

BRITISH SOCIETY OF CINEMATOGRAPHERS
AWARDS CRITERIA 2026

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the rules for the 71st British Society of Cinematographers Awards to be presented on the 6th February 2027.

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If you have any questions related to the criteria or voting procedure please contact awards@bscine.com

TIMELINE

Submissions Open
9th November 2026 (9am GMT)

Submissions Close
13th December 2026 (6pm GMT)

Nomination Balloting On All Categories Begins
15th December 2026

NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED
11th January 2027 (8am GMT)

Cinematography In A Feature Film Voting Window Opens
11th January 2027

Cinematography In A Television Drama (UK Terrestrial), Cinematography In A Television Drama (International/Streaming), Cinematography In A Limited Series or TV Movie (Intenrational/Streaming) and Cinematography In A Music Video Juries Meet
16th and 17th January 2027

Cinematography In A Feature Film Voting Window Closes
17th January 2027

71ST BRITISH SOCIETY OF CINEMATOGRAPHERS AWARDS
6th February 2027

CINEMATOGRAPHY IN A FEATURE FILM

Eligibility Period - February 1st 2026 to January 31st 2027

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

Please ensure to read the below requirements carefully. Failure to meet any of the requirements could result in disqualification.

1. Any submitted film must be longer than 60 minutes to qualify in the feature film category;
2. The film should have been released within the United Kingdom between February 1st 2026 and 31st January 2027;
3. Release is defined as commercially available through paid theatrical release or screening at the London BFI Film Festival;
4. Films that are released simultaneously on VOD, DVD, Broadcast or Cable or Streaming on or after the first day of the theatrical release remain eligible.
5. Films that do not receive a theatrical distribution and instead have their first showing on VOD, DVD, Broadcast or Cable are not eligible for the Cinematography In A Feature Film Award and are instead eligible for the Cinematography In A Limited Series or Television Movie (International/Streaming) Award or the Cinematography In A Television Drama (UK Terrestrial) Award.
6. Animated Feature Films are eligible for the Cinematography In A Feature Film Award.
7. Documentary Feature Films are not eligible for the Cinematography In A Feature Film Award;
8. Films that feature more than two credited Cinematography credits are not eligible.

SUBMISSION

Submission is via the British Society of Cinematographers Submission Form which includes:

1. £200 Submission fee per entry;
2. Cinematographer (s) credit as they appear on screen;
3. Name and Location of where the Film was screened for qualification;
4. Viewing Link to be sent to voting members.

Failure to meet any of the above criteria and requirements may result in disqualification.

The British Society of Cinematographers shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules and reserves the rightto declare any submission ineligible.

There are no refunds given once a piece of work has been submitted. For all queries and questions please email awards@bscine.com

CINEMATOGRAPHY IN A TELEVISION DRAMA (UK TERRESTRIAL)

Eligibility Period - December 1st 2025 to November 30th 2026.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

Please ensure to read the below requirements carefully. Failure to meet any of the requirements could result in disqualification.

1. Any television episode or" Made for Television" Film can qualify for this category;
2. The episode or" Made for Television" film should be released within the United Kingdom between December 1st 2025 and 30th November 2026;
3. "Made for Television" films which have a simultaneous paid Theatrical release qualify for the Cinematography in a Feature Film Award (see section 1).
4. The Cinematography In A Television Drama (UK Terrestrial) Award is reserved for Television Drama or "Made for Television" Films which are made by a UK based Production Company and are screened on a UK domestic terrestrial channel (BBC/ITV /Channel 4/Channel 5).
5. Television Drama or "Made for Television" Film made by Streaming Services or Internationally (including International co-productions) are only eligible for the Cinematography In A Television Drama (International/Streaming) or Cinematigraphy In A Limited Series or Television Movie (International/Streaming) Award.
6. A Television Drama cannot be nominated in both categories;
7. Cinematographers are eligible to submit more than one Television Drama to this category but are limited to only one episode from each Television Drama.
8. Cinematographers credited under "Additional Photography" or "Additional Cinematographers" are not eligible for submission;
9. In the event a Television Drama meets the criteria of both Television awards the British Society of Cinematographers Awards and Events Committee will rule on eligibility;
10. Episodes of Animated Television are eligible for this award;
11. Episodes of Documentary Television are not eligible for this award;
12. Episodes that credit two main unit cinematographers are eligible and both cinematographers must be listed on the submission;
13. Episodes that feature more than two credited Cinematographers are not eligible.

SUBMISSION

Submission is via the British Society of Cinematographers Submission Form which includes:

1. £ 100 Submission fee per entry;
2. Cinematographer (s) credit as they appear on screen;
3. Name of Broadcast Channel where the episode was first broadcast and date;
4. Names of Production Companies responsible for the production of the episode.
5. Viewing Link to be sent to voting members.
6. Cut down Excerpt* please see Section 6

Failure to meet any of the above criteria and requirements may result in disqualification. The British Society of Cinematographers shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules and reserves the right to declare any submission ineligible.

CINEMATOGRAPHY IN A TELEVISION DRAMA (INTERNATIONAL/STREAMING)

Eligibility Period - December 1st 2025 to November 30th 2026.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

Please ensure to read the below requirements carefully. Failure to meet any of the requirements could result in disqualification.

1. The International/Streaming categories are split into two categories 'Cinematography In A Drama Series (International/Streaming)' and 'Cinematography In A Limited Series or Television Movie (International/Streaming)'.
2. This category is designed for a regular series which features one or more season.
3. A season should consist of at least six half-hour or one-hour episodes.
4. The Drama series should have been released with the United Kingdom between December 1st 2025 and 30th November 2026.
5. The Cinematography In A Television Drama (Streaming/International) Award is reserved for Television Drama, which is principally funded by a non-UK Studio/financier or produced by a streaming or cable service for release on their platform.
6. The Cinematography In A Television Drama (International/Streaming) Award does not include Television Drama or "Made for Television" Film which is made by a UK based Production Company or broadcast by a UK domestic channel (BBC/ITV/ChanneL 4/Channel 5).
7. A Television Drama cannot be nominated in both categories;
8. In the event a Television Drama meets the criteria of both Television awards the British Society of Cinematographers Awards and Events Committee will rule on eligibility.
9. Cinematographers are eligible to submit more than one Television Drama to this category but are limited to only one episode from each Television Drama. Cinematographers credited under "Additional Photography" or "Additional Cinematographers" are not eligible for submission;
10. Episodes of Animated Television are eligible for this award;
11. Episodes of Documentary Television are not eligible for this award;
12. Episodes that credit two main unit cinematographers are eligible and both cinematographers must be listed on the submission;
13. Episodes that feature more than two credited Cinematographers are not eligible.

SUBMISSION

Submission is via the British Society of Cinematographers Submission Form which includes:

1. £200 Submission fee per entry;
2. Cinematographer (s) credit as they appear on screen;
3. Name of Streamer/cable provider or platform and date of first airing;
4. Names of Production Companies responsible for the production of the episode.
5. Viewing Link to be sent to voting members.
6. Cut down Excerpt* please see Section 6

Failure to meet any of the above criteria and requirements may result in disqualification. The British Society of Cinematographers shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules and reserves the right to declare any submission ineligible.

CINEMATOGRAPHY IN A LIMITED SERIES OR TELEVISION MOVIE (INTERNATIONAL/STREAMING)

Eligibility Period - December 1st 2025 to November 30th 2026.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

Please ensure to read the below requirements carefully. Failure to meet any of the requirements could result in disqualification.

1. The International/Streaming categories are split into two categories 'Cinematography In A Drama Series (International/Streaming)' and 'Cinematography In A Limited Series or Television Movie (International/Streaming)'.
2. This category is designed for a Limited Series or Television Movie.
3. A Limited Series is defined as a storyline told over a limited number of episodes where the charactersvand storyline do not continue or reccur in subsequent seasons.
4. A Television Movie is a single drama made specifically for Television with a minumum running time of 75 minutes. The Television Movie should have been screened within the United Kingdom but without a theatrical release worldwide.
4. The Limited Series or Television Movie should have been released with the United Kingdom between December 1st 2025 and 30th November 2026.
5. The Cinematography In A Limited Series or Television Movie (Streaming/International) Award is reserved for a series or Television Movie, which is principally funded by a non-UK Studio/financier or produced by a streaming or cable service for release on their platform.
6. The Cinematography In A Limited Series or Television Movie (International/Streaming) Award does not include Television Drama or "Made for Television" Film which is made by a UK based Production Company or broadcast by a UK domestic channel (BBC/ITV/ChanneL 4/Channel 5).
7. A series or Television Movie cannot be nominated in both categories;
8. In the event a Television Drama meets the criteria of both Television awards the British Society of Cinematographers Awards and Events Committee will rule on eligibility.
9. Cinematographers are eligible to submit more than one series or Television Movie to this category but are limited to only one episode from each Television Drama. Cinematographers credited under "Additional Photography" or "Additional Cinematographers" are not eligible for submission;
10. Episodes of Animated Television are eligible for this award;
11. Episodes of Documentary Television are not eligible for this award;
12. Episodes that credit two main unit cinematographers are eligible and both cinematographers must be listed on the submission;
13. Episodes that feature more than two credited Cinematographers are not eligible.

SUBMISSION

Submission is via the British Society of Cinematographers Submission Form which includes:

£200 Submission fee per entry;
2. Cinematographer (s) credit as they appear on screen;
3. Name of Streamer/cable provider or platform and date of first airing;

4. Names of Production Companies responsible for the production of the episode.
5. Viewing Link to be sent to voting members.
6. Cut down Excerpt* please see Section 6

Failure to meet any of the above criteria and requirements may result in disqualification. The British Society of Cinematographers shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules and reserves the right to declare any submission ineligable.

CINEMATOGRAPHY IN A MUSIC VIDEO

Eligibility Period - December 1st 2025 to November 30th 2026.

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

Please ensure to read the below requirements carefully. Failure to meet any of the requirements could result in disqualification.

1. This category is only open to cinematographer's **resident within in the United Kingdom;**
2. Proof of residency will be request upon application;
3. Submitted work must have had an official commercial release between the December 1st 2025 and 30th November 2026;
4. Release can be via broadcast or online;
5. Cinematographers credited under "Additional Photography" or "Additional Cinematographers" are not eligible for submission;
6. The cinematographers name should not be featured in submitted work. If the work has credits as part of the finished product the Cinematographer should edit these out to ensure impartiality;
7. Cinematographers may submit a maximum of two entries to this category;
8. The submitted music video should be at least 75% wholly original work shot by the submitting cinematographers (s);
9. Music videos that credit two main unit cinematographers are eligible and both cinematographers must be listed on submission;
10. Music Videos that feature more than two main unit cinematographers are not eligible.

SUBMISSION

Submission is via the British Society of Cinematographers Submission Form which includes:

1. £50 Submission fee per entry;
2. Cinematographer (s) credit;
3. Link to the official music video;
4. The date and release platform of the music video.

Failure to meet any of the above criteria and requirements may result in disqualification.

The British Society of Cinematographers shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules and reserves the right to declare any submission ineligible.

No refunds are given one a piece of work has been submitted. For an queries and questions please email awards@bscine.com

GUIDANCE ON CUT-DOWNS

For Both Television categories a cut-down excerpt should be provided. This is as follows:

1. Applicants must submit a six-minute cut-down from the submitted drama;
2. Applicants should provide a downloadable link to their cut down, this can via Vimeo, Dropbox, WeTransfer or any other file sharing platform.
3. The Uploaded entry must carry a front title card of 5 seconds duration with the name of the production and episode title - please **do not** list the Cinematographer(s);
4. Excerpts can be continuous or a series excerpts, each no shorter than 30 seconds in duration, excerpts should be in the same order as presented within the episode, with the original aspect ratio.
5. Excerpts should come from the final broadcast episode and not be re-graded or changed, and should feature the original soundtrack;
6. Excerpts should be provided in H264 in either 24fps or 25fps depending on the original broadcast and in HD or 2k resolution;
7. Please label your file NameofShow_EpisodeTitle_6min;
8. Please do not include a title sequence which may reveal the Cinematographers name;

If you are using vimeo please read http://vimeo.com/help/compression for more info and to understand the compression settings on that platform.

If you have any questions about your submission please email awards@bscine.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE VOTING POOL?

At the time publishing the number of eligable voters for the British Society of Cinematographers Awards was as follows:

Full Accredited Members	150
Honorary Accredited Members	56
Associate Members	53
Honorary Associate Members	27
Total Eligible Voting Members	286

A full breakdown of BSC members can be found at www.bscine.com

HOW DO THE JURIED CATEGORIES WORK?

Both the Television categories and Music category involve juries. Last year over 100 jurors taken directly from the membership took part in watching the submitted material and voting. Each submission is seen multiple times to ensure a balanced and independent view. Jurors are not made aware of the cinematographer involved.

Winners are decided by a special jury which reviews all the nominees and then votes. The jurors are unaware of who has won until the envelopes are announced on the 6th February.

HOW SECURE IS MY SUBMITTED FILM OR WORK?

In the Cinematography In A Feature Film category we ask all submissions to provide a link to their film. This is to ensure that the membership vote based on having seen all the work. We are happy to accept one-time codes and links to your own secure sites and we can distribute those to members who haven't yet seen the film.

With Television, voting takes place online via our secure portal which is password protected and can only be accessed by BSC members.

HOW WILL NOMINEES BE INFORMED?

Nominees will be informed via press release/Instagram announcement on the 11th January. All nominees will be invited to attend the 71st British Society of Cinematographers awards. There is no cost for the ticket to the event but the society is unable to assist with travel costs. Nominees will be receive a certificate and binder on the evening. Nominees are entitled to use the term "nominee" and the BSC logo on social media and all publicity as they see fit.

FYC MAILSHOTS

Mailshots for Cinematography In A Feature Film will be available throughout due to the large number of members who are also AMPAS and BAFTA Members.

BSC SCREENINGS

BSC Screenings can be purchased in December but during the voting period of January we will not be taking any requests for screenings.

WINNER(S)

The winner(s) will be announced at the British Society of Cinematographers Awards on the 6th February Winners will be presented with the BSC Award (designed by Academy Award® winning Production Designer, Sir Ken Adam).

Cinematography In A Feature Film (Gold Camera)
Cinematography In A Television Drama (UK Terrestrial) (Silver Camera)
Cinematography In A Television Drama (International/Streaming (Silver Camera)
Cinematography In A Limited Series or Television Movie (International/Streaming) (Silver Camera)
Cinematography In A Music Video (Bronze Camera)
Cinematography In A Short Film (BSC Club) (Bronze Camera)
Cinematography In A Short Film (Postgraduate Student) (Bronze Camera)
- Cinematography In A Short Film (Undergraduate Student) (Bronze Camera)

There is no cost for this award. The winner is entitled to use the term "winner" and the BSC logo on social media and all publicity as they see fit.

DATA PROTECTION

The BSC's data protection guidelines are located here: https://bscine.com/privacy

For any other queries please email awards@bscine.com