First Run Submission Requirements

Last Modified on 10/28/2026 9:49 am EDT

NYU's First Run Film Festival is an annual event hosted by the Kanbar Institute of Film & Television at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, dedicated to showcasing the advanced work of NYU graduate and undergraduate film students.

This one sheet will provide non-technical requirements for submission. Technical requirements for submission can be found on the First Run Submission Technical Spec Sheet.

Submission Timeline

Submissions Open: August 1st, 2026

Submission Deadline: December 1st, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST

All projects must be submitted through FilmFreeway by the published deadline. Late submissions are not accepted.

Who Can Submit?

Eligible projects must:

- Be produced as part of an eligible NYU Tisch Film & Television advanced curricular course.
- Adhere to curricular guidelines for length and production supervision requirements in order to participate and be eligible for judging.
- Meet the eligibility requirements for the appropriate submission category.
- Be submitted by the filmmaker through FilmFreeway.
- Include all required materials before the submission deadline.

Undergraduate Eligibility Requirements:

Course	**Runtime**
Advanced Animation	10 minutes maximum length
Advanced Documentary	25 minutes maximum length
Advanced Experimental	15 minutes maximum length
Advanced Production	15 minutes maximum length for films made AY 2023–2024 and earlier. 20 minutes maximum length for films made AY 2024–2025 and beyond.

Advanced Television Production	30 minute maximum length
Narrative Workshop	15 minute maximum length

Intermediate level films are not eligible for First Run. They can screen in New Visions and Voices Festival next fall.

Graduate Eligibility Requirements:

Course	**Runtime**
2nd Year Films	12 minute maximum length
3rd Year Collaborations & Directing Exercises	20 minute maximum length
Thesis Films	30 minute maximum length

No 1st Year Films eligible.

Before Submission

Prepare the following:

Required:

- Final exported film
- Course the film was created for
- Submission category
- Runtime
- Project Logline (1–2 sentences)
- Synopsis
- Project Genre
- Director/Showrunner Biography
- Director/Showrunner Headshot
- Project Credits

Recommended:

- Project Poster
- 2–5 high-resolution stills

How to Submit

To submit to First Run:

1. Create or log into your FilmFreeway account.
2. Complete the First Run Film Festival submission form.
3. Complete the required First Run Film Festival Google form.
4. Upload your completed film via FilmFreeway.
5. Complete all required attestations and information.
6. Submit before the deadline, 12/1/2026 at 11:59pm EST.
7. Once prompted by the festival team, submit your project again via CineSend.

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Before Clicking "Submit"

- Watch your uploaded submission from beginning to end.
- Double-check spelling of all names.
- Verify that all required fields on the submission form are complete.
- Review your festival attestations.