

Do It Ourselves Docufilm Competition: Submission Guidelines

1. Competition submissions timeline

Submissions open on **4 May 2026, 12:00** (GMT+8) and closes on ~~31 July 2026~~ **10 August 2026, 23:59** (GMT+8).

All entries must be submitted via the official submission platform which will be available from 4 May 2026, 12:00 to ~~31 July 2026~~ **10 August 2026, 23:59**.

2. What you need to submit

Each entry must include a YouTube or Vimeo link to:

- i. 1 x Long-form Film: 5 to 10 minutes, landscape format
- ii. 1 x Short-form Film: (shortened version of the long-form video) 90 seconds to 3 minutes, vertical format.

Please refer to **Section 6 & 7** below for more details if you are selected as a Finalist.

3. How to submit your entries

- i. Upload your films to Vimeo or YouTube first.
- ii. Set videos to Unlisted.
- iii. Submit your links via the official submission platform which will be available when submission open.
- iv. You must also submit all necessary documents to a google drive folder and share the link with TECL via the official submission platform.

4. Submission checklist

Ensure that the following are ready before submission:

- ☐ Unlisted link to long-form video with full production credit, subtitles and content advisories, where applicable
- ☐ Unlisted link to short-form video with subtitles and content advisories, where applicable
- ☐ Name your submission according to the naming convention required. Refer to Clause 4 of Terms & Conditions for more details.
- ☐ Your personal details ready
- ☐ Copy of student pass (if entering Student Category)
- ☐ Group member details (if applicable)
- ☐ Declaration of any affiliation to Esplanade staff or to the Judging Panel
- ☐ Declaration of any AI tools used

5. Other important requirements

- i. Films must be original works
- ii. AI use must be declared and limited to minor enhancements only
- iii. Include English subtitles on all videos.
- iv. No watermarks allowed
- v. All content (music, images, footage) must be original or properly licensed.
- vi. Consent must be obtained for anyone appearing in your film.

6. Additional deliverables required for finalists

All finalists will be informed by ~~20 August 2026~~ **26 August 2026** via the contact information provided.

Only finalists will be required to submit additional materials by ~~25 August 2026~~ **30 August 2026**, 12pm (+GMT8) via a designated platform to be given by TECL. Failure or refusal by finalists to comply with the submission deliverables or deadline may result in disqualification. Finalists are required to submit the following:

a. Long-form video:

- File format: .MP4 or .MOV
- Video codec: H.264 (recommended)
- Minimum resolution: 1920×1080 (Full HD)
- Aspect ratio: 16:9
- 1x Clean version with no subtitles burnt in
- Subtitles: A time-coded .SRT subtitle file in British English, with no styling or formatting.

b. Short-form video (a shortened version of the long-form video):

- File format: .MP4 or .MOV
- Video codec: H.264 (recommended)
- Minimum resolution: 1080×1920 (Full HD)
- Duration: 90 seconds to 3 minutes
- Aspect Ratio: 9:16
- Participant is required to submit two versions of the same short-form video:
 - 1x Clean version with no subtitles
 - 1x Version with burnt-in subtitles
- All graphics, supers and on-screen text should be in accordance with social media safe zones provided by TECL.

c. ~~Trailer (to be submitted in landscape and vertical formats):~~

i. ~~16:9 Landscape format~~

- ~~☐ File format: .MP4 or .MOV~~
- ~~☐ Video codec: H.264 (recommended)~~
- ~~☐ Aspect ratio: 16:9~~
- ~~☐ Duration: 30 to 45 seconds~~
- ~~☐ Subtitles: A time-coded .SRT subtitle file in British English, with no styling or formatting.~~

ii. ~~9:16 Vertical format~~

- ~~☐ File format: .MP4 or .MOV~~
- ~~☐ Video codec: H.264 (recommended)~~
- ~~☐ Aspect ratio: 9:16~~
- ~~☐ Duration: 30 to 45 seconds~~
- ~~☐ Participant is required to submit two versions of the same 9:16 vertical format trailer:~~
 - ~~☐ 1x Clean version with no subtitles~~
 - ~~☐ 1x Version with burnt-in subtitles~~
- ~~☐ All graphics, supers and on-screen text should be in accordance with social media safe zones provided by TEGL.~~

c. 2 high-resolution stills from the docu-film:

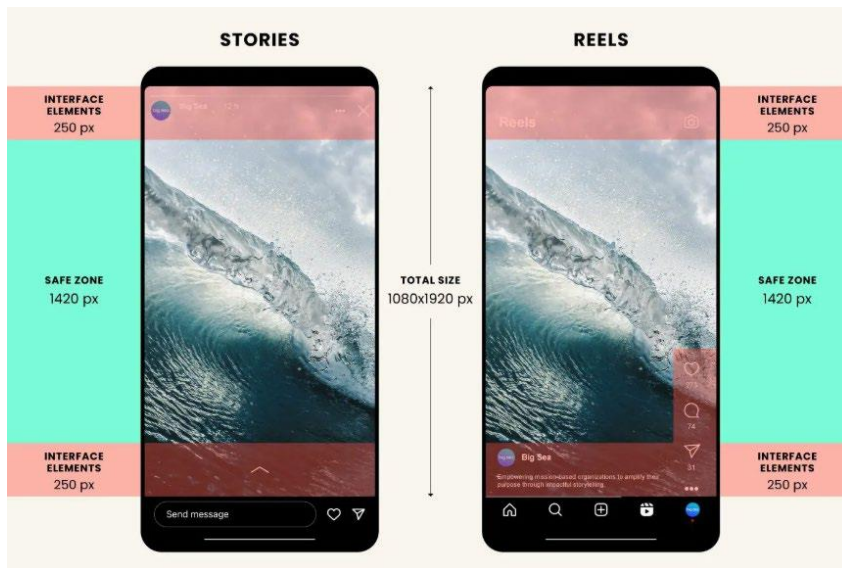
i. Provide 2 different still images

ii. Each still must be submitted in both of the following dimensions:

- ☐ 1920 x 1080 px
- ☐ 1200 x 630 px

d. Synopsis of not more than 150 words.

7. Social media safe zones



Full rules and terms can be found in the **Terms & Conditions**.