



FIRST
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
XINING
青年电影展

2021.7.25-8.2

15th FIRST International Film Festival
Competition Rules and Regulations



A. General

1. About Competition

FIRST International Film Festival is dedicated to documenting the filmmaking of emerging Sinophile cinema and offering an evaluation standard of effectiveness and fairness. Taking industry, art, professionalism together into consideration, the festival wishes to company, encourage and guide those who proactively explore and practice film art.

2. Dates

The 15th FIRST International Film Festival takes place July 25-August 2, 2021 in Xining, Qinghai Province.

3. Eligibility

Submission to FIRST is open to narrative features (60min and over), feature-length documentaries (60min and over) and short films (within 60min).

- 1) The film was completed after October 1, 2019 (the film has not been public screened at any film festivals or released before this date)
- 2) For narrative features, the film should be among the director's first three directorial narrative features. (co-directed work not included; if the submitted film is co-directed, then every director needs to meet this requirement)
- 3) Films that already have been theatrical/online released in China or planning to do so before the Festival takes place are not admitted
- 4) If any edition of the film has been previously submitted to FIRST or has been screened at FIRST, it will not be reconsidered for the new edition.

4. Submission & Fee



Films must be submitted through the website of FIRST International Film Festival (www.firstfilm.org.cn). Based on the submission time and type of submission, a submission fee may be charged as below:

	Early Bird Jan.1 - Feb. 28 2021	Standard Fee Mar. 1 - 31 2021	Late Fee Apr.1 - 30 2021
Narrative Feature	Free	35 USD	135 USD
Documentary & Short Film	Free	30 USD	70 USD

Please take the delivery time into consideration, the submission time is determined by the time when all submission materials (including online submission and delivery materials) arrives at the festival office. If the film fails to complete submission or is withdrew from the competition, no submission fee will be refunded. If the delivery materials arrive later than expected, you may be required to pay for the extra fee. When the extra payment is made, your film will officially enter the jury review process. After the submission is closed (April 30, 24:00, UTC+8), submitted films are not allowed to be withdrew or quit the competition.

B. Competition Sections and Films

FIRST International Film Festival has 3 competition sections: Narrative Feature Competition, Documentary Competition and Short Film Competition, and no premiere status is required. Each film could only be submitted to one competition. If the festival committee finds that the film does not fit in the competition it is submitted to, the festival committee is entitled to change the competition section.



1. Narrative Feature Competition

Fictional films with the duration of 60min and above, and also meet all requirements listed in 'A. General' -'3. Eligibility' can compete in this competition.

If the film is co-directed, it should be among the first three directorial narrative features of each director.

2. Documentary Competition

Non-fictional films with the duration of 60min and above, and also meet all requirements listed in 'A. General' -'3. Eligibility' can compete in this competition.

3. Short Film Competition

Films with the duration of less than 60min, and also meet all requirements listed in 'A. General' -'3. Eligibility' can compete in this competition.

4. Debut Spotlight

Debut Spotlight include 3-5 films selected by the festival committee from the Narrative Feature Section and Documentary Section as festival's highlight. The filmmaker does not need to submit to this section. Films that will be at least Chinese-premiered at FIRST and belongs to the first narrative feature of the director will be considered for Debut Spotlight consideration. This section does not conclude any award given by the jury committee and selected films will still compete in its original competition section. Whether a film is selected in Debut Spotlight will not affect its award-judging process in its original competition section.



C. Awards

1. Awards

[Best Narrative Feature]	[Best Director]
[Best Performer]	[Best Artistic Originality]
[Best Cinematic Script]	[Best Documentary]
[Spirit of Freedom]	[Grand Jury Prize]
[Best Short Film]	[Best Experimental Film]

2. Presentation of award

1) Award for Films (6 awards)

Award for films will be decided by the jury among shortlist films and presented to the award-winning films.

[Best Narrative Feature]

The award is presented with a trophy and an award certificate.

[Best Documentary]

The award is presented with a trophy, an award certificate and 50,000 RMB (to the director).

[Best Short Film]

The award is presented with a trophy and an award certificate.

[Best Experimental Short Film]

The award is presented with a trophy and an award certificate.

[Spirit of Freedom]

The award is presented with a trophy and an award certificate.

[Grand Jury Prize]



The award is presented with a trophy and an award certificate.

2) Award for Filmmakers (4 awards)

Awards for filmmakers will be decided by the jury among shortlist films and presented to the filmmakers.

[Best Director]

The award is presented to the director with a trophy and an award certificate.

[Best Performer]

The award is presented to the leading actor or actress with a trophy and an award certificate.

[Best Artistic Originality]

The award is presented to the cinematographer, art director, music composer, editor or sound designer with a trophy and an award certificate.

[Best Cinematic Script]

The award is presented to the writer with a trophy and an award certificate.

3. Non-Competition Awards

The festival committee is entitled to add non-competition awards, including awards that decide by the audience, third-party film critic organizations, sponsors and so one. The decision maker, award-judging process, time of award presentation is subject to notice.

1) Audience Award

The festival committee will select films from competition and screening films to participate in the selection of Audience Award. The result is based on the audience's choice after screenings.



2) Behind the Scene

This Award is presented by the festival committee to a back stage industry practitioner who proactively changes, leads or pushes forward the filmmaking and industry environment for emerging cinema, independent cinema and arthouse cinema.

D. Submission Guidelines

1. Submission Deadlines

The submission opens since January 1, 2021, 0:00 (UTC+8) and the deadline for all submissions is April 30, 2021, 24:00 (UTC+8). The online submission, material delivery and payment should all be finished before the deadline for the film to be considered for competition. Please take the extra time needed for shipment into consideration. The festival committee is not obliged to view entries that are received after the deadline.

2. Submission Materials and Steps

1) Online Submission

Please complete the online submission via the website of FIRST International Film Festival (www.firstfilm.org.cn).

2) Preview Copy

All submissions are required to send a preview copy to the festival committee, following the below requirement:

- Mov or mp4 format, at least 1280*720



- File size does not exceed 4GB (feature-length) or 1GB (short film)
- Embedded with both Chinese and English subtitles
- If watermark is required, please add “FIRST Preview” on the top right corner of the image. No other watermark is allowed.

The preview copy can be submitted in the following ways:

a) Online preview link

Password-protected online preview link only, please provide the link and password in the submission form. Please make sure that the link and password is valid no sooner than August 1, 2021, with no limitation on times of viewing and number of viewers.

b) By post

Please send your film (in USB disk, hard disk, etc.) to the following address:

FIRST International Film Festival

Yard No.7, Huitong Office Park, 1 Yaojiayuan South Road,

100025 Beijing, China

Tel: 86-010-85564221

To guarantee the submission materials reach the festival committee in time, please use a track-able and signed delivery service. Please mark “no commercial value” and “cultural use only” on the package and mark a tax value of under 10 USD.

None of the submission materials will be returned.



3. Material Replacement

Please be careful when filling in the online submission form. The information you provide will be used in the process of award-judging, shortlist announcement and award ceremony. The applicant will be responsible for the information provided. If replacement of information or material is needed after the submission, please contact submission@firstfilm.org.cn. You will be able to change the materials with the festival's consent.

4. Work in Process Version

The Festival accept submission of working in process version, but the film need to be picture-locked at least. All the jurors will review the film based on the only version submitted and there will be no further chance to replace a new version during the award-judging process. If you are submitting a WIP version, please state which part of the film is not finished yet at the beginning of the film (i.e. music yet to be replaced; no colour grading). If the film is selected, a screening copy of the final version is required before July 1.

5. Copyright

The applicant needs to make sure that all the materials, including music, sound, footage, text are original or have get the authorization of the right holder.

Documentary footage requires the permission of the people being filmed. Any legal disputes regarding copyright or filming permission is at the responsibility of the applicant and the festival committee is entitled to reject the film for competition.



E. Award-Judging Process

The Pre-selection, Shortlist Jury and Jury Committee will decide on the award results.

The festival committee is in charge of inviting jurors and organizing juries. Festival staff, cast and crew of submitted films (reference to credit list) is not allowed to participated as jurors in corresponding competition sections.

1. Pre-selection Jury

The Pre-selection Jury is divided into Narrative Feature Jury, Documentary Jury and Short Film Jury. Each jury will correspondingly review submitted narrative features, documentaries and short films.

The applicant will be informed via email of the pre-selection result no later than May 30.

2. Shortlist Jury

The Shortlist Jury will select shortlist films, which will be screened during the festival and further reviewed by the Jury Committee.

The Shortlist result will be announced before June 30 and the applicant will be informed via email.

3. Jury Committee

The Jury Committee will decide the award result among shortlist films, and the award result will be announced on the Award Ceremony on July 26, 2021.



F. Shortlist

1. Screening Copy

A screening copy (standard DCP) of the film is required after the film is shortlisted.

Apart from sound mixing, colour tuning and subtitles adjustment, the screening copy should be the same as the preview copy. No replacement during the award-judging process is allowed.

2. Publicity Materials

If a film is selected, the entry information and materials would be used on the festival brochure, website and press. The festival is entitled to edit and use the information publicly. In case any information or material is missing, it will be requested immediately upon the selection.

3. Filmmaker Participation

If the film is shortlisted, the filmmakers need to attend the screenings, Q&As and other related events during the festival; the festival committee will provide travel and accommodation of attending the festival.

4. Premiere Status

Once the film is shortlisted, no further screening that will cause the premiere status at FIRST to change is allowed.

5. Screening Schedule



All shortlisted films would have 2 public screenings during the film Festival. The time, date and venue of the screenings are entirely at discretion of the festival committee. For award-winning films, the festival committee is entitled to arrange extra screenings after the award result is finalized.

6. Mentioning Participation

The festival would provide laurels and logos when a film is shortlisted or wins an award. Participating and awarded films are requested to use them in the future promotions. No edition is allowed on the laurels and logos.

*In case of any circumstances that cannot be explained by the above rules and regulations, the explanation is at the festival's discretion. Submitting a film to FIRST means all above rules and regulations are accepted. If there is any inconsistency or conflict between the English and Chinese versions, the Chinese version shall prevail for all purposes.