

HUIS VAN DE VLAAMSE FILM

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Regulations VAF Wildcards

1. General: the VAF Wildcard

- The VAF issues wildcards for fiction, documentary, animation, Filmlab and screenplay. Based on the final projects of bachelor's and master's programmes, a jury selects the most promising talents, who receive a wildcard from the VAF.
- Thanks to the VAF Wildcard, a recently graduated filmmaker receives a screenplay and a production premium to make a new film. This is done outside of the usual selection system of the VAF. The Wildcard winner chooses the subject of the new film, as well as the format, the carrier, the length - taking into account an imposed minimum and maximum duration -, the artistic employees, the cast, the team, the production structure, the locations, etc.
- The official presentation of the VAF Wildcards takes place during the International Short Film Festival Leuven. The participating final projects are projected during the festival, as part of the Wildcard competition (see www.kortfilmfestival.be).
- The VAF issues in principle one fiction wildcards, one documentary wildcards, one animation wildcard, one Filmlab wildcard and one Script Wildcard.
- A fiction wildcard or animation wildcard is in principle worth EUR 60.000. In principle, a documentary wildcard is worth EUR 40.000. A Filmlab wildcard is in principle worth EUR 40.000. A Script Wildcard is worth 6.000€.
- With this amount, the wildcard winner must realize a new work. Other financing is permitted according to the normal criteria of the VAF. Additional VAF support is not possible. The wildcard winner scenario can apply for scenario or development support for the remaining amount after going through the scenario workshop within the normal selection system of the VAF, provided that the project is allowed to be submitted via the Fiction pitch committee.
- The new project must belong to the same category as the selected thesis (either fiction, documentary, animation or Filmlab).
- The wildcard process consists of two phases: a scenario phase and a production phase. The wildcard pathway for scenario consists of one phase: the scenario phase.
- During the scenario phase, the wildcard winner is guided by a coach. The person in question is chosen in consultation with the VAF. The coach could also guide the wildcard winner during the production phase - but this is the exception rather than the rule. If necessary, a production coach could (also) be appointed. The

Script wildcard winner takes part in the scenario atelier where a choice is made between the 3 permanent coaches of the scenario atelier.

- The wildcard winner works with a experienced producer to produce the project. The person in question is also chosen in consultation with the VAF.

2. Target group

VAF Wildcard fiction, documentary, animation en Filmlab:

- Bachelors and masters who meet the following cumulative conditions can apply for a VAF Wildcard:
 - The candidates for the fiction, documentary or animation wildcards obtained a bachelor's or master's degree at one of the five Flemish film schools during the 2022-2023 academic year [RITCS, KASK, LUCA campuses Sint-Lukas Brussels, Narafi or C-Mine]. They have completed their full bachelor's or master's degree at this film school.
 - During the 2022-2023 academic year, candidates for the Filmlab wildcards obtained a bachelor's or master's degree in one of the five Flemish film schools mentioned above OR one of the Flemish art colleges [Sint-Lucas Ghent, Sint-Lucas Antwerp, PXL-MAD School of Arts , HISK]. They have completed their full bachelor's or master's degree at this film school.
 - The candidate realized a fiction film, a documentary, an animation film or an experimental single screen work (Filmlab) as the final project.
 - The candidate is in principle the director of the final project. You cannot apply with a group work.
- Flemish students at foreign film schools offering an education similar to the aforementioned Flemish film and art schools can also apply for a VAF Wildcard.
 - The candidate must demonstrate that he/she/they graduated from a university of applied sciences within an education similar to the ones available at the aforementioned Flemish film and art colleges.
 - The candidate obtained a bachelor's or master's degree at this school during the 2022-2023 academic year. They have completed their full bachelor's or master's degree at this film school.
 - The candidate has produced a fiction film, a documentary, an animation film or an experimental single screen work (Filmlab) as a thesis.
 - In principle, the candidate is the director of the thesis. You cannot apply yourself with a group work.

VAF Script Wildcard:

- Masters who meet the following cumulative conditions can apply for a VAF Wildcard scenario:
 - The candidates for the Wildcard screenplay obtained a master's degree during the 2022-2023 academic year at one of the five Flemish film schools [RITCS, KASK, LUCA campuses Sint-Lukas Brussels, Narafi or C-Mine]. They have completed their full master's degree at this film school.
 - As a thesis, the candidate realized a scenario for a fiction film project of at least 75 minutes or an animated film project of at least 60 minutes that forms one dramatic whole:
 - the project is not a quality TV drama, soap, sitcom or TV format series;

- you developed an original project: adaptations are only allowed on works from the public domain or if you have an agreement from the author or publisher of the original work.
 - o The candidate is the scriptwriter of the thesis. You cannot apply yourself with a group work.
- Flemish students at foreign film schools that offer an equivalent education as the aforementioned Flemish film and art schools can also apply for a VAF Wildcard scenario on the condition that:
 - o The candidate must demonstrate that he/she/they graduated from a university of applied sciences within a study program equivalent to that offered at the aforementioned Flemish film and art colleges.
 - o The candidate obtained a master's degree at this school during the 2022-2023 academic year. They have completed their full master's degree at this film school.
 - o As a thesis, the candidate realized a scenario for a fiction film project of at least 75 minutes or an animated film project of at least 60 minutes that forms one dramatic whole:
 - the project is not a quality TV drama, soap, sitcom or TV format series;
 - you developed an original project: adaptations are only allowed on works from the public domain or if you have an agreement from the author or publisher of the original work.
 - o The candidate is the scriptwriter of the thesis. You cannot apply yourself with a group work

3. Registration

- The registration procedure is completely online, via MyVAF and FilmFreeway
- The registration deadline is Monday 25th of September 2023 at 12.00 am (time of application on MyVAF). Procrastination is not possible. It is recommended not to postpone the registration until the last minute. Only directors can submit their own final work. Teachers and schools cannot submit films from their students. Fellow students cannot submit each other's films.
- STEP 1:
 - o Go to MyVAF (<https://my.vaf.be>)
 - o Register or log in (if you are already registered).
 - o Go to "nieuw dossier"
 - o Choose "Talentontwikkeling"
 - o Choose "Filmfonds"
 - o Choose "Wildcard (inschrijving)"
 - o Fill in everything and send your request (deadline Monday 25th of September 2023 at 12.00 am)
 - o We check whether everything is duly received . We will send you a confirmation along with password if this is the case.
 - o Once you receive this confirmation (and only then), you can proceed to step 2: submitting your film on FilmFreeway.

The submission deadline on FilmFreeway is Friday 29th of September 2023. 11.59 pm

- STEP 2: Register on FilmFreeway via "Sign Up". This registration is free.
- STEP 3: Enter all required data via "My Projects": Project information, Submitter Information, Credits, Specifications, Screenings / Distributions. Definitely enter the title, director, synopsis (mandatory!), Cast, technical info, ... and choose "yes" at "specifications" next to "student project". Save everything (important!).
- STEP 4:
 - Add a downloadable (vimeo) link from your movie.
 - You can also upload your movie to FilmFreeway. This is free. You can find more information about uploading your film via this link: <https://filmfreeway.com/help/category/3969/projects-and-video-uploads>
 - Wait. Your movie is being converted. This could take a day, depending on the size of your film – which cannot be larger than 10 GB .
 - After the film has been converted, check the uploaded file. If you are not satisfied, you can upload a new version via "Edit Project". If you are satisfied with the upload, send in your film for the Wildcards.
- STEP 5:
 - The link for the wildcards cannot be found by browsing at "Festivals", but can only be reached via: <https://filmfreeway.com/VAFWildcards>. Click on "Submit Now", select your film, choose the correct category, enter the password that you received from the VAF (STEP 1) and don't forget to answer the questions. This is final - changes to your movie at this stage are invalid.
 - Click on "add to cart" (free). You will receive a confirmation email.
 - The jury members will view this entry.
 - Attention: if you also want to register your film (fiction, documentary or animation) for the Flemish competition of the International Short Film Festival, you must do so via this link: <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/LeuvenInternationalShortFilmFestival> (deadline 15 September 2023).
- You do not have to create and send a DVD.

VAF Wildcard scenario:

All applications are processed digitally through MyVAF. You do not have to send a paper file. Deadline for submission is Monday the 4th of September 2023

- Create a profile (on your first visit) or sign up (if you already have a profile).
- Go to 'Nieuw dossier' > Talent development > Filmfonds > Wildcard Scenario registration.
- Build up your title as follows: 'WC / your name / project title'.
- Deadline: the next deadline will appear, click on it.
- Complete all the questions
- You will have to upload the following attachments:
 - Synopsis:
 - A concise recap of the story with beginning, middle and end, outlining the main lines, events and characters
 - a continuous text without dialogues
 - max. 1 page
 - Scenario
 - Motivation / statement of intent: an essay on the theme of your story.
 - RESUME

4. Selection

- The VAF assembles four juries: one for the fiction wildcards, one for the documentary wildcards, one for the animation wildcard, one for the Filmlab wildcard and one for the Script Wildcard.
- The fiction jury selects the winners of the fiction wildcards. The documentary jury selects the winners of the documentary wildcards. The animation jury selects the winner of the animation wildcard. The Filmlab jury selects the winner of the Filmlab wildcard. The Script jury selects the Script Wildcard.

- The juries can seek additional advice from the film school of the candidate.
- In exceptional cases, the juries can advise the VAF to issue more or fewer Wildcards and / or adjust the premiums.

5. Further trajectory

VAF Wildcard fiction, documentary, animation en Filmlab:

- The wildcard winner decides for him or herself how, with whom and within which framework he realizes his new project. This is, however, subject to consultation with the coach and the VAF.
- A fiction film lasts a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 minutes, a documentary a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 minutes, an animation film a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 25 minutes, a Filmlab film a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 25 minutes.
- Coaching guidance is advisory. Neither the coach nor the VAF have any liability with regard to the project and the persons who implement it.
- The wildcard winner can request support from the film schools. The schools determine themselves, in consultation with the wildcard winner, whether and how they participate in the project.
- The wildcard winner and / or his/her producer have the right to seek more resources for the realization of the new project. In principle, they cannot claim extra VAF support.
- The new project cannot be realized in the context of education.
- Laureates commit to living and working in the Flemish Region or the Brussels-Capital Region during the entire scenario and production phase of their Wildcard film.
- Winners are required to participate in a number of workshops organized by the VAF during the scenario phase.

VAF Script Wildcard:

- The wildcard winner will continue to work with the winning scenario.
- After selection by the deadline, the wildcard winner will provide an English version of:
 - Synopsis (max. 500 words)
 - Treatment: a more detailed elaboration of the story in a continuous text without dialogues. Told in film chronology, i.e. in the case of flashbacks, these are incorporated in the continuous text. (max. 1800-2000 words)
 - Letter of intent (max. 500 words)
 - CV
- The wildcard winner will be obliged to participate in four workshops organized in the first half of 2024, each lasting three to four days. During these workshops, on the one hand, the theoretical art of screenwriting and

pitching will be discussed. On the other hand, the projects will be worked on with the coaches during group sessions and individual sessions.

- The wildcard winner commits himself to think constructively and to participate in the projects of fellow screenwriters.
- In the period between the sessions (each about two months), the wildcard winner works independently on the further elaboration and the assigned assignments, with the option of individual sessions with their own coach.
- Laureates are required to participate in a number of workshops organized by the VAF during the scenario phase.

6. Timing

VAF Wildcard fiction, documentary, animation en FillLab:

- The scenario phase will in principle be started in the course of 2024 and will last a maximum of 6 months.
- The production phase is then started.
- In principle, the new film will be delivered no later than 2 years after winning the VAF Wildcard

VAF Script Wildcard:

- In principle, the scenario workshop will run in the first half of 2024. The final file containing the following documents will be submitted by 30 August 2024 at the latest:
 - o synopsis (maximum 1 page A4)
 - o Letter of intent (maximum 4 pages A4)
 - o treatment (max. 12 pages) and / scenario

7. Contract and payment

- A contract is drawn up between the winner and the VAF for each VAF Wildcard. This includes all rights and obligations of both parties (with regard to the payment modalities, the modalities regarding reporting, spending control, possible distribution of operating receipts, etc.). In the event of non-compliance with the agreements, the VAF can withdraw all or part of the wildcard.
- A contract is drawn up between the VAF and the producer of the new project for the production phase. All rights and obligations of both parties are included in this contract (with regard to the payment modalities, the modalities regarding reporting, spending control, possible distribution of operating receipts, etc.). In the event of non-compliance with the agreements, the VAF can withdraw the VAF Wildcard in whole or in part.
- The VAF gradually transfers tranches depending on the progress of the project and the reporting.
- The method of mentioning the VAF Wildcard in the credits publicity and the like, with regard to the work, is laid down in a contract.

8. Display

- The wildcard holder and the producer involved decide for themselves when, where and within which framework the new project will be shown. However, consultation with the VAF / Flanders Image is recommended.
- In the context of its general mission, the VAF has the non-exclusive right to non-commercial exploitation of the films. In that context it can, for example, show the films in public, duplicate them, send them in for festivals, etc.

9. Liability

- As the VAF vzw does not act as a producer, it is in no way liable for the project and the persons who implement it, on condition that the VAF itself fulfills its contractual obligations.

For more information:

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<https://www.vaf.be/subsidies/vaf-wildcards>

<https://www.vaf.be/subsidies/vaf-wildcard-scenario>