

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.

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.

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 digital@exeterphoenix.org.uk

COMMISSION TIMELINE

- Applications open **Wednesday 26 Feb 2025**.
- Applications close **5pm, Wednesday 26 March 2025**.
- Decisions made by **2 April 2025**
- Interviews will take place on **22 to 24 April 2025**.
- Training and workshops will take place from **May 2025, dates TBC**
- Projects are to be completed and delivered by **Fri 23 January 2026**.

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

All applications must be submitted 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.

Decisions will be made by 02 April 2025. All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email.

If you are invited to pitch your application at an interview you will be asked to present your ideas to the panel and discuss them in more detail. You will also be asked to provide the panel with a brief budget and examples of how your production will meet our aims and objective outlined above.

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. The commissions are subject to terms and conditions as stated in the final contract, which will be presented to the successful applicant.

CONTACT US

If you still have questions regarding the Micro Short Film Commission 2025 or if you would like assistance with your application please email Digital@exeterphoenix.org.uk