

Exeter Phoenix

South West Animation Film Fund

GUIDELINES

Exeter Phoenix will offer one South West based filmmaker £500 in cash funding to support the production of a short animated film which is 3-5 minutes in length. The fund includes access to mentoring, training and equipment.

Applicants will be required to pitch their ideas at Two Short Nights Film Festival, Thu 6 Feb 2025.

These guidelines relate to the Exeter Phoenix South West Animation Film Fund 2025. Please read them carefully before submitting your application.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Exeter Phoenix recognises that moving image plays an important role in reflecting our culture, establishing individual voices and can help filmmakers and artists develop new skills and long-term relationships with cast, crew and cinema audiences, both locally and nationally.

The commissions support the production of one animated short film, fiction or non-fiction. Our aims for this fund are to;

- Support new and emerging talent within the South West
- Connect filmmakers and creative individuals to a wider cultural network in the region
- Offer a platform and opportunities for work to be shared and seen
- Recognise new, fresh and inspiring ideas from a range of perspectives.

ABOUT THE FUND

Exeter Phoenix will award **one** South West based filmmaker a fund of £500 in cash to support the production of a short film which is 3-5 minutes in length. The production could use a range of animation styles such as hand-drawn, CGI or stop-motion.

This commission could be used for the development of a work in progress, which is not already in production. If you wish to pitch a work in progress please consult us before placing an application.

ABOUT THE PITCH

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to pitch their ideas to a panel of experts and an audience as part of Exeter Phoenix's [Two Short Nights Film Festival](#) (6-7 February 2025).

There will be up to 4 applicants pitching at Two Short Nights and each pitch will last up to 5 minutes followed by a further 5 minutes of questions from the panel. Pre-recorded pitches can be used or you can pitch live. There will be an audience in the room.

You will be asked questions about your ideas. You will also be asked to provide a brief budget and examples of how your film will be planned and produced. Exeter Phoenix will make the core questions available to all applicants who are invited to the pitch. Claire, Jonas and Luke, the team at Exeter Phoenix and Two Short Nights will be available to discuss what to expect from the pitch and to offer guidance on applying, generating budgets and extra materials. Contact details can be found at the end of this document. Please feel free to get in touch.

WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

There is no restriction on how the award is spent but you will be expected to provide a brief budget if you are invited to pitch. Costs might include fees for cast and crew, travel costs, covering personal time, location fees and materials.

The successful applicants will also receive in kind support to the value of £1500, which will contribute towards the production. This includes:

- Hire of [Exeter Phoenix film and sound equipment](#)
- Exeter Phoenix studio hire
- Access to Exeter Phoenix film production facilities
- Support and mentoring from industry experts
- A schedule of industry standard training and workshops provided by Exeter Phoenix.

The finished films will be premiered at [Two Short Nights Film Festival](#) 2026 and advice will be given on festival strategy and developing audiences.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Exeter Phoenix South West Animation Film Fund 2025 is open to:

- Individuals who have a permanent address within the South West. Applicants must be able to prove their address.
“South West” constitutes Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Somerset, and the unitary authorities of Bath

& North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly, Isle of Wight, North Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, Portsmouth, South Gloucestershire, Southampton, Swindon, Torbay and Wiltshire.

- Applicants must be 18 or over when applying.
- The fund is aimed at those who have a passion for making animated short films or those looking for funding to take their animation to the next level.

The selected filmmaker may be expected to make occasional visits to Exeter, therefore please consider this when applying.

We recognise our work will be stronger with greater diversity and welcome applications by somebody with lived experience of a diverse background.

If you would like support or assistance with your application, or would like these guidelines in a more accessible format, or you would like support with your application we would be pleased to help. Please request this by emailing Claire.Horrocks@exeterphoenix.org.uk

TIMELINE

- Applications open **Mon 11 November 2024**
- Applications close **12pm, Sun 17 January 2025**
- Decisions made by **Wed 29 Jan 2025**
- Successful applicants must be available to pitch their ideas to an audience and panel of experts during **TWO SHORT NIGHTS 2025 on Thursday 6 Feb, at 4pm.**
- Training and workshops will take place from spring **2025, dates TBC**
- Projects are to be completed by **December 2025.**

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

Please apply via our [online submission form](#).

You will be asked to submit an original and concise proposal which outlines the tone, themes, genre and strategy of your ideas.

Exeter Phoenix will accept ideas to be presented in written form (up to 400 words) or as a video (up to 3 minutes).

When applying you will have the opportunity to include a link to a show reel and attached supporting material. This could be examples of previous work, stills, writing samples or visual aids.

You will also be asked to complete a [Diversity Standards form](#) when applying. The data submitted when applying and via the diversity standard

form will be shared with BFI Film Academy South West / Watershed for reporting purposes.

All applicants will receive a confirmation email to state we have received your application. Applications will be presented to the commission panel after the deadline.

The successful pitch will be notified at Two Short Nights Film Festival on Thursday 6 February at the Festival Social Event, approximately 7:45 PM. All applicants will also be notified of the outcome via email, with the chance to receive feedback.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about the **Exeter Phoenix South West Animation Film Fund 2025** please feel free to get in touch with the team. We will be happy to chat through your ideas and the process involved.

Luke Hagan - Luke.Hagan@exeterphoenix.org.uk

Claire Horrocks - claire.horrocks@exeterphoenix.org.uk

Jonas Hawkins - Jonas.Hawkins@exeterphoenix.org.uk

Disclaimer

*The offer of this commission is correct at time of launch. Exeter Phoenix reserves the right to amend or withdraw elements of the commission offer. **Exeter Phoenix South West Animation Film Fund 2025** is subject to terms and conditions as stated in the final contract, which will be presented to the successful applicant.*

ABOUT EXETER PHOENIX

Exeter Phoenix has awarded over 100 short film commissions. The process has helped establish film careers and played a vital role in building relationships within the creative industries.