

FILM SUBMISSION TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR MONSTRA 2027 COMPETITION

1. INTRODUCTION

MONSTRA | Lisbon Animation Festival, organized by Taumotrópio and MONSTRUOSA - Associação Cultural, establishes itself as a space where animation takes center stage in artistic creation, building bridges with all the arts, both analog and digital. More than just a venue for screenings, MONSTRA is a living laboratory for experimentation and the convergence of artistic languages, where animation reveals itself not only as narrative, aesthetic, or experimental art, but as a driving force for creative dialogue between different realms of experimentation, encounter, and transformation.

The next edition will take place between 11 and 21 March 2027.

2. FILM ADMISSION

A) ELIGIBILITY

For the purposes of these terms and conditions, animated films are those **made image by image, using any animation technique**. Animated sequences **must make up more than 60 per cent of the entire film**. Films that fulfil the following conditions will be admitted to the competition:

- Completion date for all categories: **after 1 January 2025**.
- Have not been submitted to the competition in previous years.

Only submissions in which applicants clearly describe the animation techniques used in the film's production—including the use of generative imaging tools and/or artificial intelligence—will be eligible.

Applicants with films nearing completion may enter them by **identifying WIP in the title of the film on the submission form and inserting a card with this mention at the beginning of the viewing copy**. It will be up to the selection jury to decide whether the film meets the conditions to be evaluated while it is still in its completion phase. If the film is not selected, it can compete again the following year.

B) ENTRY CATEGORIES

MONSTRA accepts animated films without any thematic or aesthetic restrictions, in the following categories:

Feature Film Competition - Only films longer than 40 minutes.

Long Shorts Competition - Only films between 15 and 45 minutes.

Short Film Competition - Only films between 2 and 15 minutes long.

Super Short Film Competition - Only films of less than 2 minutes (excluding credits).

Student Competition - Only films between 2 and 20 minutes, produced in a university academic context.

Portuguese Competition - Any film up to 45 minutes, produced in Portugal as long as the director has a Portuguese NIF and has lived in Portugal for at least 1 year.

Short Film Competition for Children and Young Audiences (MONSTRINHA) - Any film, up to 30 minutes, with content aimed at children and young audiences.

C) LANGUAGE

All films with spoken and/or written language must provide subtitles in an English .SRT file.

3. REGISTRATION

Registration is generally free and must be made by the distributor, rights holder or director consulting all infos at www.monstrafestival.com/submissions.

A) DEADLINES

International Competition: until 23:59 on 11 October 2026.

Portuguese Competition: until 23:59 on 13 December 2026.

B) SUBMISSION PLATFORM

Films must be submitted through the FilmFreeway platform, with a limit of 5 (five) entries per filmmaker. Registration is generally free, except in the following categories:

Feature Films Competition: 5€

Long Short Films Competition: 2,5€

Short Films Competition: 2,5€

Payments must be made at the time of the submissions, through the same platform. The fee is non-refundable.

C) RIGHTS AND AUTHORISATION

The applicant should not charge the festival for rights to screen films selected for competition.

Applicants to the Short Film Competition for Children and Young Audiences (MONSTRINHA) authorize the festival to dub the films into Portuguese, and to screen the film in the context of MONSTRINHA.

The applicant authorises the organisation to include the film in screenings or events taking place after the end of the festival, namely in best of, award-winning or children's programmes, unless otherwise stated on the authorisation form. Applicants who authorize will always be informed in advance of screening dates and venues.

D) COMPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Complementary material and information should be made available for the film's submission, namely photographs, images, biographies, filmographies, subtitles, presskit and premiere status.

4. SELECTION

A) SELECTION COMMITTEE

A selection committee, appointed by the festival's directors, will choose the films that will compose the official selection in the different categories. The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

Films in competition may be invited to take part in other competitive and non-competitive sections.

B) SELECTION NOTIFICATION

Applicants whose films are selected for the official competition will be notified by email until January 2027, and are asked not to publicise the results before they are publicly announced by the festival.

The screening copy must be sent to the festival no later than **12 February 2027** in the following formats:

- All categories (except MONSTRINHA): preferably DCP, alternatively in ProRes, H264 or equivalent.
- MONSTRINHA: ProRes, H264 or equivalent.

The selected films will be announced on the festival website by **March 2027**.

C) PREMIERE STATUS

MONSTRA does not require a film's premiere status to be included in the official selection, but the applicant must inform the festival organisers of its status:

- World Premiere
- International Premiere
- European Premiere
- Portuguese Premiere
- Without Premiere Status

D) COPY TRANSPORT

The transportation of physical screening copies to the festival is at the candidate's charge.

The return of these same copies is at the festival's charge, up until 30 (thirty) days after the end of the festival, unless different terms are settled by both parties.

E) STORAGE OF DIGITAL COPIES

After the official screening, the organisation will store all digital copies in archive, unless it is asked not to do so.

5. INVITATION TO DIRECTORS

MONSTRA invites 1 (one) director per film to take part in the festival. In cases of co-directing, the applicant must indicate the author chosen to represent the film. The director must be present at the public screening of their film to introduce it and take part in meetings with directors and the public. The festival will support their stay in Lisbon for 1 to 5 nights, depending on the category in which the film is selected and its premiere status. The candidate will be informed of the guaranteed conditions in the selection email by the festival organisation.

6. AWARD LIST

Feature Film Competition

- Grand-Prix MONSTRA
- Jury Special Award

Long Shorts Competition

- Grand-Prix MONSTRA

Short Film Competition

- Grand-Prix MONSTRA
- Jury Special Award
- Best Portuguese Short Film

Super Short Film Competition

- Grand-Prix MONSTRA
- Best Portuguese Super Short Film

Student Short Film Competition

- Grand-Prix MONSTRA
- Best Portuguese Student Short Film
- Best Student Short Film - Junior Jury
- Best Student Portuguese Short Film - Junior Jury

Competition of Short Films for Children and Youth (MONSTRINHA)

- MONSTRINHA Grand-Prix
- Jury Special Award

Portuguese Competition

- Grand-Prix Vasco Granja | SPA
- Jury Special Award

Perspectives Competition

- Perspectives Award

In each category there may also be a special mention awarded by the international jury.

In each category, except the Super Short Film Competition, there will also be an Audience Award.

In the Perspectives Competition, the main prize will be awarded by the public.

The monetary prizes will be announced on the festival website by February 2027.

7. GRAND-PRIX VASCO GRANJA | SPA - SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

A) REGISTRATION

All the portuguese films may be considered as well to other international competitions.

B) AWARD

The Vasco Granja Award is an incentive for the creation of new animation projects and has a minimum value of €2,500.00 (two thousand five hundred euros), to be used

for the director's next production, as well as a trophy and certificate.

The monetary prize of €2,500.00 (two thousand five hundred euros), intended for the production of the winning director's next animated film, will be paid out in two instalments, the first of which will take place after the jury has chosen the winning film, and the second when it is premiered on the cinema circuit.

Information on the details of the payment of the prize will be provided directly by the sponsor to the winner.

The winner undertakes to include MONSTRA | Lisbon Animation Film Festival and the sponsors of this competition as supporting organisations, as well as their respective logos, in the titles of the work to be made.

The work to be made must have its premiere at MONSTRA | Lisbon Animation Film Festival, unless agreed differently between the two parties.

8. COMPETITION JURY

The competition jury will be composed by professionals of recognised merit in the field of animated cinema or the arts in general.

The members of the jury may not be compromised or involved in any way with any of the films in competition.

The composition of the jury will be publicly announced by the organisation in February 2027.

The jury may decide not to award some of the prizes. The jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

9. FINAL PROVISIONS

The organizers reserve the right to reject any application that does not meet the eligibility criteria and/or submission rules set out in these terms and conditions.

MONSTRA may open exceptions to the terms of these Regulations, without prejudice or favour to any candidate or film.

Any issues not covered by the above regulations will be handled by the organisation of MONSTRA.

By submitting a film, the candidate agrees to all the aforementioned terms of this regulation.

The personal data provided during the film submission process will only be used for this purpose.

For further information and clarification: films@monstrafestival.com.