

REGULATIONS

99th Academy Award® in the category "International Feature Film"

According to the new rules of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), films in this category qualify in two ways:

Option A: The national selection committee sends a film into the official race.

Option B: Win of the main prize at one of the following international film festivals: Berlinale (Golden Bear), Busan (Best Film Award), Cannes (Palme d'Or), Sundance (World Cinema Grand Jury Prize), Toronto (Platform Award), Venice (Golden Lion).

In addition, the Oscar® statuette will henceforth bear the name of the director and the film title and no longer mainly the country or region.

Option A

As the national umbrella organization responsible for the selection committee to be appointed annually, German Films is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the selection process for the German entry for the Oscar® in the category „International Feature Film“.

German Films is solely responsible for formally and timely compliance with the guidelines established by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) and acts as the executive coordination office.

1. German Films publishes a call for participation for German producers and world distributors to register their film with German Films in due time. A film may only be submitted to the selection committee once.
2. German Films reviews the submitted documents for completeness and compliance with the guidelines established by AMPAS (e.g. language version, creative control). In case of doubt, [the explanations of the Academy](#) apply.

If the management of German Films does not accept the submitted film for formal reasons (e.g. lack of admission requirements according to the rules of the AMPAS, documents that remain incomplete by the end of the registration deadline, missing participation fee, missed deadlines...), the submitters have a right to appeal against this decision. The objection committee will decide on the objection. Its decision is final.

The Appeals Committee consists of three full members:

PROG – Producers of Germany e.V., Production Alliance (Alliance of German Producers – Film, Television and Audiovisual Media e.V.) and the Association of German Film Exporters e.V. each nominate one member.

In addition, they shall each appoint a substitute member in the event that the full member is prevented from attending. The committee members should be members of the boards of the naming organizations. The Appeals Committee elects a chairperson/spokesperson from among its members.

The work in the Appeals Committee is voluntary. The committee members have their own right to research if necessary; the objector shall be obliged to provide the committee members with comprehensive information without delay in response to their factual enquiries.

Decisions of the committee are unanimous, they must be justified in writing and signed by the chairperson and must be communicated to the objector in a timely manner.

3. The committee convened by German Films consists of nine members. Seven organizations from the German film industry each appoint a representative and a substitute to the selection committee. The German Film Academy, as the eighth organization, appoints two representatives from the disciplines of screenplay, acting, cinematography, sound, make-up, production design, editing, film music, casting or directing.

Fixed member organizations are the Production Alliance (Alliance of German Producers - Film, Television and Audiovisual Media), the PROG - Producers of Germany, the Association of German Film Exporters, the Directors Guild and the German Film Academy. The associations "AllScreens - Association of Film Distribution and Audiovisual Media" and "AG Distribution - Association of Independent Film Distributors" as well as "German Theatrical Film Exhibitors" and "AG Kino - Guild of German Art House Theatres" alternate on an annual basis.

One seat is a placeholder for an annually rotating association in the field of creative filmmaking.

For 2027:

- ▶ Production Alliance (Alliance of German Producers - Film, Television and Audiovisual Media)
- ▶ PROG - Producers of Germany
- ▶ Association of German Film Exporters
- ▶ AG Distribution - Association of Independent Film Distributors
- ▶ German Theatrical Film Exhibitors
- ▶ Writers Guild
- ▶ Directors Guild
- ▶ German Film Academy

The designated persons must either prove German citizenship or a permanent residence in Germany or refugee status. They do not have to be members of the nominating organizations, but they should have actively carried out their professional activity in the last five years. The participation of a committee member who has a direct economic interest in one of the submitted films is inadmissible. The work on the selection committee is voluntary. German Films requires that organizations and associations take into account the criteria of diversity and inclusion when sending their representatives. In addition, the guidelines published by the Academy for the composition of the selection committee apply. (see separate PDF)

After approval by AMPAS, the associations are published by name under www.german-films.de.

4. German Films will forward the application documents and the call for participation to the named representatives for information and publish the submitted films under www.german-films.de.

5. German Films organizes screenings for the selection committee in due time. All committee members will view all the films submitted in full length in joint film screenings in the cinema.

Following the last screening, the committee will discuss the submitted films in a secret meeting and should agree on one film.

German Films will moderate the selection discussion and will be available in an advisory capacity. The selection committee elects a spokesperson from among its members, who is entitled to speak for the committee and its decisions.

A film is considered named if the simple majority of the committee members have spoken out in favor of it. It is not possible to abstain from voting. Voting can be both secret and open. Employees of German Films would participate in the meeting as guests. They have no voting rights. All participants in the meeting are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

The chairperson of the jury determines the type of vote and the result.

German Films announces the result in an official press release, which contains a written explanation of the selection committee's reasons for the decision.

German Films immediately forwards the result to AMPAS.