

Short Film Commission 2026

GUIDELINES

These guidelines relate to the **South West Short Film Commission** and **Devon Short Film Commission 2026**. 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.

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

The commissions support the production of short films from all genres of film, live action or animation, fiction and nonfiction. Our aims for the commissions 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.

Exeter Phoenix will award two Short Film Commission to the value of **£1500** for the development of an inspiring and original narrative, which is up to 12 minutes in length.

Exeter Phoenix will award one **South West Short Film Commission** and one **Devon Short Film Commission**.

WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

Exeter Phoenix is inviting applications for the development and production of a short film project. Successful applicants will be awarded £1500 to support the production of the film. You can apply for support with all genres of film, live action or animation, fiction and nonfiction.

Exeter Phoenix is not restricting how the award is spent but you will be expected to provide a brief budget if you are invited to interview. 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
- Training and workshops in camera skills, post-production and script development provided by Exeter Phoenix.

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

WHO CAN APPLY?

These commissions are aimed at those who have some experience in making short films previously and are now looking for funding to take their filmmaking to the next level.

Applicants must be able to prove they reside in the South West or Devon. Applicants must be aged 18 years or over. The selected filmmaker(s) may be expected to make occasional visits to Exeter, therefore please consider this when applying.

South West Short Film Commission 2026

This is open to individuals or groups who have a permanent address in 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.

Devon Short Commission 2026

This is open to individuals or groups who reside in Devon, UK.

COMMISSION TIMELINE

Applications open **Wednesday 18 Feb 2026**.

Applications close **5pm, Sunday 22 March 2026**.

Decisions made by **2 April 2026**.

Interviews will take place on **20 to 24 April 2026**.

Training and workshops will take place from **May 2026, dates TBC**

Projects are to be completed and delivered by **Tue 04 January 2027**.

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

All applications must be submitted via our online submission form.

Applicants will be asked to submit an original and concise proposal, outlining 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).

Applicants 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.

Applicants will also be asked to complete a [Diversity Standards form](#) when applying.

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 2026. 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 Devon or South West Short Film Commission 2026 or if you would like assistance with your application please email Digital@exeterphoenix.org.uk