



98th Oscars® International Feature Film Category: Key Rules & FAQs for Namibia

The official rules for the 98th Academy Awards® International Feature Film category have been released. Below is a simplified overview for filmmakers and the public. For full details, refer to the [complete rules](#) and attached Academy documents.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Definition:

- Feature-length film (over 40 minutes) produced outside the U.S. and its territories.
- Predominantly (more than 50%) non-English dialogue.
- Animated and documentary films are eligible.

2. Release Window:

- Must be theatrically released in Namibia (**or another country outside the U.S.**) for at least **7 consecutive days** in a commercial theater.
- Release period: **October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025.**

3. Creative Control:

- Key artistic roles must be held by Namibian citizens, residents, or individuals with **refugee/asylum status** in Namibia.
- Creative control (**defined as the country responsible for the film's key artistic decisions, such as director, screenwriter, director of photographer, editor, producer, and/or music composer**)
- Proof of status (government-issued ID or documentation) is required.

4. **Submission Limit:**

- Namibia may submit **ONLY ONE** film, selected by an approved committee.
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Important Updates

- **Refugee/Asylum Filmmakers:** Now explicitly included in creative control eligibility.
 - **Theatrical Flexibility:** Films may qualify via theatrical runs outside Namibia (if compliant with rules).
 - **Cross-Category Eligibility:**
 - Animated/documentary submissions may also compete in their respective Oscar categories.
 - Films submitted for the 98th Oscars cannot compete in future or past years' categories.
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Key Deadlines

- **Selection Committee Info:** August 15, 2025
- **Film Submission:** October 1, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. PT.

[PLEASE REVIEW THE COMPLETE AWARD RULES HERE AND READ THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS.](#)

