



AHRC Research in Film Awards 2017

Following on from the successful [2016 Research in Film Awards](#), submissions for the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) 2017 Awards is now open in a bid to identify new and emerging talent in the fields of filmmaking which has been influenced or is directly linked to arts and humanities research. The Awards ceremony will take place on the 9 November 2017 at BAFTA in London, featuring a line-up of academics and film industry experts, with writer and broadcaster Danny Leigh, hosting the event.

The AHRC's Research in Film Awards is designed to showcase, reward and recognise the best of the growing number of high-quality short films (defined as no longer than 30 minutes) that are aligned with arts and humanities research. There are two new awards for 2017, including the International Development Award and the Doctoral Student or Best Early Career Film, with the latter celebrating the best films made by arts and humanities researchers at the start of their careers. For the third year running, members of the public will be eligible to enter the "Inspiration Award" provided their film has been inspired by research in the arts and humanities.

The AHRC Film Competition

Films are produced in many ways, both through and as a result of research. They may be primary outputs, by-products, records of research undertaken, dissemination tools or practice-based research itself. They may include reconstructions and enactments, animations, installations and gallery pieces, games, interactive storytelling or co-produced work including collaborations with community groups, and may take the form of documentaries, visual essays or broadcast programmes. They may entail any of these, and much more besides.

These awards are designed to encourage and recognise the considerable body of work created at the interface between research and film and to recognise the world-leading work of researchers, practitioners and filmmakers in the arts and humanities research community.

Awards will be made in five categories and the winner of each category will win £2,000 towards their future filmmaking activities. All applicants must accompany their film submissions with a supporting statement outlining their film's connection with arts and humanities research.

Films entered for the best film by a Doctoral Student or Early Career Researcher (3.2) must have been produced as a result of AHRC funding. The Best Research Film of the Year (3.1) and the Innovation Award (3.4) are open to all those eligible for AHRC funding. The **International Development Award: Mobilising Global Voices (3.3) is open to all those eligible for AHRC funding and associated voluntary sector and community groups**. The Inspiration Award (3.5) is open to all but the film must be inspired by arts and humanities research.



Categories

Awards will be split across five categories and entries can be made in more than one category:

3.1 Best Research Film of the Year

This category is for all films produced as outputs or by-products of arts and humanities research in the UK and is open to all those employed¹ by AHRC-recognised Research Organisations in the UK (see Eligibility section below) at the time the film was completed, launched or made publicly available. **Films do not have to be produced as a result of AHRC funding. All films must have been completed or made available during the last year (since April 1st 2016).**

Judges are looking for:

- Films which bring new research to wider attention
- Films that exemplify excellence in the dissemination of research findings
- Films that highlight the value and importance of research in the arts and humanities, or
- that illustrate the value and importance of subjects or questions within the arts and humanities

All entrants must also complete and submit the form in the Requirements section which asks for a 300-word summary explaining the film's links with arts and humanities research. You must also provide web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure that this is written in plain English and be aware that the people judging your film may not be academics so try to avoid jargon.

3.2 Best Doctoral or Early Career Film

This category is open to all doctoral students and Early Career Researchers funded by the AHRC (see Eligibility section for details). Applicants are not required to be registered as doctoral students at the point of submission or on the release date of the film, but the primary research for the film must have been conducted while the applicant was registered as a doctoral student. **All films must have been completed or made available during the last year (since April 1st 2016).**

Judges are looking for:

- Films which portray or represent research excellence
- Films which have brought new research to wider attention
- Films which exemplify excellence in the dissemination of research findings, or
- which bring arts and humanities research to new audiences

¹ Or if not employed by the RO, have held a formal written contract that provided the applicant with the same level of support as if they were an employee.



- Films which highlight the value and importance of research in the arts and humanities, or
- that highlight the value and importance of subjects or questions within the arts and humanities

All entrants must complete and submit the form given in the Requirements section, where it is essential to supply a 300-word summary explaining the film's connection with arts and humanities research, together with web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure this is written in plain English and bear in mind that some of the people judging your film may not be academics so please avoid jargon.

3.3 International Development Award: Mobilising Global Voices

This category is for all films produced as outputs or by-products of arts and humanities research in the UK and is open to those employed² by AHRC-recognised Research Organisations in the UK (see Eligibility section for details) at the time the film was completed, launched or made publicly available. This category is also open to community groups and voluntary sector organisations that have formerly collaborated with an AHRC researcher. **All films must have been completed or made available during the last year (since April 1st 2016).**

The International Development Award recognises the importance of arts and humanities research in a global context. UK research in collaboration with local partners can have a huge impact on the lives of people in developing countries. This category aims to showcase films that provide a platform for the voices of people in developing countries and which use film for them to tell their story.

Judges are looking for:

- Imaginative films that have been made in collaboration with people in developing countries; telling their stories and helping find solutions for the challenges they face and/or wider global challenges
- Films that have arts and humanities research at their core
- Films which are effective in translating stories and voices internationally across cultural, linguistic and/or other boundaries

Judges are also looking for films that explore how collaborative research has helped diverse communities in developing countries, including disadvantaged or marginalised groups, to celebrate their lives, cultures and creativity, to uncover hidden heritages or to address injustices, inequalities, divisions or difficult pasts.

All entrants must complete and submit the form in the Requirements section which asks for a 300-word summary of how the film meets one or more of the requirements above; web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure this is written in plain English and be aware that some of the people judging your film may not be academics so please avoid jargon.

² Or if not employed by the RO, have held a formal written contract that provided the applicant with the same level of support as if they were an employee.



3.4 Innovation Award

This category is for all films produced as outputs or by-products of arts and humanities research in the UK and is open to all those employed³ by AHRC-recognised Research Organisations in the UK at the time the film was completed, launched or made publicly available (see Eligibility section for details). **Films do not have to be produced as a result of AHRC funding. All films must have been completed or made available during the last year (since April 1st 2016).**

For this category, judges want to be presented with films that represent innovation in filmmaking. Here 'film' is defined broadly to include interactive media, games, visualisations, graphic design, animation etc., where there is a clear and demonstrable link to arts and humanities research.

Judges are looking for:

- Technical innovation, or innovation in the mode of filmmaking methodologies used (for example, co-produced research)
- Visual anthropology, practice as research, and so on

All entrants must complete and submit the form in the Requirements section, where a 300-word summary of the film's connections with arts and humanities research is required, along with web links to the film being submitted and other relevant information. Please ensure this is written in plain English and bear in mind that some of the people judging the film may not be academics so avoid jargon where possible.

3.5 Inspiration Award - Best film inspired by the arts and humanities (public category)

This category is open to the public and recognises films produced in the UK which have been inspired by arts and humanities research. This could mean the film has been inspired by a museum exhibition, book, play or performance. The filmmaker may have been inspired by research such as an archaeological dig, or festivals such as Cheltenham Festivals, or the Being Human: a Festival of the Humanities. Entrants can be individuals, community groups, teams or collaborative groups who have been stimulated by arts and humanities research. **All films submitted must have been completed or made available during the last year (since April 1st 2016).**

Arts and humanities research touches all areas of our lives and this award aims to recognise its value and importance to us all. Judges are looking for films which have been inspired by arts and humanities research and are looking for creative – either factual or fictional – representations in film of that engagement. Judges are also looking for films which convey a sense of the importance of arts and humanities research to our lives.

All entrants must complete and submit the form given at the link in the Requirements section which asks for a 300-word summary to explain how the film is inspired by arts and humanities research.

³ Or if not employed by the RO, have held a formal written contract that provided the applicant with the same level of support as if they were an employee.



Please note that we will also accept nominations for films in this category.

These nominations should include a 300-word summary of how the film has been inspired by arts and humanities research, together with contact details to enable the AHRC to access the nominated film for judging purposes.

Entry Requirements

Entrants for all categories must complete and submit the [Smart Survey Form](#) by 4pm on Thursday 6th July 2017

This form requires entrants to provide a link to the film on the free video channel [Vimeo](#) and if necessary, a password, to enable judges to access the film being submitted. The link to the film must also be made available by the deadline indicated above.

You are allowed to submit a film in more than one category if it fits with the entry requirements for each separate category. To do so you will have to complete the Smart Survey form for each additional category you wish to enter.

In addition, all submitted films **must** conform to the following terms and conditions:

- All films submitted or nominated should last no longer than **30 minutes including titles and credits – submissions of over 30 minutes will be discounted.**
- 'Film' is defined broadly as a series of moving images, but the nature of the images is open and unspecified.
- All films submitted to categories: 3.1 Best Research Film of the Year; 3.2 Best Doctoral or Early Career Film; 3.4 the Innovation Award and 3.5 the Inspiration Award, must have been created, completed or made public since **1st April 2016**. It is not expected that films would be created especially for these awards but rather is intended to recognise already-produced films. However, specially-created works would of course be eligible.
- All submitted films should be in a format that can be uploaded to Vimeo and accessed and played on a standard Web browser.
- It is understood that films involve collaboration with broadcasters, community groups, cultural bodies, etc. Awards can therefore be made to teams as well as individuals but for categories 3.1 Best Research Film of the Year; 3.2 Best Doctoral or Early Career Film Award, 3.3 International Development Award: Mobilising Global Voices, and 3.4 Innovation Award, there must be an identified research lead who meets the AHRC eligibility criteria as described below.
- Category 3.5 – the Inspiration Award – which is open to the general public **does not need** an identified research lead. This category is open to both individuals and teams.
- Excerpts from all shortlisted films will be shown on the AHRC website when the shortlist is announced in September and at the awards ceremony in November while all winning films will be made publicly available on the AHRC website and on the AHRC's social media channels shortly after the awards ceremony.
- Films in languages other than English are eligible provided they have English subtitles.
- Any films that have been produced with direct input from the Arts and Humanities Research Council Communications Team are not eligible for this competition.
- Resubmissions to the Research in Film Awards are not encouraged, however if a film has been sufficiently altered, edited or enhanced, resubmissions will be considered.
- The AHRC reserves the right to reject any entries which it deems to be offensive or unsuitable.



Eligibility

Applications may only be submitted in categories 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 by those employed by or registered to study (category 3.3) or those who have been employed by or registered to study at a Research Organisations eligible to apply for funding to the AHRC; the only exception is for the Inspiration Award (category 3.5) which is open to the general public. These organisations include:

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that are directly funded for research by HEFCE, DEL, HEFCW and SFC
- [Independent Research Organisations](#) that have received Research Council recognition to apply to the Research Councils in responsive mode

Applicants submitting a film into the Doctoral & Early Career Award (3.2) will need to match either of the following criteria:

- Doctoral Researcher:
 - Engaged in current PhD research through an AHRC funded post
 - Registered as an AHRC funded doctoral student at the time the primary research for the film was completed
- Early Career Researcher
 - Submission must be sent within eight years of the award of your PhD or equivalent professional training (this duration should exclude any period of career break, for example, family care or health reasons), or
 - within six years of your first academic appointment (by 'first academic appointment', this is a paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary function)
 - Employed by an AHRC-recognised Research Organisation in the UK

Judging

The films will be judged by a panel consisting of both academics and film industry experts.

Judges will primarily be interested in the quality of the films submitted as considered against the requirements outlined for each category, but the accompanying text (300 words) will provide vital information about the film's links with arts and humanities research and therefore careful consideration should be given to the writing of these submissions. Please avoid jargon and make your application succinct and easy to understand.

All entrants will be told of the outcome of their submission by mid-September 2017.



Awards ceremony

Awards in all five categories will be made and announced at an awards ceremony in London on the 9 November 2017. All shortlisted entrants will be invited to the event by mid-September.

Awards

Winners in each category will win £2,000 and a trophy. The cash awards should be invested in future filmmaking work and all entrants are required to state in their applications how this money will be used.

Schedule

Thursday 4 May	Film competition announced
4pm on Thursday 6 July	Deadline for entries
Mid-September	All entrants notified
Thursday 9 November	Awards ceremony in London

Further information

For enquiries about this competition, please email communications@ahrc.ac.uk or phone 01793 416020.