

AHRC Research in Film Awards 2018 - Call guidance

Submissions for the Arts and Humanities Research Council's (AHRC) [Research in Film Awards](#) 2018 call are now open. The Awards, which are now in their fourth year, showcase new and emerging talent in filmmaking linked to arts and humanities research. The winners will be announced at an Awards ceremony at BAFTA (195 Piccadilly, London) on Thursday, 8 November 2018.

The Research in Film Awards are designed to celebrate the best of a growing number of high-quality short films (defined as no more than 30 minutes in length) that bring arts and humanities research to a wider public audience.

There are two new awards for 2018:

- the **Social Media Short Award**, which recognises the increasing importance of social media (Twitter, Facebook etc.) as a channel for telling the story of research via short films.
- for the special 2018 themed category, we'll be marking the 70th anniversary of the docking of Empire Windrush – an iconic moment in migration history - with the **People on the Move category: Stories of New Beginnings**. This category is suitable for research related to migration and its influence on people, communities, places and cultures.

The **Inspiration Award** will also be back for a fourth year, giving members of the public the opportunity to enter or nominate a short film which has been inspired by the arts and humanities.

The AHRC Film Competition

Films are produced in many ways, both through and as a result of research. They may be primary outputs, by-products, records of research undertaken, dissemination tools or practice-based research itself. They may include reconstructions and enactments, animations, installations and gallery pieces, games, interactive storytelling or co-produced work including collaborations with community groups. Submissions may take the form of documentaries, visual essays, experimental films or broadcast programmes; they may entail any of these, and much more besides.

These awards are designed to encourage and recognise the considerable body of work created at the interface between research and film while showcasing the world-leading work of researchers, practitioners and filmmakers in the arts and humanities research community.

Awards will be made in five categories, with each winner receiving a trophy and £2,000 to put towards their future filmmaking activities. All applicants must accompany their film submissions with a supporting statement outlining their film's connection with arts and humanities research.

Films entered for the Doctoral Award or Early Career Film must have been produced as a result of AHRC funding. The Best Research Film of the Year (4.1) and Social Media Short Award (4.4) are open to all those eligible for AHRC funding. **The People on the Move Award (4.3) is open to all those eligible for AHRC funding and associated voluntary sector and community groups.** The Inspiration Award (4.5) is open to all but the film must be inspired by arts and humanities research.

Categories

Submissions are invited across five categories:

- Best Research Film of the Year
- Doctoral Award or Early Career Film
- People on the Move Award: Stories of New Beginnings
- Social Media Short Award
- Inspiration Award (public category)

Entries can be made in more than one category, provided the eligibility criteria for each is met. However, you must complete a separate Smart Survey form for each category entered.

4.1 Best Research Film of the Year

This category is for all films produced as outputs or by-products of arts and humanities research in the UK and is open to all those employed¹ by AHRC-recognised Research Organisations in the UK (see the Eligibility section below) at the time the film was completed, launched or made publicly available. **Films do not have to be produced as a result of AHRC funding. All films must have been completed or made available during the last year (since 1 April 2017).**

Judges are looking for:

- Films which bring new research to wider attention
- Films that exemplify excellence in the dissemination of research findings
- Films that highlight the value and importance of research in the arts and humanities, or
- that illustrate the value and importance of subjects or questions within the arts and humanities

All entrants must also complete and submit the form in the Requirements section which asks for a 300-word summary explaining the film's links with arts and humanities research. You must also provide web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure that this is written in plain English and be aware that the people judging your film may not be academics so try to avoid jargon.

4.2 Doctoral Award or Early Career Film

This category is open to all doctoral students and Early Career Researchers funded by the AHRC (see Eligibility section for details). Applicants are not required to be registered as doctoral students or as part of our Early Career Researchers scheme at the point of submission or on the release date of the film, but the primary research for the film must have been conducted while the applicant was still registered. **All films must have been completed or made available during the last year (since 1 April 2017).**

Judges are looking for:

- Films which portray or represent research excellence
- Films which have brought new research to wider attention
- Films which exemplify excellence in the dissemination of research findings, or
- which bring arts and humanities research to new audiences

- Films which highlight the value and importance of research in the arts and humanities, or
- that highlight the value and importance of subjects or questions within the arts and humanities

All entrants must complete and submit the form given in the Requirements section, where it is essential to supply a 300-word summary explaining the film's connection with arts and humanities research, together with web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure this is written in plain English and bear in mind that some of the people judging your film may not be academics so please avoid jargon.

4.3 People on the Move Award: Stories of New Beginnings

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of when the HMT Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury in 1948 carrying around 500 Caribbean settlers and the passing of the British Nationality Act. This was the start of a significant period in UK and global migration histories, which had a major influence on British society and culture.

The People on the Move Award is open to films exploring wider issues of migration around the globe, both today and in the past. The Award aims to showcase the contribution of migration and its impact on places and communities, whether that is the country that has been left behind, the places transited through or the places where migrants have settled. The research might also highlight the challenges that migrants may face through their journey and when starting a new page of their lives in a new place.

Film submissions may share the untold stories of people who have moved from one place to another, or could be based on research into the ways that migration has influenced society, culture and heritage at a transnational, national and/or local community level.

This category is for all films produced as outputs or by-products of arts and humanities research in the UK and is open to those employed¹ by AHRC-recognised Research Organisations in the UK (see Eligibility section for details) at the time the film was completed, launched or made publicly available. This category is also open to community groups and voluntary sector organisations that have formerly collaborated with an AHRC researcher. **All films must have been completed or made available during the last five years (since 1 April 2013).**

Judges are looking for:

- Imaginative films that showcase the stories and impact of human migration. Particularly in terms of uncovering new narratives and demonstrating co-production or collaborations with individuals, migrant communities or organisations
- Films that have arts and humanities research at their core
- Films which are effective in translating stories and voices across cultural, linguistic and/or other boundaries
- Original ways of using film to showcase research

Judges are also looking for films that explore how collaborative research has helped migrants and diverse communities showcase and celebrate their own personal stories and histories as well as the impact of migration on cultures and creativity, and the challenges such as inequalities, divisions or difficult pasts.

All entrants must complete and submit the form in the Requirements section which asks for a 300-word summary of how the film meets one or more of the requirements above; web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure this is written in plain English and be aware that some of the people judging your film may not be academics so please avoid jargon.

4.4 Social Media Short Award

This category is open to films which have been produced specifically for social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or YouTube. With the increasing use of social media, this award recognises the importance and value of film used in this context, particularly in terms of its ability to engage and reach new audiences, and as a key mechanism for disseminating information.

We are looking for videos which help to capture the imagination in a space which is teeming with content. Entries will also be evaluated in terms of how they fulfil the requirements of social media, for example, the video should ideally be no longer than five minutes, and in some instances, no longer than two minutes (the maximum video length for Twitter is 2 minutes and 20 seconds for example). Entrants should keep in mind the fundamentals of storytelling and innovation, as well as the needs of their chosen medium in terms of format, keywords, captioning and style. Submissions could include live broadcasts, and other creative formats. There must be a clear and demonstrable link to arts and humanities research.

Additional consideration will also be given to videos which have received a high volume of engagement. When submitting your entry for this category, please send a link to the video on social media.

This category is for all videos produced as outputs or by-products of arts and humanities research in the UK and is open to all those employed¹ by AHRC-recognised Research Organisations in the UK at the time the video was completed, launched or made publicly available (see Eligibility section for details).

Judges are looking for:

- Technical innovation and a clear understanding of the medium
- Films which have been created and optimised for social media channels
- Demonstration of how to distribute and position the video to engage a wider, public-facing audience
- Creativity in terms of storytelling and disseminating information effectively in a short amount of time
- Showcasing research in the arts and humanities in an accessible way

All entrants must complete and submit the form in the Requirements section, where a 300-word summary of the film's connections with arts and humanities research is required, along with web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure this is written in plain English and bear in mind that some of the people judging the film may not be academics so avoid jargon where possible.

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4.5 Inspiration Award - Best film inspired by the arts and humanities (public category)

This category is open to the public and recognises films produced in the UK which have been inspired by arts and humanities research. This could be as a result of attending an arts festival, visiting a museum exhibition, or through books, plays or performances which have helped to fire the imagination. Entrants can be individuals, community groups, teams or collaborative groups who have been stimulated by arts and humanities research. **All films submitted must have been completed or made available during the last year (since 1 April 2017).**

Arts and humanities research touches all areas of our lives and this award aims to recognise its value and importance to us all.

Judges are looking for:

- Films which have been inspired by arts and humanities research and for creative – either factual or fictional – representations in film.
- Films which convey a sense of the importance of arts and humanities research to our lives.

All entrants must complete and submit the form given at the link in the Requirements section which asks for a 300-word summary to explain how the film is inspired by arts and humanities research.

Please note that we will also accept nominations for films in this category.

These nominations should include a 300-word summary of how the film has been inspired by arts and humanities research, together with contact details to enable the AHRC to access the nominated film for judging purposes. Please note: any nominations must be submitted with the knowledge and permission of the nominee(s).

Entry Requirements

Entrants for all categories must complete and submit the [Smart Survey Form](#) by Thursday, 14 June 2018, 16.00.

This form requires entrants to provide a link to the film on the free video channel [Vimeo](#) and if necessary, a password, to enable judges to access the film being submitted. The link to the film must also be made available by the deadline indicated above.

Entrants may submit a film in more than one category if it fits with the entry requirements for each separate category. To do so you will have to complete the Smart Survey form for each additional category you wish to enter.

In addition, all submitted films **must** conform to the following terms and conditions:

- All films submitted or nominated should last no longer than **30 minutes including titles and credits – submissions of over 30 minutes will be discounted.** However, please note, that entries for 4.2 should ideally be much shorter due to the nature of this category.
- 'Film' is defined broadly as a series of moving images, but the nature of the images is open and unspecified.

- All films submitted to categories: 4.1 Best Research Film of the Year; 4.2 Doctoral Award or Early Career Film and 4.5 the Inspiration Award, must have been created, completed or made public since **1st April 2017**. It is not expected that films would be created especially for these awards but rather, the awards are intended to recognise films that have already been produced. However, works that have been created especially for the award would also be eligible.
- All submitted films should be in a format that can be uploaded to Vimeo and accessed and played on a standard Web browser.
- Films entered in categories 4.1 Best Research Film of the Year; 4.2 Doctoral Award or Early Career Film; 4.3 the People on the Move Award and 4.5 the Inspiration Award, must not be hosted on another organisational website, but are permitted to be published on a personal or academic blog or website and on YouTube, Vimeo and other social media sites.
- Please note that those judging the awards will view films on a single 16:9 screen.
- It is understood that films involve collaboration with broadcasters, community groups, cultural bodies, etc. Awards can therefore be made to teams as well as individuals but for categories 4.1 Best Research Film of the Year; 4.2 Doctoral Award or Early Career Film, 4.3 the People on the Move Award, and 4.4 Social Media Short Award, there must be an identified research lead who meets the AHRC eligibility criteria as described below.
- Category 4.5 – the Inspiration Award – which is open to the general public **does not need** an identified research lead. This category is open to both individuals and teams.
- All films that have been shortlisted must be made viewable to the public. In some cases, an exception may be made, provided that a short 60 second clip or trailer is created which can be embedded and linked to on the AHRC website.
- Excerpts from all shortlisted films will be shown on the AHRC website when the shortlist is announced in September and at the awards ceremony in November while all winning films will be made publicly available on the AHRC website and on the AHRC's social media channels shortly after the awards ceremony.
- The shortlist and winners must be available for media and communication opportunities (typically from September – December 2018).
- We will also be issuing a press release announcing the shortlist and winners and require all those who have been nominated to share this press release with their academic institution or any relevant organisations that have been involved with the film.
- Films in languages other than English are eligible provided they have English subtitles.
- Any films that have been produced with direct input from the Arts and Humanities Research Council Communications Team are not eligible for this competition.
- Resubmissions to the Research in Film Awards are not encouraged, however if a film has been sufficiently altered, edited or enhanced, resubmissions will be considered.
- The AHRC reserves the right to reject any entries which it deems to be offensive or unsuitable.

Eligibility

Applications may only be submitted in categories 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 by those employed by or registered to study (category 4.3) or those who have been employed by or registered to study at a Research Organisations eligible to apply for funding to the

AHRC; the only exception is for the Inspiration Award (category 4.5) which is open to the general public. These organisations include:

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that are directly funded for research by HEFCE, DEL, HEFCW and SFC
- [Independent Research Organisations](#) that have received Research Council recognition to apply to the Research Councils in responsive mode

Applicants submitting a film into the Doctoral & Early Career Award (4.2) will need to match either of the following criteria:

- Doctoral Researcher:
 - Engaged in current PhD research through an AHRC funded post
 - Registered as an AHRC funded doctoral student at the time the primary research for the film was completed
- Early Career Researcher
 - Submission must be sent within eight years of the award of your PhD or equivalent professional training (this duration should exclude any period of career break, for example, family care or health reasons), or
 - Within six years of your first academic appointment (by 'first academic appointment', this is a paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary function)
 - Employed by an AHRC-recognised Research Organisation in the UK

Judging

The films will be judged by a panel consisting of both academics and film industry experts.

Judges will primarily be interested in the quality of the films submitted as considered against the requirements outlined for each category, but the accompanying text (300 words) will provide vital information about the film's links with arts and humanities research and therefore careful consideration should be given to the writing of these submissions. Please avoid jargon and make your application succinct and easy to understand.

All entrants will be told of the outcome of their submission by the end of August.

Awards ceremony

Awards in all five categories will be made and announced at an awards ceremony in London at BAFTA (195 Piccadilly, W1J 9LN) on the 8 November 2018. All shortlisted entrants will be invited.

Awards

Winners in each category will win £2,000 and a trophy. The cash awards should be invested in future filmmaking work and all entrants are required to state in their applications how this money will be used.

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Schedule

Wednesday, 18 April 2018	Film competition announced
Thursday, 14 June 2018, 16.00	Deadline for entries
End of August	All entrants notified
Thursday, 8 November 2018	Awards ceremony in London

Reference

1. Or if not employed by the RO, have held a formal written contract that provided the applicant with the same level of support as if they were an employee.

Further information

For enquiries about this competition, please contact enquiries@ahrc.ac.uk or telephone: 01793 416060 (available Monday to Friday 08:30-16:30).