



**88th ACADEMY AWARDS
RULE THIRTEEN
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM AWARD**

A. DEFINITION

A foreign language film is defined as a feature-length motion picture produced outside the United States of America with a predominantly non-English dialogue track.

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. The motion picture must be first released in the country submitting it no earlier than October 1, 2014, and no later than September 30, 2015, and be first publicly exhibited for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater for the profit of the producer and exhibitor. Submissions must be in 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound file formats suitable for exhibition in commercial Digital Cinema sites.

The audio in a typical Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is 5.1 channels of discrete audio, and that is the preferred audio configuration, although up to 7.1 channels is acceptable. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment).

The audio data shall be formatted in conformance with ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and ST 428-3:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Channel Mapping and Channel Labeling.

2. The picture must be advertised and exploited during its theatrical release in a manner considered normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices. The picture need not have been released in the United States.
3. **Films that, in any version, receive a nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution before their first qualifying theatrical release will not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration.** Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:
 - Broadcast and cable television
 - PPV/VOD
 - DVD distribution
 - Internet transmission
4. The recording of the original dialogue track as well as the completed picture must be predominantly in a language or languages other than English. **Accurate, legible English-language subtitles are required.**
5. The submitting country must certify that creative control of the motion picture was largely in the hands of citizens or residents of that country.
6. The Academy will make the final determination in all questions of eligibility.

ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

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C. SUBMISSION

1. Each country shall be invited to submit its best motion picture to the Academy. Selection of that picture shall be made by one organization, jury or committee that should include artists and/or craftspeople from the field of motion pictures. A list of the selection committee members must be submitted to the Academy no later than Friday, August 14, 2015. Countries submitting for the first time, or which have not submitted for the previous five years, must present a list of selection committee members for Academy approval by Thursday, October 1, 2015, for eligibility in the following (89th) Awards year.
2. **Only one picture will be accepted from each country.**
3. The Academy will provide official entry forms to the approved committee in each country so that the producer of the selected film can supply full production information.
4. The following submission materials must be shipped **prepaid** to arrive at the Awards Office by **5 p.m. PT on Thursday, October 1, 2015:**
 - Completed online submission forms
 - Film print or DCP with accurate, legible English-Language subtitles. The print or DCP submitted for Awards consideration **must** be identical in content and length to the print or copy used in the film's theatrical release.
 - Full cast and credits list
 - Brief English-language synopsis of the film
 - Director's biography, filmography and photograph
 - Representative film stills
 - A poster from the film's theatrical release
 - Original newspaper or magazine clipping advertising the film's theatrical release
5. Countries whose films are shortlisted will be required to provide the Academy two additional English-language subtitled prints or DCPs to facilitate voting screenings. The two additional prints or DCPs are due at the Academy by **9 a.m. PT on the Thursday after the shortlist is announced.**
6. **Films submitted will be retained by the Academy throughout the voting process.** By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only.
7. "Every award shall be conditioned upon the delivery to the Academy of one print or one copy of every film nominated for final balloting for all Academy Awards. Such print or copy shall be in a format and of a quality equivalent to the film's theatrical release; if a film exists in more than one format, then the version deposited shall be the film print. Such print or copy shall become the property of the Academy, with the proviso, however, that the Academy shall not use such print or copy for commercial gain. Such print or copy shall be deposited with the Academy and, subject to matters not within its control, shall be screened by the Academy for the membership in advance of distribution of final ballots." (Academy Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 6.)

The Academy will retain for its archives one print of every motion picture receiving a nomination for the Foreign Language Film award. Prints of those films receiving nominations will be returned to the sender at the Academy's expense.

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D. VOTING

1. Foreign Language Film nominations will be determined in two phases:
 - a. The Phase I Foreign Language Film Award Committee will screen the original submissions in the category and vote by secret ballot. The group's top six choices, augmented by three additional selections voted by the Academy's Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee, will constitute the shortlist of nine films.
 - b. The Phase II Foreign Language Film Award Committee will screen the nine shortlisted films in New York, Los Angeles and London and vote by secret ballot to determine the category's five nominees.
2. Final voting for the Foreign Language Film award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members who have viewed all five motion pictures nominated for the award.
3. The Academy statuette (Oscar) will be awarded to the motion picture and accepted by the director on behalf of the picture's creative talents. For Academy Awards purposes, the country will be credited as the nominee. The director's name will be listed on the statuette plaque after the country and film title.

E. ADVERTISING / PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS

Only motion pictures that receive nominations or Academy Awards may refer to their Academy endorsements in advertising and publicity materials. A motion picture that is selected for inclusion in the semifinal round of competition may not identify itself as an "Academy Award finalist," "Academy Award shortlist film" or the like in its individual marketing or publicity.

F. ELIGIBILITY IN OTHER CATEGORIES

1. Motion pictures submitted for Foreign Language Film award consideration may also qualify for the 88th Academy Awards in other categories, provided they comply with the rules governing those categories.
2. In order to qualify for other categories, the motion pictures must be publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film or in the digital format specified in Paragraph B.1 above for paid admission (previews excluded) in a commercial motion picture theater in Los Angeles County, for a run of at least seven consecutive days, beginning between January 1, 2015, and midnight of December 31, 2015.
3. **Motion pictures nominated for the Foreign Language Film award shall not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration in any category in any subsequent Awards year.** Submitted pictures that are not nominated for the Foreign Language Film award are eligible for Awards consideration in other categories in the subsequent year, provided the pictures begin their seven-day qualifying run in Los Angeles County during that calendar year.

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