



Bhutan Film Trust – guideline application

Bhutan has a vibrant film industry with over 200 actors, directors, producers and crew, who produce more than 20 films a year. With its breath-taking scenery and amazing stories and myths, Bhutan inspires a large international audience.

The Bhutan Film Trust promotes the development of film in Bhutan. The Trust supports talented Bhutanese film producers, scriptwriters and film technicians.

The Bhutan Film Trust contributes to film festivals in Bhutan and assists in screening films *made in Bhutan* at major international film festivals.

The Bhutan Film Trust is based on business principles: together with talented and ambitious filmmakers the Trust invests to develop high quality films and the Bhutan film industry at large.

Although the Bhutan Film Trust is a non-profit organisation it does not apply charity rules: only talented filmmakers will be able to grow in the international film market that is demanding and competitive. Support from the Trust is thus just a small contribution to the Bhutan professional's next step.

Area of support

1. development of new scripts
2. support presenting the film to international film festival
3. production, post production support
4. distribution and exposure at international Film house; TV stations, home entertainment and others.

Types of support

1. professional advice
2. financial support
3. administrative support in registration procedures international film festivals

Eligibility

1. applicant should be a Bhutanese citizen
2. applicant should have produced and released a film during the last three years in Bhutan prior to the application and demonstrate film production experience.
3. the production will not be longer then 60 minutes;
4. feature films, animation, documentaries, and TV series are within the support areas
5. production includes English subtitles or usage of English language the has to bear 60% of the total production costs



Bhutan Film Trust – guideline application

Guidelines

1. The support is co-financial and partial financing
2. The support is non-repayable support
3. However, if BFT is the co-producer and will market and distribute the film according to a contract signed between the applicant and BFT, BFT will share in the revenues of the completed film. This allows the fund to revolve and grow for future (non-rewarding) film activities.
4. A support will be awarded only if the applicant makes a contribution of 60% of the total production costs.
5. The BFT will support 40% of the total production costs or Euro 5000/- which ever is less.
6. The BFT will support 20% of the total production costs or Euro 3000/- which ever is less in case of international co-production.
7. Bhutan Film Trust accepts proposals three times a year 31 January, 31 May and 30 September.
8. Bhutan production costs are the cost related to film producing in Bhutan.
9. In case of a co-production, the application may only be filed by one of the producers. The producers participating in the co-production have to reach agreement on this point.
10. The content of the film has to be approved by Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA) so as not to violate the laws of the country.
11. Shooting work can commence only after a notification of support has been received from Bhutan Film Trust.
12. Two technically flawless prints of the film have to be provided to the BFT within 12 months of the first public showing of the film for archiving with the BFT.
13. The following costs do not qualify as Bhutan production costs eligible for a support when calculating the amount of the support:
 - Costs for rights to underlying material and rights to other pre-existing works (including music) except royalties for the script on which the film is based
 - Costs of legal advice
 - Insurance costs
 - Financing costs
 - Travel and transport costs for actors
 - Overhead costs
 - Actor fees
14. Total production cost of a film include the following costs:
 - Pre-production costs



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- Rights and manuscripts
- Equipment and technology
- Film material and editing
- Post production
- Distribution costs
- Participation costs at international film festivals

15. On location shooting costs incurred abroad will only be treated as production costs in Bhutan

Guidelines Application procedure

1. The authority for the implementation of the procedures of this guideline rests with the Bhutan Film Trust board.
2. The online application should be sent to info@bhutanfilmtrust.org
3. The application deadlines are 31 January, 31 May and 30 September of each year.
4. The application should attach the necessary documents in English as per the guidelines.
5. Incomplete application will **not** be taken into consideration.
6. The decision of the Bhutan Film Trust board of trustees cannot be appealed.
7. The Bhutan Film Trust will not return the documents and DVDs to applicants.
8. The support will be awarded or refused by way of a written notification.
9. The notification of a successful support will expire unless work commences within 2 months of receipt of the notification. The support will also expire if the film is not completed within the projected dates mentioned in the application.
10. If adequate budget funds are no longer available for an application, a partial amount may be awarded or delayed till next budget year.

Disbursement of Support

1. Upon request the support may be disbursed in instalments depending on progress of production; 33% of the support will be disbursed at the start of shooting; 33% of the support upon completion of the rough cut, and the remainder following an audit of the final costs. Such request has to be supported with clarification.



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Non-disbursement

- Proper financing of the film project is not ensured
- The applicant has breached the principles of economical business management within the context of the financing, production, rental, distribution or video distribution.

Repayment

In case of non performance the applicant needs to repay the support received. As regards co-productions, the co-producers are jointly liable for repayment of the support if required in case of non-performance