



STUDENT SHORT DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

HOW TO ENTER

1. Go to our [page on FilmFreeway](#) to submit your short film
2. Scroll down until you see a box on the right-hand side titled “Categories and Fees”
3. Near the bottom of this box are the two categories “New Zealand Secondary Student Documentary” and “New Zealand Tertiary Student Documentary”
4. Click on the category which applies to you and select “Submit Now” then “Sign Up with Email”
5. Make sure you click on “I want to submit my work”
6. Select “Film / Video” and add your film’s details such as Title, Synopsis etc
7. Add your contact and personal details under “Submitter Information”
8. Add your credits
9. Under “Specifications” tick “Student” “Short” and “Documentary”, add how long it is (under 10 mins for the secondary, under 20 mins for the tertiary category)
10. Production Budget is not that important to enter in (but it does help us) and should be in NZ Dollars rather than US Dollars.
11. Your country of origin should be New Zealand
12. Your shooting format will likely be “Digital” unless you’re using a film camera
13. Choose Colour or Black & White (Avoid trying to be arty and do it all in black and white)
14. Save Project
15. Either upload your film to the site (must be under 10 GB) or copy and paste the PRIVATE LINK which connects to Vimeo or YouTube with a password.
16. Add a director biography, and final film information such as behind the scenes photos, and your project will be submitted to our festival! Congratulations!

REMEMBER

On your application form you MUST tick “Student Project” in the specifications section and let us know if you’re a first-time film maker.

Films which are made public online (including YouTube) while you wait to hear if you’ve qualified or before screening at Doc Edge it will be disqualified. Private links for us to view as part of your application are okay.

Films which have been screened in other overseas festivals as well as family, friends and crew are fine, just not at other New Zealand Festivals.

The completion date of your film must be between Jan 15 2021 and April 1 2022

You must have been attending a secondary school or tertiary institution while making / completing your film.

You must get permission from everyone who appears on camera in writing (make a note of anyone who should be credited along the way).

You cannot use copyright footage from other movies without written permission.

Make sure to take photos (stills) while in production and behind the scenes so we can promote your film.



For any music you use, you must have written permission to use the track, or use royalty free music from sites like: [Bensound](#), [Audio Network](#) (10 free tracks when you register), or create your own. You could even try the National Library who have amazing collections of electronic music by Kiwi artists like [Luke Rowell](#) and available for free (conditions will apply, such as crediting etc). Make sure you double check all of our terms and conditions before entering.

Music rights, on screen participant rights are all important to clear and have on standby. You only need to apply to Doc Edge **once** via film freeway to the **student tertiary section or student secondary section**. From there, the finalists for the competition will be put forward to the main festival for consideration. (IE Don't submit to the main festival as well).

RECOMMENDATIONS

While we don't want to constrict creativity, here are some tips to remember to put you in a better position to be a finalist.

We are looking for social justice, environmental or 'issues' themed documentaries.

Before you choose your subject, do a little research to see if there have been many / any recent documentaries produced on the same topic.

Originality is awesome, so pick a subject and way of storytelling that's important to you and will set you apart.

Good sound (particularly consistent levels) and high-quality picture will put you at an advantage.

Please do check your credits and titles for spelling errors before you submit

Voiceover or "voice of god" narration as well as participatory documentaries (where the directors insert themselves as a character in their own documentary) are difficult to pull off, so if you are going to use these techniques make sure they are an important and necessary tool to tell the story.

Creativity and experimentation are welcome, but do not let this detract from a strong narrative in your film. Animation is also welcome.

It's easier to emotionally engage with your subjects when we see them involved in action as well as talking heads, so we get to follow them on their journey, rather than just sitting down for a chat with them.

Good luck, we can't wait to see your entry!