

FILM 5 Application Guidelines 2026/2027

Please note: When applying, AFCCOOP requires that you submit a signed copy of the guidelines to ensure you have read and understand the following:

FILM 5 is a professional and creative development program for writers, directors and producers culminating in the opportunity to produce a short film. It provides cash and in-kind services to produce a short film, mentorship and instruction from industry professionals and relationship building opportunities with the local film community.

The principle objectives of FILM 5 are:

- 1. To provide artistic development, support and mentorship for emerging filmmakers.*
- 2. To assist with the creation of high-quality short films that can further the filmmaking careers of the participants.*
- 3. To provide aspiring technical crew with classroom and on-set training and mentorship.*

Participants are challenged to create well-executed, innovative short films at a professional level while developing their artistic voices.

Relationship with AFCCOOP

All FILM 5 productions are made under the supervision of the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative and the FILM 5 core support team. Productions are produced in accordance with the approved shooting script and locked budget. Creative control and ownership of the projects remain with the filmmakers at all times during the program.

Participant Eligibility

- Teams must consist of a Director, Writer and Producer. A director or producer may also be the writer. A director cannot be the producer.
- All team members must have completed some basic film training. The training may have been completed through a post-secondary institution, a filmmaking cooperative, artist-run centre, on the job, or can be self-taught.
- Director applicants must have held a key creative role (writer or director) on a completed film or video work.
- At least one team member must be a full member of AFCCOOP before principal photography begins. (Don't worry! There is plenty of time to become an AFCCOOP member once you are in the program.)
- All team members must be residents of Nova Scotia and Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents.

Please note: If you are unsure if you meet any of these criteria please contact AFCCOOP to discuss your eligibility at henry@afcoop.ca or (902) 405-4474.

Ineligibility

Team members will be considered overqualified if they:

- Have held the same key creative role on a feature film that has been produced with the participation of Telefilm Canada.
- Have been active as a narrative filmmaker for over 10 years (this doesn't include an experimental or documentary filmmaker switching over to narrative).

Other Ineligibility

- Full time students (undergraduate or graduate level) are not eligible to apply.
- Past participants of the Production Phase are ineligible to apply, unless applying in a different discipline (i.e. former Director now applying as Producer).

Terms of FILM 5 Productions

- Productions must have a finished running time of no less than four and no longer than nine minutes including credits.
- Productions are to be shot in April 2027.
- Documentary and animated projects are ineligible. Productions should also be original works. Adaptations will only be considered on a case-by-case basis if the team controls all rights.
- Teams must share creative control and ownership of their films while they are in the program.
 - *Productions can seek funding from external sources, however the Team must retain full ownership and creative control of the project. External funding cannot exceed \$10,000.00 cash.*
- Productions are made under the direction of the FILM 5 core support team and are subject to final approval before being green-lit for production.
- Crews must consist of a minimum of seven trainees from the FILM 5 Trainee Program and a minimum of three paid industry keys.
- AFCCOOP will retain a copy of the finished project to be used for educational and promotional use.
- As participants in a training program, Teams are **required** to complete a schedule of workshops and courses intended to provide them with the necessary skills to complete their productions. Workshops and courses are held on weekends and weeknights. Failure to attend mandatory workshops may result in the Team's removal from the program.

Program Structure

Phase I – Project Development (October - December)

Up to **six** teams will be accepted into the Project Development Phase of the program. Teams will attend weekend and evening workshops designed to assist them in the development of their projects.

Each Team member must participate in the workshops. Only Teams who have

participated in the required workshops will be eligible to apply to Phase II. Teams will pitch before the jury before acceptance into the second phase. **2026/2027 UPDATE: Three Teams will be selected for Phase II.**

Phase II – Production (January – August)

All Teams who successfully complete Phase I are eligible to apply. **Three Teams will be selected for Phase II** after successful pitches to the jury. Teams accepted into this phase of the program will enter pre-production with the understanding that getting the final green-light to go ahead with their production is contingent upon the approval of their final proposal.

During this period Teams will receive further training and mentorship while adhering to a schedule of deliverables, leading up to a final proposal package. Each Team will present their final proposal plans to the FILM 5 core support team who will assess the project's readiness to go ahead with production.

Approved Teams will receive up to \$10,000 in cash and over \$20,000 in services to complete a short film. They will complete principal photography in April 2027, and see their projects through post-production to final delivery of a digital file. Teams should have a digital file ready for festival submissions by July 2027. Once final paper and deliverables have been approved, each team will be eligible to receive a small distribution/marketing fund.

Participant Commitment

FILM 5 runs from **November 2026** through **August 2027**. Once accepted, participants should expect to make a considerable time commitment to both the program and to the development of their projects.

It is important to note that FILM 5 is a training program, not a funding program. As participants in a training program, Teams are **required** to complete a schedule of workshops and courses intended to provide them with the necessary skills to complete their productions. Workshops and courses are held on weekends and weeknights. Failure to attend mandatory workshops may result in the Team's removal from the program.

Teams are required to work closely with the Mentors provided by the program. They will meet with the Supervising Producer on a regular basis to plan their projects. Teams are required to adhere to a schedule of deliverables and to provide the Supervising Producer with any and all materials that may be requested. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.

Tuition

Each member of the selected Teams will be responsible for a tuition fee. Tuition is **\$200** per Team member for the first phase of the program and an additional **\$200** per team member for teams in the second phase. These fees will be due within **3 weeks** of being

accepted into phase one of FILM 5.

Please note: the tuition includes all workshop fees, mentorship, and an AFCCOOP Full Membership (\$80 value).

Selection Criteria

All applications will be assessed for completeness and eligibility. Incomplete applications or applications that are received after the **midnight deadline on September 28, 2026** will not be accepted.

Applications will be reviewed by a jury made up of FILM 5 alumni and members of the local film community.

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Creative potential of project

- Originality and quality of the script
- Innovation and clarity of the Director's vision
- Enthusiasm and passion for the material
- Artistic cohesion of the creative team

2. The Team's suitability to the program

- FILM 5 is an intermediate-level training program. Teams must be at a stage in their development where they can benefit from the training and mentorship offered by the program.
- Professional development and creative development are cornerstones of FILM 5. Team members must be committed to developing as filmmakers and artists and serious about pursuing a future in filmmaking.
- Teams must be committed to revising and improving their projects throughout the process.
- Team members must be committed to building working relationships amongst themselves, with program administrators, mentors and their film crews.

3. Project Feasibility

- Capacity for the full creative potential of the script to be realized within the budgetary and time constraints of the program.
- Scripts should not propose technical needs beyond what is generally available (i.e. aerial or crane shots, complex special effects).
- As a training film, scripts should limit the use of challenging themes or situations (i.e. stunts, large amounts of extras, extreme violence or excessive nudity).
- Scripts must be suitable to the short film format. (i.e. not a music video or a trailer for a feature film).

A note about Cultural Representation: If your story is set primarily in a community (racial, ethno-cultural, religious, sexual, ability, class etc.) your team are not members of, you

must provide a statement explaining your connection to the community, your intention in telling the story, and what steps you have taken, and will take, to address the issue of representation.

Application Process

Please note: send your documents to Programs & Outreach Coordinator, Henry Colin at henry@afcoop.ca in a PDF or .docx format. Answer in a concise manner and please label responses in accordance with the system below for each section (i.e. 1. d. henry@afcoop.ca). Reference the file formatting guideline at the end of this section when submitting. Questions? Send Henry an email.

GENERAL INFORMATION & PROJECT DETAILS

Documents & Materials

1. Script (max. 6 pages)

Script development is a major component of the FILM 5 program. Applicants should not apply with a script they consider to be completely finished. Scripts should be suitable in length for a five minute short and should not propose special effects or technical requirements beyond what is generally available.

2. Letters of Intent from Producer and Director (one page each)

Please explain in your letter what you hope to gain by participating in the program, and how it fits into your overall professional development as a filmmaker. You can also use this space to explain any unclear eligibility criteria or feasibility issues arising from your script that need more explanation.

3. Director's Treatment (two pages max.)

This should be used to discuss the director's vision, such as plans for cinematography, sound design, art direction, editing, casting, performance etc. It may be helpful to reference other films and/or to discuss your influences as a filmmaker and artist.

4. Budget in Telefilm Format - [Click here](#)

Use the amended template provided, which separates cash and in kind services. Delete or "hide" lines and categories that do not apply to your project. It is not necessary to include the deferred rates of crew or other deferrals external to the FILM 5 sponsorships.

5. Resume/CV of Producer and Director

6. *Additional Support Material

*Not mandatory

7. *Cultural Representation

*Only applicable if the story is set primarily in a community (racial, ethno-cultural, religious, sexual, disability, class etc.) that the director is not a member of: please provide a statement explaining your connection to the community, your intention in telling the story, and what steps you have taken, and will take, to address the issue of representation.

File formatting Delivery Guidelines

Please label the documents you deliver in the following format. Send as a .pdf or docx.

Script_[Project Name]
Letter of Intent_Producer_[Project Name]
Letter of Intent_Director_[Project Name]
Director's Treatment_[Project Name]
CV/Resume_Producer_[Project Name]
CV/Resume_Director_[Project Name]
Support Material_[Project Name]
Signed Guidelines_[Project Name]

Step 1: Email Henry the deliverables listed above

Step 2: [Fill out this online form](#)

Budget Information

Use the following as a guide to the resources provided by FILM 5. **Please note: all funding and sponsorships are subject to confirmation and are non-transferable.**

Cash: \$10,000

In-Kind Services Include:

- Camera equipment (standard HD camera package) | \$5,000
- Lighting and grip equipment | \$5,000
- Misc. AFCCOOP equipment | \$2,000
- AFCCOOP facilities (editing room) | \$1,000
- Video on-line post production | \$10,000
- Final audio mix | \$2,000

TOTAL In-kind: \$25,000

TOTAL Cash: \$10,000

GRAND TOTAL: \$35,000

Application

Please note that you may choose to shoot on film (35mm or 16mm) or digitally. If you choose to shoot on film the program has discounted rates with Kodak and Cinelab to help make this choice affordable.

More information is available by contacting the FILM 5 Production Coordinator at
henry@afcoop.ca or (902) 405-4474

The signature below indicates that you have read and agree to the Film 5 guidelines:

Director

Producer

Writer