

dlr First Frames Short Film Scheme

Additional Information for prospective applicants



Following on from the previous dlr First Frames Short Film Funding Schemes - the below is a collated overview of responses from funders Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Arts Office, scheme managers, IADT and film experts to frequently asked questions (FAQ's) from prospective applicants.

- Please refer to the **dlr First Frame Scheme Brief** for full details re. scheme, application process, assessment criteria, processes and key dates at www.iadt.ie
- The **Application Form** is available in **Word** and **PDF** format at www.iadt.ie

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – Funders

- dlr First Frames scheme is funded fully funded by the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. (Arts Office and the dlr Economic Development Fund)
- Key aims: supporting emerging film makers, highlight the range of locations in the dlr region and to support employment in the film industry.
- DLR County Council have funded a number of short films before
- Recommendation: Sign up to the Arts e-bulletin for on-going info and updates

dlr First Frames Short Film Scheme is two commissions worth €12,000 (VAT inclusive) each. Plus mentoring from experts at IADT's National Film School, as well as use of equipment / facilities at the NFS (subject to availability & crew competence).

Important points re. other additional sources of funding:

- Crowd funding is not allowed under this scheme.
- All other funding must come from a legitimate and non-competitive source to dlr
- Other funding must be available for the project at time of application.
- Written confirmation that funds are available will be required before a formal offer can be made.
- Other funders can be included in credit roll but NOT as main film funder i.e., Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.
 - Own or family money can be used subject to the above conditions.
 - Raising money through sponsorship or using other bursary / prize / small finance is permitted subject to the above conditions.

There are a wide variety of locations in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, suggestions as follows:

- Glencullen
- Killiney & Dalkey Hills
- Marlay Park
- Dún Laoghaire
- Sandycove Beach
- Glasthule
- Dún Laoghaire West Pier
- Dún Laoghaire East Pier
- Deansgrange Cemetery
- Sandycove
- Killiney Beach
- The 40 Foot
- Cabinteely Park
- Peoples Park
- Kilmashogue Forest
- Ticknock Forest
- Tibbradden wood
- Carrickgollogan
- Hellfire
- Massey's Wood
- Kilternan
- Shanganagh Park

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FAQ's

Q: Typical number of days for shoot

For the budget – you could try for 5 days but depends how you work the budget, depends on the project – certainly more than 2 – probably 3 to 4.

The Lighthouse film producer (previous dlr First Frames scheme) responded as follows: *“This will vary depending on the concept and whether lots of crew, equipment is required. As a ballpark, budget for about 3 days; maximum 5 days. One shoot day could be with a skeleton crew to keep costs down. If you budget for 3 days and are successful in your application, do up a more dedicated budget at this point to ensure that the 3-days is workable”*

Q: Age restriction?

No, scheme is aimed at emerging film-makers

Q: Multiple applications?

No restriction about the number, however, a good quality application will take a lot of work, so we advise you to consider focusing on one strong application as opposed to stretching yourself across more than one.

Q: Same person as Directing & Producing?

Yes, it is possible, but CVs submitted will be reviewed by looking for key strengths in both those areas, so need to bear that in mind. Empirically speaking, considered opinion is a very difficult / challenging approach to opt for.

Q: Budget

You will need to present a realistic budget for your project if shortlisted. If there are holes in the budget this will be a cause for concern.

Q: Pay rates

That is for the applicants to work out as they work through the budget for the film (budget being an important part of Stage 2 additional information submission) as you will be deciding how far the budget will go.

Likely to be calling in favours, from people (crew) who are looking to make a name for themselves. Keep it fair across the crew.

Cast should be paid appropriate rates.

Q: Classifications

Don't have to be PG but should not be XXX! Remember that the funder is a local authority aiming to increase awareness of the DLR region as a film making location and to support employment in the film industry in the area also.

It doesn't have to be for the scheme but should be possible for your film to be IFCO (Irish Film Classification Office) classified

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Additional Information for prospective applicants



Q: Screening/Premier:

Dlr premiere will take place in The Studio, dlr Lexicon. This is not a festival. If you've had own country premiere or screened at small film festivals, you can usually look to screen at international festivals without that being a problem.

Q: Financial returns

DLR must be credited (in the credit roll) as main financier of the film but they are not looking for financial return on the investment should the film get picked up for terrestrial, broadcast, etc.

NB: Important to credit and include the funder in the success of the film. IADT's National Film School (scheme managers) should also be credited in the credit roll.

Q: Animation

Not open to animation for this scheme – as it has to include filming in dlr region locations, however, there could be animated elements in the film if time and budget allowed. Animation not ruled out for future funding considerations.

Q: Combined Producer / Director

Not advised – too difficult to achieve. Combined Writer / Director is okay though.

Q: Mentoring support

Will be available re. script development / directing and or producing (if required and recommended by the interview panel) Max 7 hours support. Type of support will be depending on type of film you are making. Will be available between announcement and completion date. Mentors will be provided via IADT.

Q: Is residing in DLR a pre-requisite?

No but DLR region must be the film shoot location(s).

General Comment regarding relationship between applicants and interview panel:

Remember that the interviewers want your script and project to succeed – i.e. they are on the same side and hoping for a successful collaboration for all.

Q: Equipment & Studio availability at IADT's, National Film School, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire

A range of equipment and use of studio is possible subject to availability and by arrangement in advance with IADT. IADT management must be satisfied that the crew are experienced and capable of handling and using the equipment and facilities. The NFS is in constant use by IADT students during term time so availability for successful applicants is likely to be, during June, July and August – by arrangement in advance.

Q: If shortlisted, who needs to attend the interview?

Ideally the Producer, Director and Script Writer – at minimum Producer and Director but all three are advised. Attendance at the interview is mandatory to remain eligible.

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Tips and Advice

Expert A:

A good short film will have some of these ingredients, but a film with all of the following ingredients it will be too complicated!

- Some Suggested ingredients:
 - **Short Film** – keep it short!
 - **Originality** – your voice, it comes from you. If you are going to adapt; make it your version, reflecting your personality
 - **Story**
 - **Sound** – good sound & music is important. it's easy and cheap way to increase production value in film
 - **Clear POV** (not camera shot POV – who / what is the film about)
 - **Emotional Centre** – if your film is dealing with emotions, usually rooted in you and your view of the world.
 - **Credible Plot** – if it doesn't make sense, it won't reach the audience
 - **Individual voice** – again, goes back to you
 - **Consistency** – e.g. if you start with a horror, end with a horror
 - **Period dramas** - (can be expensive, not recommended - especially for shorts)
 - **Entertaining!**
 - **Authentic**
 - **Short Credits!** (Don't forget to credit everyone & should be included in your run time)
 - **Interesting locations**
 - **Good acting**
 - **Good Concepts**
 - **Festival Friendly** – Film it yourself and you too! Need to be approachable.
 - **End Well** – Opening of film important, so is the closing shot. That is what the audience remembers
 - **Stay on brief!**

This scheme is funded by dlr County Council – consider your project, make sure your film fits the brief! And, go walking in the area! Have a wander and see if your script can be helped by getting a feel of the place and possible locations

Expert B:

Story is the most important thing! So, story and script are key.

- Short Films challenge you to tell an engaging and impactful story in a condensed amount of time. Make your short stand out

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- Make something you are personally engaged with, that excites you. That you are passionate about
- Keep it simple, be aware of the scope. Don't cram too much into a short; think of a narrative and story that will fit the format.
- Have a strong opening and closing; have a clear beginning, middle and end.
- Keep it cinematic
- Put as much time into **pre-production** as possible. Prepare! Invariably things go wrong on a shoot, the more prepared you are...the easier you will be able to react and adapt. Break down the script, get to know the material, make notes, "watch the film in your head" to help you decide what are the cuts, what is the pacing. From there you can then do your shot list and storyboards (which are great as visual aid for you on set but also to help communicate with your crew, DP etc. Look books, mood boards etc great for art department / costume etc.
- Regarding **Pitching**, this your film; practice, get comfortable talking about your film, aloud, what it is about, the themes etc. Try and anticipate the questions that might come up. Be passionate about your film!
- Have as much supportive material as possible, e.g. for Director have notes, visual style, reference imagery, concept art, photos, etc. For producers, have budget, possible locations, ideas for cast etc.
- Have solutions to any possible problems!
- **Casting** hugely important. Bad actor/performance can ruin a short film. Just because it's your first or smaller budget film, don't be afraid to aim high! Get the best actor possible for role; Actors want to act, so if they are not on a shoot and available, and they like the script, they may well be happy to be involved.
- Do Rehearsals!
- **The Shoot** itself, you won't have enough time! You may have to drop shots or change things. Be prepared! Have a vision in mind but be open minded and then you can improvise if needs be.
- Don't Skimp on the food! Feed your crew well; Helps keep up morale and performance!
- **Postproduction**: try get the best editor you can, preferably someone with experience; someone you can collaborate with. The edit is where your film will live or die, because you see what you have. You re-write the film in the edit!
- In relation to the scheme, there will be back and forth with DLR
- Be open to feedback, send out cuts to people, get criticism