

BELGIAN ACADEMY AWARDS REGULATIONS 2025-2026

DEFINITION

1. An International Feature is defined as a feature-length motion picture (over 40 minutes), produced outside the United States of America and its territories, with a predominantly (more than 50%) non-English dialogue track.
2. Feature-length animated and documentary films are permitted.
3. The producer must confirm that creative control of the film was largely in the hands of citizens or residents of the submitting country: direction, screenwriting, editing, ...
4. Should a producer not disclose up-to-date and/or accurate information related to a submitted film's citizenship, business-related affiliation or credit on a selected film, designated credits, production details and release information, a film will be deemed ineligible.
5. International Feature Film submissions may be submitted for consideration for Academy Awards in other categories, including Best Picture, provided they comply with the rules governing those categories.
6. Films submitted for consideration in the International Feature Film category for one year's Academy Awards are NOT eligible for consideration in other award categories in the subsequent year.

JURY

7. Flanders Image and Wallonie Bruxelles Images each put together a jury of three people: a Flemish and a French-speaking jury.
8. At least 50% of the jury must include artists and/or craftspeople from the field of motion pictures. All six jury members understand English.
9. Together, the six jury members form the National jury.

FILM ENTRY

10. Flanders Image and Wallonie Bruxelles Images launch a call in which they ask the producers of majority Belgian produced feature films, including animated features and feature-length documentaries, to enter the competition.
11. To be eligible, films must be **first released theatrically in Belgium or in any other territory outside the US**, and publicly exhibited for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial cinema, **between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025**, proven by paid admissions. The seven consecutive days of the theatrical release are required to occur in one venue. Festival screenings are exempt from this rule.
12. A film must be advertised and exploited during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner considered normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices.
13. To enter, the film has to comply fully with all other terms and conditions, as stated in the Special Rules for the International Feature Film Award (oscars.org/sites/oscars/files/2025-04/98th_aa_international_feature.pdf).

14. Producers can opt for a technical release, with a film being released in one commercial theatre, in Belgium, receiving a full weekly screening programme, in the week(s) prior to the Academy's first release cut-off date, and complying with all other AMPAS rules. However, a film submitted for consideration as Belgium's submission for one year's Academy Awards is NOT eligible for consideration in the subsequent year, regardless of whether the film reached the final four.
15. Films that, in any version, receive a non-theatrical public exhibition or distribution before their qualifying theatrical release will not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration. Non-theatrical public exhibition or distribution includes, but is not limited to: broadcast and cable television; VOD and PPV; DVD distribution; in-flight airline distribution; internet transmission.
16. A film need not have been released in the United States. The involvement of a US distributor is advisable, but not mandatory.
17. Entering a film is not compulsory. However, the jury can ask the producer of a film that has not been put forward to reconsider their decision and still enter the title.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

18. In a first round, the films are shown to their respective juries, i.e. the Flemish titles to the Flemish jury, and the French-speaking titles to the French-speaking jury.
19. The two highest scoring films from each jury (four films in total) are shortlisted and will be presented to the National jury.
20. However, if a regional jury is of the opinion that only one candidate can go to the final, this decision can be taken on the basis of a two-thirds majority.
21. After the finalists are notified, each producer has to formally confirm that the film will run to become the Oscar submission for Belgium, and refrain from submitting the film in another country, if that were to be possible, regardless of the outcome of the final voting.
22. After its acceptance, a film can only be withdrawn after a written justification has been sent to the entire National jury. This must be done no later than two weeks prior to the National jury meeting.
23. On the day the National jury meets, the Belgian producers and directors of the four shortlisted films are invited for an interview. For each film, there are 25 minutes for a short presentation of the film and the strategy to be developed for its submission, followed by questions and answers.
24. Given that the jury has to decide which film will represent Belgium at the Academy Awards in Los Angeles (and in the USA more widely), the presentation and Q&A will be mainly in English.
25. Any documentation, such as a presentation kit, has to be delivered in a digital format, 48 hours prior to the jury meeting, to the representative of either Flanders Image or Wallonie Bruxelles Images.
26. After interviewing the four candidates, the National jury starts the deliberation and voting process. There are up to three rounds of voting.
27. If the final voting round ends in a tie, the Jury President's vote will be decisive.

28. Depending on the outcome of the vote, either Flanders Image (in case of a majority Flanders production) or Wallonie Bruxelles Images (in case of a majority French-speaking production) will announce the Belgian Oscar entry via a press release, take the lead in submitting the film with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and run the promotional campaign.
29. The National Oscar jury members, as well as the observers present at the deliberation, should not disclose any information about the meeting. The deliberation and voting remain confidential, even after the announcement of the film that will represent Belgium at the Oscars.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

30. All submission materials for the Belgian Oscar entry must be submitted to the Academy by 5pm PT on **Wednesday 1 October 2025**. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only. For the materials to be submitted, see Academy Rules, Rule Fifteen, III. Submission, D.
31. The Academy will retain for its archives one print of every motion picture receiving a nomination for the International Feature Film award. Additional prints and DCPs of those films receiving nominations will be returned to the sender at the Academy's expense. Film prints, DCPs and DVDs submitted will be retained by the Academy throughout the voting process and are not available for loan.

REPRESENTATION AT OTHER AWARDS

32. If the film chosen to represent Belgium at the Academy Awards meets all the criteria, it will likewise be submitted to the Goya Awards in Spain the following year. Should it not qualify, or in the event its filmmakers oppose, the title that came second will then be delegated, and so on.

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