE SELECT PROJECTS?

Each submission will be assessed based on:

- quality of the project
- ability and potential of the filmmaking team
- audience and market potential of the project.

Up to 24 applications will be shortlisted and teams will be invited to pitch their projects to the selection panel during w/c 6th June 2016.

After the pitch, the selection panel will invite up to 12 projects/ filmmaking teams to participate in iFeatures. We hope to notify all filmmakers in writing as to the selection panel's decision no later than w/c 13th June 2016. The selection panel will consist of senior representatives from Creative England, the BFI and BBC, with the iFeatures Executive Producer also in attendance.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL?

Up to twelve selected teams will be invited to take part in the **Initial Development Programme** and will be awarded development funding of £9,000 per team.

With the main focus on story development, the **Initial Development Programme** will last twelve weeks starting from 4th July, and it will see projects develop from the submitted treatments to first script drafts, including first draft revisions.

Each team will agree a bespoke development plan with the iFeatures team to complement the ongoing development work.

At the end of this stage, the scripts delivered by the 12 selected teams will be reviewed, and all teams will be invited to re-pitch their project to the panel and to discuss progress made to date.

Following this review, up to 6 teams will be invited to take part in the **Full Development Programme** and will be awarded further development funding of £6,000.

This part of the process will last 8 weeks (excluding Christmas and New Year), starting from 7th November, and each team will be expected to deliver a second script draft, including second draft revisions.

The **Full Development Programme** will offer the film-makers practical assistance and guidance to ensure their films find audiences and get distributed. This will include building relationships with potential sales agents and distributors, one-to-one mentoring and shadowing opportunities, and high-level workshops and masterclasses. All activities will be tailored to complement the advanced development stage of the selected projects, but also to enhance each filmmaker's professional development.

At the end of the 8 weeks, progress on the 6 projects will be formally reviewed by the selection panel, with a view to green-lighting 3 films for production prior to 31st March 2017. The three selected films will be shot in 2017.

iFeatures is a big commitment. We want to work with passionate, ambitious and committed filmmakers who will seize the opportunity provided by the initiative. However, we also realise that people have jobs and families and will do our best to make it work for everyone, no matter what their personal circumstances.

Professional Development and Training: iFeatures places professional development at its core and this part of the initiative is primarily funded by the Creative Skillset Film Skills Fund.

During each of the **Initial** and **Full Development Programmes**, filmmakers are required to participate in advance story structure and script development seminars, high-level master classes and workshops, and they will also have access to shadowing and industry networking opportunities.

We will cover a range of topics, from script development to financing, through to production, sales, marketing and distribution, all designed to enhance the creative and commercial skills of each filmmaking team member.

Please note that training and development sessions form a mandatory part of the initiative for all team members and will take approximately five days during each development phase. We will do our best to minimise the impact of this on the working and personal lives of participants through timetabling and geographical positioning of the training workshops.

ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED?

The main cost of the professional development workshops will be covered by the Creative Skillset Film Skills Fund. However, as a condition of Creative Skillset funding, each selected team is also required to make a £250 contribution to the costs of the professional development offer.

iFeatures4 has a limited amount of hardship support funded by Creative Skillset's Film Skills Fund and available for eligible participants to assist with participation costs, including childcare and travel, to attend workshop events, where needed. Decisions regarding the allocation of hardship support will be made on an individual case-by-case basis. If payment is a barrier to participating, please get in touch with

the iFeatures team via the email address provided at the end of this document to discuss your circumstances.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

If your project is selected for the **Initial Development Programme**, you will enter into a **development agreement** with iFeatures the terms and conditions of which will include the following:

- each team will be required to enter into a Filmmaking Team Agreement (FTA) specifying terms of their collaboration as individuals and sharing all rights including copyright in the project equally between team members. The agreement will also define the project initiator as the Owner who will be entitled to a reassignment of those rights if the team does not collectively continue with the project after turnaround
- prior to turnaround teams and projects should not apply for or receive additional development financing from any third parties without prior approval from iFeatures
- the teams will grant iFeatures an exclusive right to finance the further development and production of the project
- if the project is based on any underlying work you will need to have obtained rights or prove that you can obtain rights in (or an option over) that underlying work sufficient to be able to make one feature film
- iFeatures will not require an assignment of rights in the project during the development stages but – if the project is not selected for greenlighting as part of iFeatures4 and subsequently goes into production either with the same and/or different funders - then we will require repayment of the development funding along with a specified end credit (to include reference to our partners and the National Lottery). We may at our discretion agree that such development funds be converted into equity investments on any subsequent production, but this will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- If turnaround occurs filmmaking teams will be able to further develop their respective projects outside of the iFeatures initiative.

If your project is selected for production, you will be required to incorporate a film production company (FPC) that will enter into a **production finance agreement** with iFeatures Limited and a licence with the BBC. The main production funding terms and conditions will include the following requirements:

- films must be capable of qualifying as British under the Cultural Test <http://www.bfi.org.uk/supporting-uk-film/british-certification-tax-relief/cultural-test-film>
- films must qualify for a certificate from the British Board of Film Classification not more restrictive than “18”
- each film production must meet the BFI Diversity Standards <http://www.bfi.org.uk/sites/bfi.org.uk/files/downloads/bfi-film-fund-diversity-standards-2015-11-27.pdf>

- films should be originated digitally, either at 2K or 4K
- filmmakers will assign all rights relating to the project to the FPC so that it can produce the film
- iFeatures (acting on behalf of and with Creative England, the BFI and BBC) will require approval over the script, cast, production schedule, funding schedule, budget, credits, final cut, sales estimates and any sales below minimum, identity and terms of engagement of sales agent, UK distributor, and collection agent
- each production budget shall include financing and production legal fees, iFeatures financing costs, cost of standard production insurances and the E&O insurance, Skills Investment Fund payments, UK tax credit cashflowing costs (if any), audit costs, cost of producing delivery materials (including delivery materials required by iFeatures and its partners) and contingencyiFeatures will take a share of the copyright in the films and associated rights
- the BBC will be granted exclusive UK Free TV and associated online rights with appropriate holdbacks to allow sufficient time for the exploitation of the film on other platforms in the UK including VOD, Pay TV etc.
- the BBC's licence fee and the UK Film Tax Credit will form part of the finance for the budget of the film
- the FPC will be responsible for applying to HM Revenues and Customs for the UK Film Tax Credit
- Equity finance including certain costs associated with the iFeatures programme will be recoupable from the film by financiers. However, you will be entitled to a corridor of 30% of 100% of gross receipts (as normally defined) i.e. all revenues received by the collection agent less the usual deductions of collection agent fees and sales agent/distributor commissions and expenses. It is expected that this corridor will be shared between the participants in the film including the writer, director, individual producer, cast, crew and any companies providing significantly discounted services in an equitable manner. Once the film is in net profit this will rise to 50% (with the remaining 50% of net profits being allocated between the financiers)
- The FPC should also be entitled to receive a Producer Equity Entitlement equal to the UK Tax Credit advance for the film, to be recouped alongside financier equity contributions. This sum will be held in a 'Locked Box' through the BFI scheme and made available to support future development, production and training activity as agreed between the producer and BFI.
- you will be required to provide iFeatures and its partners with presentation and closing credits on the film in a format specified in the production finance agreement
- you will be expected to put in place all customary production insurances (including errors and omissions insurance) on which iFeatures, Creative England, BFI and BBC must be named as an additional insured
- all revenues for the film must be collected by an independent collection agent and any irrevocable payment instructions issued by the sales agent on your film to sub-distributors must cite and direct payment of any minimum guarantee and overages to the collection account

- all music and/or archive footage and any other contributions used in the film must be cleared for use in all media and in perpetuity and your film's budget should include sufficient funds to clear worldwide rights in all media from all individuals or organisations who are contributing to, or whose material is to be featured in, the film
- you will be required to comply with all applicable legislation including Health and Safety and National Minimum Wage rules and regulations for all cast and crew engagements
- during production of your film iFeatures, Creative England, BFI and BBC will want access to information about the film and to be able to attend any stages of production.

FEEDBACK

Due to the high volume of submissions that we expect to receive, we regret that we are unable to give feedback on their submission to those applicants who are not invited to the selection panel.

CONTACT

We welcome enquires from any filmmakers who are thinking about making a submission to iFeatures. If you have questions then many of these can probably be answered by a quick look through our FAQ's <http://ifeatures.co.uk/faqs.html>

If you can't find an answer to your question and would like to talk to one of the iFeatures team then please email ifeatures@creativeengland.co.uk.

All dates referred to in these guidelines are subject to revision at iFeatures' discretion. In the event that a date changes, we will endeavour to let participants know as soon as possible.

Whilst the information and advice in these guidelines is believed to be accurate at the time of going to press, iFeatures Limited reserves the right to make changes at any time to the iFeatures initiative and/or to these guidelines at any time at its discretion. iFeatures and its partners shall not be responsible for any loss attributable to errors, omissions or other inaccuracies in the information contained in these guidelines.