

Student Cuts film festival 2026

1. INTRODUCTION:

Student Cuts film festival is an international film festival, organized by the Gimnazija Franca Miklošiča Ljutomer and društva za izobraževanje, kulturo in šport Franc Miklošič. Apart from showcasing audiovisual works the event will host a practitioners program and social events. Student Cuts future talents is a section, organised by Gimnazija Franca Miklošiča Ljutomer and društvo za izobraževanje, kulturo in šport Franc Miklošič in cooperation with Srednja vzgojiteljska šola, gimnazija in umetniška gimnazija Ljubljana, Umetniška gimnazija Nova Gorica and Gimnazija Ptuj.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The festival is reserved for independently produced youth films without assistance of professional production companies or individuals. The director of the registered film had to be under 26 years old when the film was finished. We accept submissions of films produced between January 1st 2024 and date of registration' closure. Films, which were already part of Student Cuts film festival (under any name) in previous years, cannot be registered again. The festival accepts short films up to 15 minutes in length in the following categories:

- fiction,
- animation,
- documentary,
- experimental,
- Student Cuts Future talents.

Submissions to the competition section of the Festival must conform to the following criteria:

- Film director must have been under 26 years old at the end of production
- Films must be made independent of any support of professional production organisations
- Films must be under 15 minutes long
- Films must be in Slovene or English language or have Slovene or English subtitles provided

Category Future talents have some additional criteria including all regulations written above:

- Film director must have been under 20 years old at the end of production
- Registration must be made by mentor or other co-operation school's representative
- Films must be made as a part of educational process at partners institutions, what mentor of registered film guaranteed for
- Films must be in Slovene language or have Slovene language subtitles provided
- Each institution can register various films in total length of 45 minutes. Each film cannot exceed 15 minutes.

Films not conforming to these rules can be submitted and become a part of Festival affiliate events network.

3. SELECTION:

Producer i.e. the copyright holder decides on the desired category to be included for the selection. Should the film not fit the requirements for a particular category the organizers reserve the right to include the film in a different category.

Applications must be submitted via the online form on the festival website. By registering, authors agree with the festival's terms and conditions. If author register more than one film, each film must be registered separately. Incomplete registrations may be removed by the organizer without explanation and become invalid. Online submission must include the following:

- Text document with a short plot summary
- Text document with full cast and crew
- Text document with technical information (length, format etc.)
- At least 5 still photographs from the film
- A photo of the director/author
- Text document with a short biography and filmography of the director/author

Do not send the above in paper or email form.

All submitted films not in Slovene or English language must have Slovene or English subtitles. Subtitles have to be in a separate SRT file format. In exceptional circumstances a film can be submitted for selection without subtitles with prior approval by the organizer. Selection results will be published on www.studentcuts.si.

All Slovenian films that want to be part of the international exchange of films as part of the Student Cuts screenings must also provide English subtitles.

4. RIGHTS AND DUTIES RESULTING FROM SELECTION:

By submitting a film you give the festival the right, without compensation, to present the work to the public in whatever form, media, online or at a public screening, with the purpose of promoting the festival. Current list of public screenings of registered films can be seen at www.studentcuts.si.

The author allows free public broadcasting of the work at television stations in Republic Slovenia and in scheduled programming of RTV Slovenija, including broadcast by satellite, and the right to exchange the work with other public broadcasters outside of Slovenia. All copyrights remain property of the author.

5. SUBMITTING THE FILM FOR SELECTION

To submit a film you must fill out the official festival application form. Films must conform to the following technical specifications:

- Video: H.264 video encoding at up to 20 Mbps bitrate (MS Windows compatible codec)
- Audio: at least 44.1kHz sample rate and at least 128kbps bitrate
- Subtitles: srt format, UTF8 encoding

Failing to conform to the specification can result in eliminating the film from the selection without further explanation. Film has to be uploaded to any online service or storage and providing organizers the link, where film can be downloaded.

Application deadline is March 22nd 2026. No applications will be possible after the deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Deadline date is considered as the date of data saving in the database

Application deadline for Student Cuts Future talents is April 19th 2026. No applications will be possible after the deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

There is no application fee.

Further information will be available on www.studentcuts.si or via email info@studentcuts.si.

6. JURY AND AWARDS:

Films are going to be evaluated in 2 rounds. In the first round each film is going to be judged by two independent experts. Films are going to be assigned to evaluators randomly, where the evaluator had no role in the process of film creation. Based on their evaluations a final selection of 5 films per category and up to 10 extra films by festival program section will go into round two.

Round two will be judged by a festival jury. Festival organizers will appoint a jury of at least 3 members of which one will be the president of the jury. The jury selects the winners in each category. The decision of the jury is final and cannot be appealed. The jury can not influence on audience award in any way.

Festival awards are granted for:

- Best fiction film,
- Best animation,
- Best documentary film,
- Best experimental film,
- Best Student Cuts Future talents film,
- Audience award for open section,
- Audience award for Student Cuts Future talents.

Category Future talents will be evaluated student jury. Student jury will be assembled by max. 2 members of each participated school from the introduction. Student jury will evaluate only films from category Future talents and decide among following awards:

- The most innovative story
- The best technical made film
- The best sound representation
- Max. 2 awards for special achievements

The festival reserves the right to a special award. Festival reserves the right for Slovene or international organizations to present their own award. Should such an organization decide to present an award it must submit a copy of the rules before the beginning of the festival and provide the awards to be presented. Further information will be available on www.studentcuts.si.

7. PROGRAM:

Program is subject to change depending on the number of submissions in individual categories and will be available at www.studentcuts.si.

8. THE RIGHT TO COMPETE:

Any person as specified in paragraph one of point two of these rules has equal right to compete in the festival. By submitting a film you agree to comply with these rules. Should there be any doubt regarding the rules the Slovene version is to be consulted. Organizer reserves the right to decide regarding matters not covered in this document.

9. ARCHIVE:

Festival archive contains selection copies of all films ever submitted to the festival. The festival can use these films for:

- Promotion in other festivals and events
- For other screenings (TV, web) with the purpose of promoting and spreading the festival
- Educational workshops